

**STATED SESSION MEETING  
OLD STONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023**

The Session of the Old Stone Presbyterian Church held their Stated meeting on Wednesday, May 17, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Moderator/Interim Pastor, Rev. Jeff Binder, and opened with prayer by Elder, Jim Coleman. It was declared that a quorum was in attendance.

PRESENT: Moderator, Rev. Jeff Binder; Clerk, Nancy Smallenberger; Educator/Program Coordinator, Amy Kesterson; and Ruling Elders: Renee Ahern, Stuart Brown, Jim Coleman, Amy Meadows, Joan Montgomery, Jim Rowe, Jennifer Runyon, Ann Walker and Gary Williams.

EXCUSED/ABSENT: Ruling Elders: Townely Hamilton, Megan Kirkham and Sara Irons.

The docket was approved as presented, being updated with a request of membership from Olivia Plybon.

Two sets of minutes were presented by the Clerk, including:

- Stated meeting on Wednesday, April 19, 2023; and
- Congregational meeting on Sunday, May 7, 2023.

These minutes were APPROVED as presented.

Amy Kesterson presented the membership request from Olivia Plybon, who was unable to attend the meeting due to participating in the girl's high school softball tournament. Amy reported that at the time Olivia could have gone through the church's confirmation class, she was taking part in the middle school's softball program. It was reported that Pastor Jeff and Amy had spent time talking with Olivia, covering the materials that would have been covered by adults wishing to join the church. Olivia had written her Faith Statement and sent it to Amy, who read it on Olivia's behalf. It was noted that Olivia, who is a senior at Greenbrier East High School, will be attending St. Andrew's University (affiliated with the Presbyterian Church) in North Carolina to continue her education, and where she will be playing softball. A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to accept Olivia into the membership of Old Stone Presbyterian Church by Profession of Faith.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS:**

**BUILDING USE UPDATES – Amy Kesterson**

- It was reported that a draft of the memo that was sent to the political groups that are currently meeting in the church facilities had been emailed to the Session by Pastor Jeff and was also included in the Session packet. Both groups have received the memo.
- A "final" draft of the Building Use application has been compiled by the Task Force and the revised policy is close to being completed and brought to the Session. The Task Force is planning to meet with Rev. Olt and go over the policy and application to obtain her feedback and will then present both to the Session for approval.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Amy Kesterson**

- An update was given on the upcoming Mission Trip where the group will be traveling to Floyd County, Kentucky. There will be 21 members in Old Stone's work group, and they will be joining five other groups at the worksite. Plans are being finalized for the "End of Trip Fun Day".

#### FELLOWSHIP – Ann Walker

- It was reported that Debbie Taylor will be presenting a Minute for Mission pertaining to the luncheon that will be held following worship on Sunday, May 28, where we will celebrate Pentecost and will join in celebrating Pastor Jeff's service to Old Stone. The meat, bread, drinks and desserts will be provided and those attending are being asked, if they wish, to contribute vegetables and/or salads. Those attending will be encouraged to wear RED for Pentecost.
- Other additional activities being planned:
  - Luncheon following service on Sunday, June 18, to welcome Rev. Julie Olt
  - Outdoor movie for families on July 23
  - Fall Church Picnic – possible date September 10
- Other activities that received a number of responses on the recent survey included: Dinner for 8, Greeters – signup to be placed in Narthex, After Church Fellowship -- signup to be placed in the Narthex, Women's Coffee/Lunch, interest in Bridge lessons and interest in guest speakers.
- It was noted that there was a noticeable omission of completed surveys from Session members – surveys were handed out to those in attendance to complete and return.

#### WORSHIP and MUSIC – Rev. Binder, in the absence of Townley Hamilton

- Pastor Jeff reported that a representative of Electronic Specialties had been to the church and assessed the video and audio equipment in the sanctuary. He recommended the placement of a 3<sup>rd</sup> camera and possible equipment to upgrade the audio quality of the choir during livestreaming. He left saying he would send a quote for the equipment that was discussed. Those attending the meeting were Gary Williams, Brennan Wood and Rev. Binder.

#### PERSONNEL – Jim Rowe

- The committee re-presented the Compensation Guidelines that had been approved by the Session in 2018. The committee has been reviewing these guidelines, making some changes, for example removing information regarding the Preschool. They will continue their review once Rev. Olt arrives.
- The committee will be conducting an Exit Interview with Rev. Binder and Dave Lee, the Presbytery's Liaison to Old Stone on Thursday, May 18.
- Jason Long is working on the Worker's Compensation coverage for the church. Currently the deadline for coverage is May 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### PNC – Jim Rowe

- It was reported that Rev. Olt and her husband have a contract on a home in Lewisburg, with plans to move there the later part of June. So they will be looking for temporary housing in town until the home is available. (They have purchased the Cyndi and Dexter Taylor home.)

#### PROPERTY – Joan Montgomery

- Montgomery noted that individuals had mentioned the "smell" in the sanctuary on Sunday, which is from the glue being used.

#### SAFETY TEAM – Joan Montgomery

- Currently things are on hold as Norman Ahern is working on the safety booklet, and we also await the arrival of Rev. Olt.
- A new/revised list of responsibilities for the ushers is also being compiled.

#### TRUSTEE UPDATE –

- Copies of the minutes from the last two Trustee meetings were included in the Session packet.

FINANCE and STEWARDSHIP – Jennifer Runyon

- Runyon touched on the Worker’s Compensation coverage and trying to obtain quotes for updated coverage.
- The books for 2016 have been closed and she, along with Larry Jones, are working on closing out 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.
- The process for the payables is working well, thanks to Allyson Seeley, Carol Cales and Nancy Smallenberger.

PASTOR’S REPORT – Rev. Binder

- Congregational Care Updates:
  - Richard Aide (Townley Hamilton’s father)
  - Richard Franke
  - Charlie and Jill Gwinn
- This is Pastor Jeff’s last Session meeting at Old Stone and he thanked the Session for the work they have done as a Session and church during his time here. He stated that beginning in July, he will be the interim pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Staunton, VA.

CLERK’S REPORT – Nancy Smallenberger

- REMINDER – The Presbytery of WV will be meeting on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church in Clarksburg – at this time Old Stone does not have a Ruling Elder Commissioner. Pastor Jeff reported that the Presbytery is going to be trying, with this meeting, to allow RE Commissions to participate via Zoom. With this option, Amy Meadows volunteered to serve as Commissioner. A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to have Amy serve as RE Commissioner for Old Stone.
- Worship Attendance was included in the packet, being furnished by Allyson Seeley.

|                  |               |                              |
|------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Sunday, April 16 | 88 In Person  | 19 On Line during livestream |
| Sunday, April 23 | 99 In Person  | 15 On Line                   |
| Sunday, April 30 | 65 In Person  | 20 On Line                   |
| Sunday, May 7    | 120 In Person | 20 On Line                   |
| Sunday, May 14   | 97 In Person  | 10 On Line                   |

NEW BUSINESS –

- One of the Elders stated that they had been asked by a member of the church if when Congregational meetings are held, if the livestream should be stopped prior to the beginning of the meeting. Pastor Jeff stated that these meetings are not “closed”, visitors are invited to remain if they so wish.
- Another Elder stated that they had been looking at the website and have noticed a number of items that need to be updated or removed. Pastor Jeff stated that the church office is currently maintaining the website, so if you see things that need attention, please contact the office.
- At this time, Jim Rowe, Moderator of Personnel, asked that Pastor Jeff excuse himself, which he gladly did. Rowe then asked Session if there were any plans, other than the luncheon on May 28, to honor Pastor Jeff for his service to Old Stone? There was a discussion with several suggestions being made. The group decided on a few of the ideas, with individuals agreeing to follow-up on these items. Following this discussion, Pastor Jeff was welcomed back into the meeting.

The Session’s next Stated meeting will be Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Activity Room.

There being no other business requiring Session action, the meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer by Pastor Jeff.

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Clerk of Session

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Moderator

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Date Signed and Approved