

MONDAY, JULY 27, 2020
SPECIAL MEETING OF SESSION

On Monday, July 27, 2020, the Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church held a special Zoom meeting with Reverend Rogers serving as Moderator. Reverend Rogers opened the meeting with prayer at 7:03 p.m.

Session members attending were Rev. Rogers and Elders Bacik, Burgess, Canose, Castelli, Conley, Davis, Dilly, Galbreath, Heilman, Jenkins, LeBeau, Myers, O'Brien, Paul, Sheap, Wagner, and Williams, constituting a quorum.

Excused: Dr. Lancaster

BUSINESS ITEMS

Reopening for in-person worship.

Reverend Rogers provided an update on present livestreaming of worship services each Sunday morning, and offered a summary of current pandemic health data for Western Pennsylvania and Allegheny and surrounding counties. Based on the current pandemic health data, Reverend Rogers suggested three possible options for Session to consider in making a determination on when and how to reopen for in-person worship: (1) select a future date to reopen, (2) ask the Vision Task Force to review the situation and provide Session with an recommendation, or (3) maintain the present situation with the issue of reopening for in-person worship remaining on indefinite hold. Elder Burgess shared with Session her confidence in a website that publishes extensive current pandemic health data for Western Pennsylvania and Allegheny and surrounding counties. Session engaged in extensive discussion of each option, and upon two motions duly made and seconded, voted unanimously to the following:

- (1) Session will address reopening for in-person worship at its next regular meeting on August 17, 2020; and
- (2) Session asked the Vision Task Force to reconvene and re-evaluate the conditions and means under which the church can safely reopen for in-person worship, and to present Session with a recommendation at Session's regular meeting on August 17, 2020. In referring the matter to the Vision Task Force, Session recommends that the Task Force review the extensive information available on the website identified by Elder Burgess, including the metrics relating to levels of infection in local populations.

Communion in the courtyard proposal.

The Adult Spiritual Development Commission has submitted a proposal to offer silent prayer and Communion to members of the congregation on Wednesday evenings, August 19 and August 26, 2020 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the North Courtyard. Participants will enter the courtyard and sit quietly in seats which have been placed socially distant from others while quiet recorded music is playing. When ready, the participants will

approach the Communion table, pick up the prepared Communion elements, and receive prayers from the officiating pastor. Then they will depart in silence. People will come and go during the designated time. Four ushers will assist in directing participants.

Elder Myers made a motion to approve the Commission's proposal, which was duly seconded. In subsequent discussion Reverend Rogers indicated that she felt comfortable in officiating the celebration of the sacrament of Communion under these conditions. Session also debated whether these ceremonies could be moved into the sanctuary under inclement weather conditions. At the conclusion of its discussion, Session voted unanimously to approve offering silent prayer and Communion to the congregation on Wednesday evenings, August 19 and August 26, 2020 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the North Courtyard in the manner set forth in the Adult Spiritual Development Commission's proposal and observing the protocols and requirements regarding convocations issued by state and local authorities. Utilization of the sanctuary in inclement weather conditions was also approved.

ADJOURNMENT WITH PRAYER

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:02 p.m. The next regular meeting of Session will be held on August 17, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

H. Brian Peck
Clerk of Session

Approved: August 17, 2020