

Webster Presbyterian Church
Stated HYBRID Meeting of Session
January 24, 2023

Present: Rev. Dr. Keith Uffman, Jeanette Booher, Kathy Dixon, Ralph Fixel, Tamar Wasoian, Erik Kinzler, Pat Koester, Mary Lawrence, Gary Mossman, Kristy Russell, Ed Tobia, Jamee Wilson, Kevin Snowden,

Absent: Parish Pastor Richard Kleiman, Michael Bradley, Michael Cooper, Al Strahan, Judy brown, Anya Ezhevskaya, Vierra Ezhevskaya

Visitor: Dennis Waehner

Quorum 7:01 P.M.

Opened in Prayer By: Mary Lawrence

Servant Leadership: Rev. Dr. Keith Uffman

- Presented statistical report on the age and size of congregations. Where does WPC fit?
- The issues we face of a declining and aging population is consistent across all denominations and geography.

Omnibus Motion

- Approved minutes of the last regular called meeting of December 20, 2022 by common consent

Approval of Agenda

Report from Nominating Committee: Dennis Waehner reported the difficulty finding willing candidates. Therefore suggests:

- Form a short-lived "Task Force" to study and adjust the WPC bylaws to "right-size" the offices and the number of members in each office.
- Do this before the 2023 Nominating Committee begins asking candidates (summer 2023)

Treasurer's Report by Gary Mossman and Kevin Snowden

- Report and decision making for the 2-23 budget
- Currently has pledges for \$490K. There are 16 pledging units that have not pledged so finance committee is building a budget based on \$550K.
- There was a surplus in 2022 that will be carried over.
- Even so, we are short \$18K in order to balance the budget.
- Keith has asked Mission and WAM to prioritize their suggested expenses.
- Will need to have a called meeting before February 5 to approve the budget.

Personnel Report by Pat Koester

- Reminder to Session that Richard Kleiman's position is for only 19 hours/week.
- He has been doing more than 19 hours/week with pastoral care, worship and driving between pastoral visits.

Motions (actual wording of motion)

- Personnel Motion carries by common consent
- Session also approved Mary (Coco) Motley and Anne Waehner as assistant treasurers for 2023.

- WAM: After discussion and the addition of the italicized phrase the motion carried by common consent.
- Proposal: The Worship Arts and Music Team promised that the eucharist be served on the following dates:
- This is an inclusive list, the WAM committee may choose not to serve on any of these dates. A minister or Worship Elder may request another date (e.g. memorial service, committee retreat, home communion) without a vote of the session *provided that the conditions and procedures for serving communion as dictated by the Book of Order are followed:*
- Rationale: Offering the sacraments is the responsibility of a vital church
- 2023 COMMUNION DATES
- January 8, 2023
- February 5, 2023
- Transfiguration Sunday, February 19, 2023
- Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023
- March 5, 2022
- April 2, 2023 (Palm Sunday) If we are going to have Communion multiple times during the rest of the week, this Sunday would be eliminated
- Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023
- Good Friday, April 7, 2023
- High Saturday, April 8, 2023
- Easter, April 9, 2023
- May 7, 2023
- Pentecost, May 28, 2023
- June 4, 2023
- Lunar Sunday; July 23, 2023 (Lunar Sunday is the Sunday closest to the 20th)
- August 6, 2023
- September 3, 2023
- October 1, 2023; World Communion Sunday
- October 29, 2023; Kirkin' Of The Tartan Reformation Sunday
- November 5, 2023; All Saint's Day
- December 3, 2023; First Sunday Of Advent
- Christmas Eve, Christmas Day
- January 7, 2024
- **Mission**
The Mission team presents this omnibus motion to include the following mission fund-raising activities for approval:
McWhirter
Food Drives – Assist with local hunger relief within our community by participating in conjunction with McWhirter to help supplement over 100 families during Spring Break (February) and Thanksgiving Break (October).
Back to School supplies – funds will be raised starting in May to assist in providing school supplies to children at McWhirter.
“Gifts of Joy” – funds raised will purchase gifts for McWhirter Elementary and Brookside Intermediate students whose families are unable to provide holiday gifts. Fund drive begins in November and ends December.
PC(USA) Special offerings:
One Great Hour Sharing special offering collected in April
Pentecost special offering collected in May. WPC will keep 40% of the funds donated and the balance will be remitted to PC(USA)
Peace and Global Witness Offering – a PC(USA) special offering collected on World Communion Sunday (October). WPC will keep 25% of the funds donated and distribute those to PC(USA) mission partners working in Peru; the balance to be remitted to PC(USA).

Joy Offering – a PC(USA) special offering, collected on Christmas Eve and remitted to PC(USA)

Seafarers Gift Boxes – WPC members fill shoeboxes with personal items and non-perishable gifts for seafarers traveling through the Port of Houston during the holidays. This year's effort begins in mid-September and culminates in a "Blessing of the Boxes" on October 10.

ICM

Food drive – the congregation will be asked to bring non-perishable food items in June to stock the Interfaith Caring Ministries food pantry, as families with school aged children will not have school lunch program during the summer.

Christmas Store – WPC provides the space and volunteer opportunities for WPC members to participate in this long-standing event with Interfaith Caring Ministries, during the first/second week of December. No fund drive is anticipated; however, the congregation will be solicited to provide unwrapped gifts.

Change for Change

The Mission Team requests continuation of the monthly fund drive "Change for Change" on the 3rd Sunday of each month. This fundraiser provides funds to support local hunger relief projects, including WPC's Little Free Food Pantry.

Community Assistance

The Mission Team requests periodic fund drives within the congregation to provide funding for the Community Assistance and the WPC Member Assistance accounts. As these funds are disbursed, the congregation will be solicited for additional funds via Constant Contact and announcements from the pulpit.

These funds are intended to augment the annual benevolence budget of the congregation.

Rationale:

Background: During the year the Mission Team has many mission projects that include a fund-raising component. All the fund-raising activities identified in this motion have been approved by the Mission team. These fund-raising opportunities are long standing activities that WPC has participated in and that Session has approved in the past.

Mission Team has put forth the motion above and requests Session approval for fund-raising activities for the remainder of the 2023 calendar year.

- Motion carried by common consent

Action Items:

- Michael Cooper was not able to attend the meeting, therefore, she will demonstrate the use of the defibrillator and review CPR procedures at another time.
- Tamar explained the examination process of her candidacy with prospects to complete by May.

Motion for Adjournment: 9:04pm

Closing Prayer: by Pat Koester