



IDLEWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Session Update: April 27, 2022

The Session met in person in Montgomery Hall. The gathering began with fellowship, a shared meal, and a prayer. The Session reviewed the agenda and acknowledged the many guests, including elders-elect, confirmands, mentors and parents, and visiting Deacon, Robert Busby.

Faith statements were given by Hugh Flanders, Tate Roberson, Carter Wyatt, Samuel Gilreath, Alex Colley, Izzy Moore, Ainsley Gale, and Jack Simpson. Jeaneane Mutchler closed the faith statement presentation with a word of appreciation to the confirmation mentors and confirmand parents, and the confirmands for their thoughtful work during the confirmation process. A motion was received and passed unanimously to receive the confirmands into full membership.

Lane Faughnan made several announcements within the clerk's report. A meeting was called to receive new members on May 1 and noted that the new meetings will resume on the third Sundays of the month, as needed. For some, this is the last session meeting, however, the term of service does not end until the new officers are installed during worship on June 5. The clerk encouraged officers to participate in a staff appreciation activity during the May 1 potluck and Elders were reminded of photos to be taken April 18 and May 1. Last, corrections from March 16 minutes were made in regards to the salary for the to be determined associate pastor position as \$75K. The actual range for the open position is \$50-75k (salary only). A motion was received and seconded to approve the minutes with that edit; the motion passed unanimously.

David reminded Session that he will be away from the church beginning May 12 for 2 weeks. Guest preachers have been arranged for those Sundays. David also acknowledged appreciation for the celebration of Corinne Nienhuis during worship on April 27.

Mary Tayloe presented the [treasurer's report](#). Mary reminded that the financial report circulated in the packet reflects the first month of a new fiscal year; some adjustments will be made when the fiscal year 2021 is finalized. Current pledges are below the anticipated income but are not of concern at this time. No fund transfers have been made from restricted funds for the year, which is notable and unusual.

At this time, the Session was asked to vote on the revised [consent agenda](#). The agenda passed unanimously. This included personnel who presented a candidate for the Director of Operations and Finances, Jessica Demster, who will begin on May 9, 2022. The Session thanked Julie Raines, Chalmers Valentine, and Elizabeth Rouse for their work on the special subcommittee.

A search committee for a new Director of Music has been assembled and has met once already. That search committee consists of stakeholders from the choir, congregation, and staff. This includes Judy Jenkins, Pam Schnell, and William Myers, Amy Poag, Becky Taylor, Stan Covington, and David Powers. David reports that a number of well-qualified candidates have expressed interest in the opening and reminds session that the posting is for a single position of choir conductor and lead organist.



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Rev. Powers also reported that Brigid Underwood has resigned her position at Idlewild to accept another opportunity that is in better alignment with her personal and career goals.

Elizabeth Alrutz announced to Session that there is a push from the Nominations committee for individual committees to recognize and enforce term limits. This adjustment cannot be made all at once, because some committees would be severely impacted by a loss of members, and Nominations will work in those situations to support the required adjustments over time. Elizabeth asked all committee chairs to submit a list of current members and their terms/year to Nominations.

The Rev. Powers noted that a Communications Committee has been developed which consists of Amy Sharp, Allison Futris, Lee Meyers, Alaina Gresham, and Zoe Whelan who will work on these concerns.

In old business, a special subcommittee on anti-racism (JEDI, Jesus, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) presented an initial report in response to their charge, "to discern, name, and propose an anti-racist vision and policy for Idlewild Presbyterian Church, considering especially the anti-racism statement passed in 2021 by the Presbytery of the Midsouth, and the discernment of the Looking Inward, Moving Forward class. This shall include, but not necessarily be limited to issues pertaining to 1) anti-racist training, 2) institutional practice, 3) formation, 4) diversity and representation, and 5) partnership." Delois Cunningham presented the vision statement in a first reading and will be reviewed again May 18.

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