



Session Update November 17, 2021

The Session meeting of November 17, 2021 was moderated and opened in prayer by Rev. Powers. The agenda was reviewed and approved. Amanda LeMay was present as the liaison for the Diaconate. The consent agenda was reviewed and a request was made to remove the October minutes in advance of the vote.

Rev. Powers offered a devotional to the Session based on 1 Kings 17:8 – 16, verses which were read at his installation. The Elders then split into small groups to share their responses and to participate in the spiritual practice of prayer.

The Clerk shared three items of business: the signup list for December Poinsettia delivery, the receipt of routine reports from the Presbytery regarding the seminarians under Idlewild's care, and the receipt of a report of the Nov 9 Presbytery meeting, compiled by Katie Cole.

David gave a brief report which included gratitude for all the aspects of the installation service, particularly those who coordinated the service and those who traveled to participate. He received glowing comments from the invited guests for the hospitality of our church and our city. David acknowledged the bittersweet news of Jenni Brooks' resignation announced earlier that morning and wishes her well in her new role. Rev. Powers recognized staffing challenges but assured Session that the staff is very committed and faithful to the work of this church. David also acknowledged the intense and thorough work of the committee on Discerning Organizational Growth (DOG) which submitted its report for discussion and review at this meeting.

Rev. Dorrien-Christians' report focused first on her immense gratitude for staff and members who stepped in as she started her maternity leave and allowed her to simply "drop everything" at church to focus on her family. Sara reminded Session of the Advent event planned for Sunday afternoon, Nov. 21 and briefly mentioned that there is momentum in the wake of the "Looking Inward, Moving Forward" workshop to continue discerning what the anti-racism practices might be for Idlewild in the near future. Further details are still in development.

Mary Tayloe reviewed the [budget numbers](#) with the session. In general, there are no active concerns, and income is over budget for the month of October.

The Session next voted on the revised [consent agenda](#), which passed unanimously.



An update to the Stewardship and Generosity campaign was given by Ben Clark. This report is cautiously optimistic, with 62% of commitments showing an increase over last year and 21 new commitments this year. A limited period of outreach will occur for past givers who have not yet returned a pledge. The committee plans to wrap up all efforts by Nov. 30.

The report from the personnel committee acknowledged the grief at Jenni's resignation. A committee has been formed to begin recruitment for a replacement. A celebration is being planned to acknowledge all of the Idlewild staff who have left in recent months. Regarding the administrative positions that are open, one offer has been extended to a qualified candidate at this time. Of note, that candidate was identified and first recruited by an Idlewild member!

Dr. Heather Chauhan reported that the CAT recommends that Idlewild align its masking policy with that of the Shelby County Health Department going forward. Currently, the SCHED policy is to require masks of unvaccinated persons and make masks optional for the vaccinated. This recommendation from CAT was approved, and the change is expected to go into effect immediately.

The Session next heard [a detailed report from the committee on Discerning Organizational Growth \(DOG\)](#). The report had been shared with Session on Nov 16. The Session voted to receive the report at this time, with the understanding that additional changes to the bylaws will be necessary for all of the recommendations to be carried out.

Chad Braddock gave an update from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC). The APNC is planning for monthly emails to the congregation to update and educate. Those who have recommendations for potential candidates should email APNC@idlewildchurch.org. Prayers of support are appreciated.

In new business, a new committee to review the Membership Roll was established by the Session. This committee will consist of Anne Ferguson, Catherine Berger, and Lane Faughnan.

The Session is planning to meet in person in December and share a meal together as has been past tradition.

Concerns of the congregation were shared, and these were brought in prayer which adjourned the meeting.