

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS--July 27, 2026

To complete our compliance with the recommendation from our just completed Church Audit, there needed to be a record in the session minutes of the session approving of the breakdown of the Pastor's salary and housing allowance as 50% for salary and 50% for housing this year. This did not change anything previously done. It simply recorded this for accounting/legal purposes.

An immediate decision on the Coffee Hour timing was required, because the following Sunday would no longer be covered by the Operation Christmas Child volunteers. The elders felt strongly that the best time for welcoming visitors was after the 11:00 service, however taking into account the preferences from the people currently volunteering for the Coffee Hour, the elders agreed that if the volunteers could do the set-up for 10:30 and then replenish things before leaving, that the elders and perhaps other new volunteers would do the clean-up after the second, later, Coffee Hour. Thank you, OCC, for serving us for the month of July.

Linda Boyles-Smith has made a request for a new piano in the Choir Room as the current one has a broken sound board. The Legacy Fund was set up for such a situation and currently has a \$191,000 balance. Session approved the top limit to \$9,000 to also cover taxes and delivery.

At this point there needed to be a temporary moderator chosen so that the elders could discuss support for Rev. McClelland's wife Stacy as she is seeking mission support for her part-time work with Reach Global. Elder Durham was unanimously approved.

The Local and Global Mission Committees were each recommending funding from their respective designated funds for Stacy. Her work is both local and across the country. Both committees intended this as a one-time support through the 2027 Budget period, with further review after one year. With most new missionaries, support initially begins from designated funds with review at the end of that first year before consideration for inclusion in the Budget. \$2,500 from each of the two designated funds for a total of \$5,000 was approved.

Pastor Rob presented a PowerPoint to begin our discussion. He said at the founding of a church there is usually a strong Vision followed by the building of relationships around the Vision. As time goes by, programs are added for the purpose of strengthening the Vision and then structure to manage the programs and the structure and programs eventually become the priority rather than the Vision; but everything still continues even after the Vision is lost. He advised that we as the church leadership need to do some serious thinking and praying to find God's current Vision for our church. Our old model has some serious shortcomings in being able to attract the new, less church-ed generations. The elders' discussion went very well with the earlier lesson of the night led by Marge Hever from Life Together on the discipline of prayer and devotional times being kept consistently in our daily schedules. The elders committed to seeking God's guidance in setting a new Vision for the church and involving the deacons and the congregation as we move through the process.

Mimi Jamieson, Clerk of Session