



Session Update June 21, 2021

The Session meeting of May 19, 2021 was moderated and opened in prayer by Rev. Powers. The agenda was reviewed and approved.

New members were introduced and received into membership:

Alina Pan is a dental student at UTHSC and was involved with the Presbyterian Church and choir in her prior residence in Knoxville. She described an appreciation for Idlewild's messages of love and acceptance. She will be joining by profession of faith.

Joe and Meg Cline have been visitors to Idlewild for a few years and had a plan to join when the COVID pandemic altered our usual worship practices. Although the couple expects to move to Chicago soon, they plan to return to Memphis in about a year. Meg joins by letter of transfer and Joe by profession of faith. They are parents to **Robert**, born this past April, who will be baptized at Idlewild soon.

Anne Marie Curry has a family history of Presbyterian affiliation. She reported that her grandfather, Paul Curry, was the long-time pastor of First Presbyterian (Caruthersville, MO) had a major influence on her faith growing up and that she was familiar with Idlewild as a youth from Pinecrest and church trips. Anne Marie is also a dental student at UT. She is joining by letter of transfer.

Lindsey Rothenbach is a teacher with SCS and was invited to Idlewild by the Gibbons family. She said that Idlewild "felt like home" and has been participating in backyard bible studies. She joins by reaffirmation of faith.

Elders heard a faith statement update from Chad Braddock with a reflection from Isaiah 40: 28-31. The attendees broke into small groups to further discuss the verse and share recent moments of joy and requests for peace.

The Session heard a report from both pastors. Rev. Powers has finished the scheduled meet-and-greet events with the congregation and encourages participants to complete the electronic survey which followed each event. He will use this feedback to synthesize a vision for the leadership of the church for the following 1-2 years. David's next phase of meetings will focus on introductions to area leaders of religious and civic groups.

Treasurer Mary Tayloe provided the [financial report](#) to the Session.

The Session spent significant time in hearing and discussing reports from both the Personnel Committee and the Nominations Committee. First, the Session was informed that an offer had been made to the Rev. Julia Goldie Day to serve in a 6-month contract position as the Director of Children's Ministry after a series of interviews with clergy and personnel committee members. All who met her were very excited about the opportunity for her to work at Idlewild. Her employment may be transitioned to a permanent position at the end of the contracted time, if the fit is appropriate. Although she is an ordained minister in the Cooperative Baptist tradition, she will not serve as a pastor in any official way at Idlewild.



Next, the Personnel Committee presented a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Pastoral Model subcommittee by adding a designated pastor to the staff. A designated pastor position allows for streamlining of the hiring process and is time-limited (often 2-4 years' time) with the opportunity for permanent installation at the end of the designated / contracted time, if appropriate. Of note, in 2019, Idlewild had 3.5 pastors on staff with 2 programmatic staff who were ordained ministers. Currently, there are 2 pastors and one ordained minister in a part-time programmatic role. The motion passed, and the Nominations Committee will assemble a search committee as quickly as possible.

The Nominations Committee brought a motion to the Session to assemble a Special Committee which would evaluate the current structure, size, and needs of lay leadership within Idlewild, and present any proposed changes to the Session for consideration. The Special Committee members were nominated and approved by vote; they are: Betsy Hood, Megan Ford, Elizabeth Alritz, Jeremy Sykes, and Gib Wilson.

In old business, the Campus Reopening Advisory Team (CROAT) has completed an exhaustive set of protocols for safely using the church facilities and has no further business to manage. A motion to dissolve the CROAT was and it passed unanimously. Rev. Powers thanked the committee members for their expedient work.

All stated business being addressed, a motion was heard to adjourn the meeting and the Session closed in prayer.