



Session Update March 16, 2022

The Session met on March 16, 2022 via Zoom. Several Elders-elect were invited to observe the meeting and learn about the current business of Session which may be ongoing when they are installed in June. Edits were made to the agenda, Session approved the agenda, and then reviewed the consent agenda. Bill Gibbons presented his updated faith statement before Elders broke into small groups for a time of devotion and prayer.

Clerk Lane Faughnan reported on an email received the day earlier from a member inquiring about Idlewild's response or statement in light of the conflict in Ukraine. This correspondence was shared with the chair of Outreach. Rev. Powers acknowledged that some monetary gifts have come in that are being directed toward Presbyterian efforts that are in or near Ukraine, and a mention of this giving opportunity will be announced in worship on 3/20/22.

In the pastor's report, Rev. Powers expressed gratitude for the positive response so far to the Lenten series on grief. Next, Rev. Powers clarified for Session how he answers requests that he sign his name in support of any proposed public statements (letters, petitions, etc). When asked to sign as a pastor/individual, this decision is done through his own prayerful consideration; when the request is that the church be listed in support of the statement, the decision must come through Session, or based on an existing relationship exists with the requesting agent/agency and the request is in keeping with Idlewild's mission and ministry.

Mary Tayloe, Treasurer, provided a verbal report in addition to the [written report](#) in the packet. February total revenue as well as pledge revenue were short for February, but year-to-date total revenue is over budget. Expenses in general remain under budget as some programs remain on hiatus and others are reduced.

At this time, the Session was asked to vote on the [consent agenda](#), which passed unanimously.

A report from the Personnel committee was jointly provided by Bill Gibbons and Rev. Powers. Three positions remain open with little progress made so far. Gary Beard has agreed to continue in service as interim director of music through May, and the interim plan after that time is yet to be determined by the Personnel committee. Bill reinforced the committee's recommendation to Budget and Finance that all employees at Idlewild make a minimum of \$15/hour beginning in the new fiscal year and expressed on behalf of the Personnel committee that a 3% raise be considered for all employees.

Mary Tayloe presented the proposed [2022-23 budget](#), which is largely consistent with the 2021-22 budget. The aforementioned 3% raise for all employees is included, along with the raise for employees who do not yet make \$15/hour. The overall budget deficit of less than 0.5% is considered appropriate given the fact that the incoming associate pastor's salary has not been finalized and the position is not yet



filled (no salary being drawn), in addition to the income overage from this current year. Session voted to hold the annual meeting on March 27, 2022 following worship for the purpose of presenting this approved budget and seeking the renewal of the terms of call for pastors by vote of the congregation.

Lane Faughnan reported for the Routine Audit of Membership that the first round of communications has gone out to inactive members by email in early March, with minimal responses to date. The committee continues to meet regularly and is considering mailed letters and phone calls among the next steps to communicate with these members and invite them to reconnect to the Idlewild community.

Leigh Bruno reported on behalf of the JEDI committee. The group meets weekly and has begun creating a vision for its work, based in scripture. From there, the committee plans to formulate some attainable goals for an anti-racist policy for Idlewild.

Elizabeth Alrutz gave a report from the Presbytery meeting which was held on February 27, 2022 on behalf of the session commissioners. At the meeting, Idlewild member A.J. Northrop was installed as Chair of the Committee on Mission for the Presbytery. Bethel Presbyterian Church was dissolved. The new moderator was installed: Idlewild member Charles Key.

Gaylen Havner reported on CAFE and noted that operations are beginning to normalize since the pandemic. A motion was made to add Crystal Gilreath (Idlewild member) and Sashe Crouch (non-member) to the CAFE Board (seconded by Dawn Kvande), and the motion passed unanimously.

All business from the agenda being complete, the meeting was adjourned in prayer.

