



The Session met on February 16, 2022, in Montgomery Hall. The Session broke bread and worshiped together before moving to the agenda. Linda Scholl was present as a representative of the Diaconate. Session approved the agenda and changes were requested to the [consent agenda](#).

The Clerk reminded Session of the previously announced celebration planned on Feb. 20 at Parkway Gardens to honor Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and Black History Month. She verbally corrected the January meeting minutes and the amended minutes were approved. She announced that the in-person, April Session meeting would be moved from April 20 to April 27 to accommodate the Confirmands who will present their faith statements. Additional details about the logistics of this meeting are to be determined.

The Rev. Powers provided a Pastor's report to Session. He reiterated appreciation for the Nominations committee in their work in calling new officers and in coordinating the leadership for the corresponding committees as the Diaconate is reimagined and reorganized. He also reported that he will be away from Idlewild in late May to participate in a Qwest West trip which leads 20-25 college students in camping and touring the Western U.S. to experience the beauty of God's creation and in fellowship. Applications are being accepted now and more information is available at Qwestwest.org; David encouraged Elders to share this information with interested students.

The Rev. Dorrien-Christians highlighted several upcoming events including the Anti-Racism "Deep-Dive" for those who are ready to move from a basic understanding of racism to a place of action. The series "Parenting through the Seasons" is being launched soon, which is led by parent peer groups and divided across several age groups of childhood. The final new opportunity is the "Reconstructing Faith" Sunday group for those who may have spent a lot of time examining their faith history and experiences and are interested in discerning their new personal understanding of faith.

For the Treasurer's [report](#), Mary Tayloe reviewed the budget to date. In brief, January revenue was under budget but year-to-date total revenue is over budget. Expenses in general are under budget.

The Session next voted on the amended consent agenda, which passed unanimously.

In an update from the Personnel Committee, Rev. Powers remarked on the celebration of Barry Oliver's last Sunday with us. The personnel committee has identified a series of musicians who will serve for short periods in succession until a search committee is formed later this Spring and a permanent selection is made for the Director of Music. This plan was also approved by the Worship and Music committee with input from the choir.

The open position of Director of Operations and Finance has not been filled; the post is being edited and remains open for applicants; the information can be found on the church website. Referrals or





recommendations are encouraged. Zoe Whelan has had a title change to Director of Communications. A part-time food services position is also open, as is the Executive Assistant position.

Lane Faughnan shared a report from the RAM (Special Committee for Routine Audit of Membership) and reiterated the sensitive and critical nature of the work. At this time, an initial letter of re-invitation has been drafted to go to a group of members for whom we have no documentation of engagement at Idlewild in the past 2 years. The pandemic, coupled with the technological limitations of virtual worship, means that we do not have reliable information on attendance for many church activities. The letter will encourage these members to reengage with the church and has a survey in which they can self-report their recent engagement. Of note, members 26 years and younger, and those 85 and older, will not be targeted for this re-engagement letter. The letter will likely be distributed before the March Session meeting; Session will be updated by the RAM as it proceeds in this work.

Chad Braddock gave a brief update from the APNC to remind Elders to forward any recommendations to the committee, and to join the committee in their time of prayer at 7 AM on Mondays.

Session approved the creation of a new Special Subcommittee to the Unhoused and Under-Resourced. This subcommittee will seek to address recent concerns with our unhoused neighbors as well as an apparent decrease in attendance at More than a Meal since returning to in-person meals. The issues impact not just the Outreach committee, but also House and Properties and Personnel. The following people have agreed to serve on this committee: Sarah Terry, Nicole Cooley, Anne Ferguson, Earle Donelson, Bruce Webber, Jane Folk, Bradley Winchester (pending his approval), Kate Wolfkill, and Nate Taylor, with Sara Dorrien-Christians as the pastor liaison. The goal is to address this work within 8 weeks if possible.

Commissioners were elected to represent Idlewild at the upcoming Presbytery meeting on February 26. They are Michael Peeler, Linda Scholl, Elizabeth Alrutz.

Elders reviewed the draft annual report of *statistics* that were generated by church staff for the February 18 deadline to be submitted to the Presbytery. Some errors were identified, and a corrected report was circulated to Session by email the following day. The corrected report was approved by Session by email for submission.

The motion was received to adjourn and the meeting was closed in prayer.

