

IDLEWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Stated Session Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2022, 6:30PM

A meeting of the Idlewild Presbyterian Church Session was held on Wednesday, September 21, 2022. The meeting was held on Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CALL TO ORDER, OPENING PRAYER, APPROVAL OF AGENDA, AND PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA

After determination of a quorum, the Moderator opened the meeting in prayer. The Session reviewed the agenda and voted to approve it (motion: M. Peeler, D. Kvande, second). Staff visitors were recognized, and Session voted to give them voice during the meeting if desired (motion: E. Alrutz, E. Rouse, second). The consent agenda was presented, and Elder Key asked that the August minutes be removed.

Heather Chauhan offered her updated faith statement based on Hebrews 11:1-3 and the concept of “surrender”.

REPORTS FROM CLERK AND TREASURER

Clerk's Report

Lane asked Session to consider signing up for communion service this Sunday, and also on the following Sunday. The August minutes were reviewed, and in addition to an error in the meeting date, Charles Key requested the clerk to review a paragraph at the end of the draft minutes. The clerk agreed to review the meeting notes and resubmit a draft for consideration at the October meeting.

Pastor's Report

Rev. Powers reported on his recent retreat for continuing education related to preaching and gave thanks for the opportunity. David will be away in early October for duties related to his role on the board at Colombia Seminary. Next, David reminded the group that Elders are encouraged to participate in the procession of Elders for funerals for a departed Elder.

Courtney Veazey reported that her first month on staff at Idlewild has been very rewarding. She invited all to attend in her ordination planned for the coming Sunday and shared gratitude for those who are participating in the service. NaCoMe is coming up in a few weeks.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Valentine opened his report by expressing appreciation for Jessica Dempster's work and attendance in this meeting. Steve explained that B&F committee has agreed to extend Rev Powers' authority to approve expenses greater than \$500 (originally authorized as part of COVID policies) for 6 more months. Next, the Treasurer reviewed the financial report as provided in the packet. Pledge payments continue to lag, following the annual trend. Statements were mailed to members in mid-August. Donations typically increase in November through and into January. Unpledged offerings are up, consistent with increased attendance. Expenses are stable.

Consent Agenda

At this time, the Session was asked to vote on the consent agenda. The consent agenda was passed unanimously. For reference, the consent agenda is copied here (items removed from the consent agenda have been marked through):

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel

Elizabeth Rouse reports that the search committee for the Interim Associate Pastor has begun its work. The search committee for the Director of Music meets weekly. A top candidate recently declined an offer due to another opportunity closer to family. Interviews are ongoing, and plans are in place for temporary music leadership through the end of the year. Open positions include: executive assistant for head of staff and part-time kitchen position.

Stewardship and Generosity

Ben Clark announced this year's stewardship theme and reported that the Ministry Investment Report is in production to be distributed later this month. Kickoff Sunday for stewardship season is the first Sunday of October, and commitment forms are already available online. A "dreams" report (visioning for the church) will go out later in the fall. Elders are encouraged to make their financial commitment before the kickoff Sunday, October 2.

OLD BUSINESS

The moderator noted that the COVID Advisory Team (CAT) has completed its purpose for the acute needs of the pandemic. Motion was made by S. Stewart (Charles Key, second) to dissolve the special committee with deep gratitude for its work; the motion passed unanimously.

Nichole Cooley joined the meeting to present the report from the Special Committee on Unhoused Care and Hospitality (COUCH). A detailed written report had been provided with the packet. Rev. Powers offered some background on the charge made to the special committee in March of 2022 and Nichole read the proposed vision statement and gave a detailed summary of the first three of four proposed recommendations. Elders participated in sincere and deep discussion and asked many questions. After 45 minutes of discussion, the moderator suggested that the discussion be paused and reopened in an upcoming meeting; Elders were encouraged to review the drafted document again with prayerful consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

Clerk Lane Faughnan had indicated her desire to leave the role when feasible, and the Moderator asked Jenny Haddad to serve in the role. The motion was made by Elder Stewart (M. Grimes, second) to elect Elder Haddad to serve as clerk for the remainder of the 2022 term with the understanding that she would be considered again in January for a full year term. The motion passed unanimously.

Session was asked to consider serving as commissioners to the November Presbytery meeting. Michael Peeler, Sam Stewart, Joe Lackie, and Melissa Grimes self-nominated for the role. The vote passed with one abstention.

The motion was received to adjourn and the meeting was closed in prayer at approximately 8PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. David Powers
Moderator

Lane Faughnan
Clerk of Session