

**STATED SESSION MEETING
OLD STONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023**

The Session of the Old Stone Presbyterian Church held their Stated Session meeting on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at the church. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with prayer by the Moderator, Rev. Julie Olt. The opening devotions and prayer were also presented by Pastor Julie.

Attendance was taken by the clerk and it was declared that a quorum was in attendance.

PRESENT: Moderator, Rev. Julie Olt; Clerk of Session, Nancy Smallenberger; Educator/Program Coordinator, Amy Kesterson; Guest, Dr. Brennan Wood, Director of Music; and Ruling Elders: Renee Ahern, Stuart Brown, Townley Hamilton, Sara Irons, Joan Montgomery, Jim Rowe, Jennifer Runyon, Ann Walker and Gary Williams.

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Ruling Elders: Jim Coleman, Megan Kirkham and Amy Meadows.

CLERK'S REPORT:

- Minutes of the Stated Session meeting on Wednesday, August 16, were presented for approval. A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to accept the minutes as presented with one correction.
- Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed on Sunday, September 3. Elders should contact Townley Hamilton to sign-up to help prepare and serve.

PASTOR'S REPORT – Rev. Julie Olt

- Pastor Julie stated that she had been contacted by Gordon Campbell with a request that the two political groups, who are currently meeting at the church, are interested in joining together to conduct a food drive for the holidays for all the local food pantries. A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED for the groups to conduct the food drive. It was suggested that they contact Amy Kesterson and Jim Seeley for their guidance in where to store items collected.
- Pastor Julie stated that she had been on Study Leave in September which had been “wonderful” and as an outcome of the time together with colleagues, beginning in October she will be preaching a six-week sermon series on “unsung heroes of the Bible”.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were printed reports from Worship and Music Committee and Financial Statements from the church treasurer included in the Session packet. No committees had any items requiring Session action.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Peyton Grant Application – Joan Montgomery, moderator of the Property Committee reported that the application is in the process of being completed for submission (due date

of September 30). A motion was made that a copy of the grant will be emailed to Session before it is submitted; no second was needed as the motion comes from committee; the motion was APPROVED.

- It was reported that a group of McElhenny descendants had been in the area during September. Joan Montgomery met the group and gave them a tour of the church.
- It was reported that the Property Committee will be meeting on October 10. Jim Seeley will be showing members of the committee, and anyone else who would like to attend, how to get individuals out of the elevator should it become stuck.
- The Nominating Committee will be meeting in October, at which time they will begin to work to identify four (4) individuals to serve as Ruling Elders; two (2) individuals to serve as Trustees and three (3) individuals to serve as members of the 2024 Nominating Committee.
- Brennan Wood, Director of Music, stated that he was concerned that items have been listed as being a part of the music department's 2023 budget which were not related to the department. He also suggested looking into the possibility of switching to a different company to provide instrument upkeep/maintenance for the church. There was also discussion that the instrument upkeep/maintenance be removed from the music department and covered by a different committee/group.
- When giving Session their "homework" for the October meeting, Rev. Olt asked what the Elders saw as a common vision/mission of where "we" as a church are headed: this year, in five years, in ten years; what are we, "our generation" doing; who are we, what are we about; how do we reach people who we are missing. She stated that the church is doing wonderful things but stated that these things need to be brought together. "Good things are happening and will continue to happen".

The next Stated Session meeting will be held Wednesday, October 18, at 6:30 p.m.

JOYS and CONCERNS mentioned included:

Alice McLaughlin McKnight and Family
Sara Graham
Carol Cales
Lynn Weikle's daughter-in-law

The meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer by Rev. Olt.

Clerk of Session

Moderator

Date Approved and Signed