

Update about Session Meeting of West Side Presbyterian Church

Tuesday, 09 May 2017, 7:15-9:48 PM

Meeting began with devotional reading of Romans 8:35, 37-39 and time was spent in reflection and prayer in small groups by class year. In these small groups elders discussed the following “Five Mission Study Questions for Session”

1. In your opinion, what brings people to West Side, and what keeps them coming back? We all look at this church through our own lens.
2. If you could think ahead two years, what do you hope would be different/expanded/changed in the church? Answer in the broadest sense possible.
3. What would make a new Senior Pastor successful in the eyes of the congregation? In the eyes of the session?
4. What are the biggest challenges you see for a new pastor?
5. How can we help during this transition to prepare for those challenges?

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Shari conducted a Confirmation Class meeting with parents and students this afternoon at C&P Coffee. Students are anxious about meeting the Session. Shari proposes that students’ statements of faith are made available to Session prior to meeting, so that Session may provide feedback ahead of time about questions that we may ask. This would be a relief to the students.

Training of officers Class of 2020 will take place on Saturday June 17th. Pastor Shari and Pastor Jesse will co-lead the training which will include the Book of Order, the Book of Confessions, and a book on Spiritual Leadership. On Saturday June 17, from 9:30am-10am Pastor Shari requests that 3rd year outgoing Elders come to give advice to new officers. Mark Koelling and Jim Campbell plan to attend.

Session called a Special Session meeting for Sunday June 4, 6:30pm Special Session meeting to examine Confirmation students and new members.

Session called a Special Session meeting for Tuesday June 20, at 6:30 pm to examine the Class of 2020 officers and new members.

The next Seattle Presbytery Meeting will take place on July 18, at 5pm at Calvary Presbyterian.

Session called the Annual Congregational Meeting for annual reports and the election of officers to take place on Friday June 9th. Refreshments at 7:00. Meeting at 7:30 pm.

Pastor Shari distributed an article “Becoming an Adaptive Leader” by Ron Heifetz and Marty Linsky and advises elders to keep this handy as a resource going forward.

Pastor Jesse shared about plans he is working on with Beverly Shrumm of Samaritan Counseling of Seattle to utilize their resources for a series of classes this fall. Love & Logic Parenting classes are also a good possibility for the fall.

Update from Eliana Maxim, the liaison from the Committee on Ministry to West Side – She has invited Rev. Scott Mann of Bellevue Presbyterian to our next Session meeting June 13, to dialog about working together as PCUSA churches and the role of The Fellowship Community in the life of Bellevue Pres. Eliana shared that many churches in the Seattle Presbytery love that we are a diverse Presbytery. She emphasized that the Presbytery has found ways to work well together across a diverse theological spectrum.

Road Map Working Group knows the congregation is eager to hear about the Holy Cow survey results. This group is planning a presentation to share on Sunday May 14 during the Congregational Conversation. Elders were invited to share their first impressions about the survey results.

Thursday May 11, 6pm the Road Map Group will meet to plan the communication to the Congregation. The Road Map Group will provide a draft to Session by email for approval. Session elders are invited to email Pastor Shari with additional insights.

Stewardship & Finance Celebrates total giving +\$15,000 for the month of April, and +19% per giving unit since a year ago. Personnel committee met to wrap up summer youth hiring, work on staff goal setting and training, and consider a request from MOPS about childcare.

Fellowship Department Discussion of meeting with Deacons to consider the transfer of certain responsibilities of the Fellowship department to the Deacon board. Deacons expressed concerns about reducing board size and the prospect of additional responsibilities. Jesse and Shari will continue conversation with the Deacons.

Outreach Celebrates Community Meal milestones. Lots of great plans are being made of Missions Sunday June 4th including a lunch and outreach fair.

Discipleship/Christian Education The Scholarship Committee recommendations for the Rice Scholarships and Morey Scholarship awards were approved for the 2017-2018 academic year.