

IDLEWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TW@I Session Minutes
February 19, 2025 5:15 PM
For TW@I

RULING ELDERS PRESENT:

Amanda Myers
Amanda Ray
Andrew Falls
Barbara Jennings
Cindy Moore
Claire Chauhan
David Ruch
Jeanne Marie Cummings
Jenny Haddad
Joe Lackie
John Jones
Julie Nanney
Kelli Conrad
Margaret Apple
Melody McAnally
Minna Glenn
Molly Logan
Pete Sanders
Stephen Nelson
Todd Taylor
Tom Grimes

RULING ELDERS EXCUSED:

Kirk Bobo
Noah Brooks

TEACHING ELDERS/STAFF/VISITORS:

Courtney Veazey
David Powers
Jeanene Mutchler
Jessica Demster
Mary Newberg Gale
Chalmers Valentine
Catie Jane Myers

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

The Session gathered at 5:30 PM on Zoom. Rev Powers opened the meeting with prayer. Quorum was determined. Visitors were recognized and a motion (motion: J. Lackie; second C. Chauhan) was made to give them voice. Rev. Powers presented the consent agenda, noting that the stated meeting minutes had a slight edit that had been sent to Session to fully note the charge of the Samaritan Counseling Center Subcommittee work. Rev. Gale led the Session through spiritual leadership practice.

REPORTS FROM CLERK, PASTORS, AND TREASURER

Clerk's Report

Margaret Apple reminded the Session of the minutes and the January Statistical Report. The report was accepted with no changes; the minutes were accepted with the slight edit noted above. Margaret also presented the 2024 Statistical Report for Presbytery for review and she made a motion (second: J. Jones) that it be approved. Some discussion of the report took place and the motion passed unanimously.

Pastors' Reports

Rev. Gale

Rev. Gale gave an update on the Lenten Lectio Divina study beginning soon. She encouraged Session to sign up for one of the groups as well as encourage congregants to sign up. Day, evening and video groups are available.

Rev. Powers

Rev. Powers gave a report of his trip to San Diego as part of a conference put on by the Presbyterian Foundation. The Presbytery Foundation is the investment arm of the Presbyterian Church USA. His trip focused on the ways in which the foundation can use invested resources to nurture the church, particularly caring for and nurturing pastors in their calls. Rev. Powers met 25 other pastors, nonprofit leaders and counselors who are all ordained within our denomination. Rev. Powers reported that he has convened a hiring committee to focus on the Director of Children's Ministry and Director of Youth Ministry positions. Rev. Powers expressed deep gratitude to Jeanene Mutchler and the leaders in our Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry for quickly organizing to help. He asked that Session be in prayer for this committee. Rev. Powers reported that the Nominating Committee is continuing to meet. The focus of their work over the winter and spring will be on supporting committees. They will be addressing which committees might benefit from additional members. He thanked committee leaders who quickly communicated their information to Blanche Deaderick and Betsy Hood.

Rev. Powers gave an update about his upcoming sabbatical. He has received positive feedback from the communication to the congregation earlier in the week. He is making travel plans and looking forward to his time which begins April 28 through July 28.

Rev. Powers reported that the Interfaith Ramadan Dinner at the Islamic Center will take place again in October of 2025. More details will follow. He stated the importance of having our faiths work together for the betterment of our community.

Rev. Veazey

Rev. Veazey reported that she and Gib Wilson safely returned from three full days with Juan G. Hall Presbyterian Church in Cardenas, Cuba. They met with three other representatives of PCUSA churches that also partner with Juan G. Hall. She reported on the resiliency of their pastors Allison and Sarah in Cuba. Preaching her sermon in both English and Spanish was especially meaningful for Rev. Veazey.

Treasurer's Report

David Ruch presented the operating budgets for 2024, 2025 and 2026 which were detailed in the Session packet. For this current fiscal year 2024-2025 (FY25) which ends 3/31/25, the budget shows a 1% deficit. Before 3/31/25 the money from the PPP loan designated for the Associate Pastor of Outreach will be recorded allowing the budget to be in the green if expenses stay consistent. David Ruch reported that the operating budget for Recreation will decrease in FY26 due to offset costs like rentals of the gym, resulting in income for that program. Some of the budget increases in expenses are in Worship and Music, Youth, Administration and House and Properties. Jessica Demster noted that a rather significant reduction in personnel is reflected in the budget and assisted in those increases.

Rev. Powers asked for questions regarding the proposed budget. The motion for budget approval comes from Budget and Finance and doesn't need a second, Session voted and the budget passed unanimously. An upcoming electronic Session vote will take place to set a date for a Congregational Meeting. The purpose of that meeting will be for the congregation to approve the proposed budget.