

# Session Highlights

## Meeting of January 20, 2019

- Allison Unroe, pastor of Fairlawn Presbyterian Church, has been appointed by Presbytery of the Peaks to serve as Moderator for BPC until an interim pastor is in place. She moderated the session meeting.
- Session approved a youth Lock-In to take place in the next several weeks.
- Session approved a request from the youth to collect donations for the Souper Bowl on February 3, 2019.
- Session approved the Annual Statistical Report.
- Buildings and Grounds Ministry discussed alternatives for placement and collection of church trash, since the present location of the dumpster on the lot that has been donated to Habitat for Humanity will have to be moved. Another report will be received at the February meeting of session.
- Session approved a 2019 budget of \$623,249. The budget included a 2.0% cost of living increase in salary for all staff members.

# Session Highlights

## Meeting on February 19, 2019

- Allison Unroe, pastor of Fairlawn Presbyterian Church, served as Moderator of the session meeting.
- Buildings and Grounds Ministry discussed plans to replace the garbage dumpster on Church Street with six large town trash cans. The switch will result in a savings of nearly \$6,000 a year. The initial plan is to place 4 cans on the parking lot side and 2 cans on the church office side and try this on a 6-month trial basis.
- Two elders have agreed to continue discussions with the Creation Care team about ways to further our commitment to caring for the environment.
- The Playground Renovation Committee reported that Chris Lawrence has agreed to chair the committee and work continues to complete membership of the committee.
- The Nominating Committee reported the number of positions they are looking to fill is 11. Four elders for the Class of 2022, two elders to complete unfilled terms for the Class of 2021, one elder to join the Class of 2020 (Children's Ministry Elder), and four open Deacon positions two of which have already been filled with deacons staying on for a second term.
- Motion passed to offer Kendra Crabtree a small stipend to lead *Joyful Noise*, the children's choir, through May 19, 2019.
- Session approved a motion to continue the Parents Morning Out program under the leadership of Kristi Ferrell, who will replace Natalie Rascher. (Thanks to Natalie for her faithful leadership of PMO). PMO will be instructed to develop a formal covenant with BPC, detailing the operation of the program, by January 1, 2020.

# Session Highlights

## Meeting on March 17, 2019

- Allison Unroe moderated the meeting.
- Jama Hayes volunteered to be BPC's commissioner to the May 4 Presbytery meeting.
- Greg Campbell presented a Treasurer's Report, noting that we are 16.75% of the way through the budget year. We have accrued 15.8% of the income we need for 2019. Being slightly behind what we need for the year at this point is normal.
- Session accepted a new member, Steve Jones, by transfer from Knox Presbyterian Church in Falls Church, Virginia. Steve works in IT for the Town of Blacksburg.
- The Transition Team presented a report on its efforts to find an interim pastor and recommended hiring the Reverend Dr. David B. Cozad for that position. Team members shared very positive impressions of Dr. Cozad, including his extensive experience in the pastorate, experience as an interim pastor, excellent interpersonal skills, and impressive preaching abilities. Session unanimously approved the Transition Team's recommendation.
- Session approved a motion to remove the refugee banner from the church lawn. The banner has been torn by the wind, and efforts to stabilize the banner and improve its appearance have been unsuccessful. It was emphasized that the banner can always be put up again. The possibility of making a more permanent and attractive sign was also mentioned and will likely be discussed at a future meeting.

# April Session Highlights

## Meeting on April 28th, 2019

- The Nominations Committee reported on its progress toward filling the deacon and elder positions that are vacant. It has found a willing group of deacons, but it has experienced some difficulty finding new elders for session. It was decided that it would be worthwhile to consider possible changes to the way session is constructed. Dave Cozad has experience with other types of structures. He and Nancy Artis (chair of the Nominations Committee) agreed to assemble a small group to discuss possible structural changes and report back to session.
- Karen Watson, chair of Higher Education Ministry, reported that Suzanne Sanford has stepped down as president of the board and will be replaced by Gary Overstreet, from Christiansburg Presbyterian Church.
- Session approved an Endowment Ministry proposal to use 6% of endowment funds for awards this year, with at least 70% of those funds allocated to 3-year awards (as was done last year). Announcements about the 3-year awards will be distributed.
- Buildings and Grounds Ministry reported that, while it is aware that some of the fire doors in the church (especially the doors to the Hatcher Conference Room) are in need of repair, it has experienced considerable difficulty finding someone capable of repairing them. Efforts to find someone will continue.
- Session also approved a Building and Grounds request to remove the prickly bushes in the front of the building, next to the main entrance. Working around those bushes has been so hazardous, because of the bushes' thorns, that it has been difficult to find volunteers to work around them. They will be replaced with new bushes.
- The Woodchucks Ministry lost one of its essential trucks this year. One of the Woodchucks, Bill Neely, purchased another dump truck for their use. Session agreed to loan Bill this money, so the truck can remain in his name. This will enable the church, in effect, to pay an insurance rate much lower than it would have to pay if the church were the legal owners of the truck. The money necessary for this loan already existed in a Woodchucks account.
- Session approved a request from Worship Ministry to increase its budget for 2019 by \$1200. The increase will fund expenses that were not anticipated when 2019 budget requests were submitted including \$800 for new choir folders.
- Dave Cozad led a discussion about the process for conducting a congregational self-study, an initial step in the process that will culminate in hiring a permanent installed pastor. The first step in that process is development and administration of a survey instrument. Dave has a good instrument that can be used as a starting point. Session agreed that Dave should assemble a small group to begin work on construction of the instrument.

# May Session Highlights

## Meeting on May 19, 2019

- The self-study working group committee will begin their work in the next month and session agreed to start the study this summer.
- Session agreed to add a 7<sup>th</sup> deacon.
- An agenda item to discuss recycling policies for church events was moved to the June meeting.
- Session approved new procedures for submitting motions and reports for session meetings to provide more time for elders to examine motions prior to a session meeting. Future agendas will also include a time for elders to ask questions about ministry reports.
- The date of the June session meeting was moved to June 23. It is not anticipated that there will be a July session meeting.