



Session Update September 15, 2021

The Session meeting of September 15, 2021 was moderated and opened in prayer by Rev. Powers. The agenda was reviewed and approved.

The Session received Lucy Cummings as an Inquirer to the ministry, the first official step in pursuing Ordination. Lucy has been a member at Idlewild for 37 years and is well known to many; she gave a brief statement of faith. Lucy is expecting to graduate from Memphis Theological Seminary in September 2023. Stephanie Rodda will serve as the liaison to the Session for Lucy.

The Session heard a report from both pastors. Rev. Powers announced that his new installation date has been set for November 7th, with guest preacher Andy Cooke, who is also a close friend of David's. David reported that the APNC has just begun to meet and receive training. The APNC will discuss the responsibilities of the designated pastor with the Personnel committee at the end of September. Session is asked to keep Sara in prayer as she transitions back into her work with Idlewild.

Rev. Gale reported that she and the Children's Ministry Committee are working diligently to set up a plan for the coming months considering the recent changes in personnel, so that Sara will not step into this challenge immediately on her return.

Steve Valentine provided the [Treasurer's report](#) in Mary Tayloe's absence. Revenue in the last month has improved, thanks at least in part to recent communications. The COVID relief credits have finished. Known extra expenses still remain, related to the ongoing HVAC problems.

The Session approved the [consent agenda](#) which included approval of minutes, wedding officiating requests, upcoming baptisms, and a request for a collection designated for the Compassion fund.

In reports from committees, David made some brief remarks regarding the recent personnel departures and encouraged the Session that the current active staff are deeply committed to the work of the church. Transition can be expected and normal when a new head of staff joins a church. Ben Clark summarized the plans for this year's season of generosity. Commitment cards (formerly called Pledge Cards) will be distributed in October, with the sermon series concluding on commitment Sunday at the end of October. Rev. Powers provided a preview of the Ministry Investment Report to the Session. The primary purpose of this document is to show members where their previous commitments were used in the past year. Responses to this document were overwhelmingly positive. A second document will be drafted and distributed in October which highlights goals and visions for the church and its budget for the coming year.



In old business, Dr. Heather Chauhan reassured the Session that it remains engaged with monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic; there have not been dramatic changes since the recommendation to return to wearing masks. Heather affirmed that the policies and procedures in place seem to be serving our church community appropriately, and the Team will act as soon as the need arises. Committee chairs were reminded to check in with their members about their availability to continue serving and/or the term limits defined by the committees. Due to recent changes in the bylaws, committee members are being asked to extend their service by a few months, if possible.

The meeting closed with words of gratitude for Mary Newberg Gale's service as interim pastor during Sara Dorrien-Christians' parental leave. Mary expressed her thanks for the joys she experienced during her time at Idlewild. Joys and concerns from the community were shared as prayer requests, particularly the recent deaths of 2 local high school students in separate accidents. The meeting closed in prayer.