

**Session Update to the Congregation
Regular Session Meeting Tuesday July 25th 2017**

Opening Prayer and Devotions focused on a portion of the Parable of Jesus of the Wise Builder from the Gospel of Matthew 7:24 and 25.

²⁴ “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.”

Matthew 7:24 and 25

Session agreed to going forward to hold session meetings on the first Tuesday of month – beginning in September. Department Moderators will meet at 6:45 pm prior to session. Session Departments, beginning in September will take place on the second Tuesday of the month. This change was made to increase the effectiveness of department work.

Nominating Committee Update did not take place as the session representative’s term has ended. Pastor Shari and Ryan Avery are seeking to meet with the Nominating Committee and/or chair, Dave Lauden, and will update session accordingly. Once the Nominating Committee work is a done session will set a date for the ordination and installation of the new class of officers (elders and deacons).

Stewardship and Finance Report was encouraging as July giving is up. Appreciation will be shared with the congregation in an upcoming bulletin and the next church newsletter.

Pastor Shari’s Report

Boundary Training for full-time staff, youth and children’s staff and adult volunteers took place on Thursday June 22nd Additional On-line training is currently taking place for adults serving as the upcoming youth retreat taking place at Lake Chelan in August.

Shari expressed appreciation to the session for granting her study leave request to begin the Post Master’s [Certificate in Pastoral Leadership](#) at Seattle University. This one-year program equips proven and promising pastoral leaders with deepened and expanded leadership skills, which will ensuring long-term effective ministry, spiritual depth and personal integrity. The program includes classes, peer group experiences, and theological reflection supported by a relationship with a spiritual coach provided by the program.

Pastor Jesse’s Report included the counseling and deacon matters below:
New Business

- Robert Erickson was approved to serve as a counselor at WS, he has been with Samaritan Center for more than 20 years and comes with their recommendation.

At this time Rob will see clients here on Thursdays, a day Heidi is not at WS. He will be introduced to the Congregation sometime soon.

- Concern was shared about deacon attendance at monthly deacon meetings. Further discussion about how to address this is needed in the future
- Spirit of the congregation was discussed at length. Three elders volunteered to speak to the congregation on Sunday July 30th on two topics 1. Why our liturgy includes Passing of the Peace and 2. Summer use of screens.

Debrief Conversation about The Fellowship Community, denomination engagement, and relationship with the Seattle Presbytery, begun with Pastor Scott Mann and Elder Linda Enkema on June 13th. Going forward elder Nick Upton, moderator of the Fellowship Department, will lead our on-going consideration of how to improve denominational engagement with the Seattle Presbytery. Nick agreed to bring a draft proposal to the September session meeting.

Session agreed to divide the Church Mission Study/CMS into several parts. Pastor Shari will meet with the Pastor Nominating Committee/PNC in August to discuss the implications of this decision and to coordinate the timing of Part Two so as to stay in sync with the congregation's on-going conversations and the PNC's needs. A Special Called Session Meeting was called for August 9th to review the CMS Part One and to consider articulating attributes of pastoral leadership sought in this next call.

PNC Updates, on Sunday 23 July John Jacobs shared a PNC update in worship. Session appreciates the PNC's initiative to keep the congregation informed about their work and requests to post his comments and future PNC updates in all communication outlets included the website, Westside Weekly E-news, and upcoming issues of the Good News church newsletter.

Session considered and approved a joint proposal from Spiritual Life and Discipleship Departments related to worship and Christian Education: starting Sept 10, 2017, worship services will take place at 9:00 and 10:30 am with Adult Christian Education taking place during each service, and a third class to be offered on an evening to be determined. Sunday school for children will occur during the 9 am service, and a Children's Message will occur during the 10:30 service. Planning will also begin on offering a periodic outreach-themed service at a time to be determined starting early next year. Rationale for these decisions stems from the congregation's priorities about worship, education, and outreach as stated in the Congregational Survey and considered in the CMS work. More will be written and shared about this in the weeks to come.

A MOPS proposal was approved to expended MOPS designated funds to send four MOPS leaders to a MOPS conference in Kansas City, MO in September.