

Session Highlights

November Session Meeting

The November Session meeting was opened with a devotion led by clerk, Bill Gutermuth based on his readings of 1 Peter and a small book called "The Red Sea Rules." It speaks to Exodus 14 and the nation of Israel trapped between the Red Sea and the Pharaoh. God was working great things out for them, and He is doing that for us. Bill spoke about our call to be servant leaders of the entire flock. Spiritual leadership flows from our own real faith walk that comes in studying the Bible, prayer, and community. Stewardship leadership means that we will govern our personal assets and those of the church. Decision-making and governance leadership means that everything we do is important, and we need to treat it as such.

New Business

Scot Luther presented options for fixing and upgrading the audio/visual needs of the Sanctuary and Grand Hall. The Finance committee and Facilities committee will review these priorities in light of a capital expenditure budget and make a recommendation to Session in January.

At the October Session meeting, The Presbyterian School had given Session a presentation on their plans to expand the school facilities. The school also requested an Ad Hoc committee be formed to interface with the school on these plans. A motion was made to approve the following members of the committee: Scot Luther, chair, Jennifer Boubel, Debbie Hanna, Chris Winters, Scott Reamer, and Cle Dade.

Lesley Lilly reminded Session of the meeting with Kevin Ford of TAG Consulting for Dec 5 and 6. Part of Session's charge will be to explore how Session can become more spiritually accountable to one another. Session is reading the "The Leadership Triangle" in preparation for this time with consultant Kevin Ford.

Charles Lawler spoke on the recent Presbytery meeting where the votes showed a very different makeup as Kingwood Presbyterian and Grace Presbyterian are no longer present. The most significant business was the vote to include the Belhar Confession in the "Book of Confessions." At least 2/3s of the presbyteries are needed to vote in the affirmative for it to pass. After much confusion on who could vote, and taking the vote twice, New Covenant Presbytery voted 81-75 in the affirmative to include the Belhar Confession in the "Book of Confessions." For more information on business of the Presbytery please refer to the Presbytery's website pbyofnewcovenant.org. The next meeting will be March 21, 2015.

Old Business

Lori Johnson reported that the reconciliation committee will have a report and recommendations for the January Session meeting.

Committee Reports

Youth Ministry: Tim Cornelson gave an update on the Youth Ministry now that Anthony Ceder has moved to Albany. Denver has carried a heavy load in being present at the five different start-up retreats for the school year. We have added things into the program to foster greater depth (a monthly service project and a monthly worship night). And we will likely see the trips becoming a bit smaller in size to form a tighter community of people.

Finance Committee: Randy Wilson reported YTD giving is 10% below prior year and expenses are 7% above prior year.

Young Adults: Bill Cornelius talked about the number of new people on the Young Adult committee. There is great energy about working with Jonathan Ramsay. Five members were at the recent Evangelism Training that Jeremiah Morris led. The small group ministry has been one of the keys to the effort as young people have come into Houston and are looking for a place to have fellowship. Not only does discipleship and evangelism come from this, but mission as well.

Prayer Committee: Bill Heston commented on the great attendance of all ages at the first Wednesday dinner and subsequent prayer meeting. The next one will be in December.

We shared prayers of rejoicing and concerns, and then joined in communion.