

Session Highlights July 21, 2025

New members were welcomed into the church at the June 1 worship service: Anna and David Hawthorne with son, Garret; Linda and Scott Smith; James and Jeanne Gordon; and Sharon Farrell. And the elders mourned for the loss of our excellent, hardworking Facilities chair and fellow elder, Doug DiRienzo, whose celebration of life will be August 9 at 11:00 a.m.

Deacons—Session made plans to update the Church Rolls in August and September as requested by the Deacons, and discussed the possibility of holding a joint meeting with the Deacons this fall. The Clerk was instructed to send a letter of appreciation to the Deacons and the Fellowship Committee for the excellent Fellowship dinner on June 11 to honor our graduating seniors. There was a discussion of those in need and with health issues in the congregation followed by a roundtable of prayers for them.

The Local Mission Committee corrected some bookkeeping misunderstanding concerning from where checks going to our local mission partners were to be drawn. New banners for the Blue Grass Bash were approved. And a letter of support to help in receiving grant approval will be sent to WNC Edge, one of our partners in offering assistance to our unhoused community members. This was followed with a discussion of the unhoused who are a part of our worship and Sunday School programs and the various agencies in the area who offer help.

The Discipleship Committee reported on several upcoming plans to foster the creation of Small or Discipleship Groups in our congregation. Check your August Update and bulletins for more about Small Groups. These will also include a sign-up for a fall small group series on “The “Incomparable Jesus” led by Louis and Priscilla Haynes which will be running on alternating Thursdays, September 4-November 5. There is also an open invitation to join the mixed Spanish/English prayer time and study of the Westminster Catechism from 6:00-7:00 on Wednesday evening in the Chapel.

The Global Mission Committee announced that Wycliffe translator Leah Doty will speak briefly during worship and be present at Coffee Hour on September 7.

The Finance Committee reported that summer income had been light, but that he and Larry Mobley are keeping a careful eye on our financial status and that income for the year is still currently just covering expenses. The Disaster Relief Task Force has already disbursed \$70,000 and there remains \$65,298.89 in the designated fund for further needs.

For the **Personnel Committee**, the Pastor reported that they currently have six seemingly viable applications for the Children’s Director position and will soon begin the interview process.

Pastor reported on his trip to the General Assembly and a controversial report which will be presented at the next GA. At this year’s GA the top service award was given to Vally Hope Church in Swannanoa for their work after Hurricane Helene. The Pastor and Stacy will be away attending daughter Taylor’s college commencement July 24-30. Recently, they had the Reach Global ribbon-cutting ceremony for repairs to the McClelland’s home, nine months after the Hurricane Helene damage.

The meeting was closed with prayer at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Mimi Jamieson, Clerk