

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LAKE TRAVIS
SESSION MEETING
AUGUST 8, 2021 (VIA ZOOM)**

Session Members in Attendance: Rev. Dr. John H. Barden, Moderator; Mary Margaret MacMillan, Clerk; Lynn Fisher; Larry Foster; Nancy Vanzandt; Terry McKetta, Elder-Elect

The meeting was opened by Rev. Barden with prayer at 12:33 pm.

The minutes of the June 27 regular Session meeting and the minutes of the called Session meeting of July 28 (via Zoom) were approved as submitted.

Moderator's Report

A \$10,000 bequest from the estate of Ada McElhenny has been received by PCLT

PCLT has begun a partnership with Lake Travis United Methodist Church to teach English classes in person at Lake Travis United Methodist Church. Pam McGovney, PCLT member, will teach these classes. It is hoped that other PCLT members will contact Pam to volunteer as tutors for the students.

Travis County has officially entered Stage 5 of Covid restrictions. This is the highest level of risk and being at that level confirms the Session's decision on July 28 to resume only online worship and committee meetings.

Committee Reports

Committee reports were accepted as submitted. Outreach Committee reported that Helen Foster will join that committee.

Old Business

Larry Foster reviewed his overview of PCLT's finances as presented in his summary document. He proposed a three-point strategy to address PCLT's current financial crisis: ask the congregation to make an immediate gift over and above their regular pledge; apply for a \$200,000 line of credit from the Presbyterian Loan and Investment Program; and develop a long-term strategy for growth. The strategic plan should be developed over the next thirty days and would accompany the credit line application to PLIP.

It was recommended that Outreach and Worship Committees be tasked with developing the strategic plan, with oversight by Mary Margaret MacMillan. Rev. Barden would also be heavily involved but be an ex-officio member of the task force.

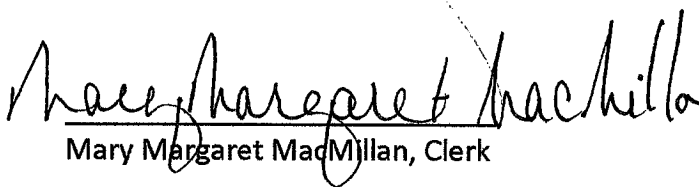
Action Items

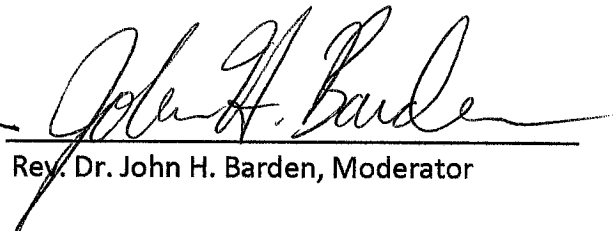
- A motion was made and seconded that PCLT will pursue a line of credit from PILP in the amount of \$200,000 for a term of five years, with the outstanding balance reduced to zero each of the five years. The motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded that the PCLT congregation be asked to make a special gift over and above this year's pledge to reach a congregational goal of \$50,000 - 75,000. The "ask" would begin the week of August 9, 2021. The motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded name a Task Force to develop a strategic plan for growth over the next two to five years with the goals of achieving financial stability as well as a strong presence in the community. The task force will finalize the plan by the September regular Session meeting. The motion carried. The task force will be made up initially of Nancy Vanzandt, Lynn Fisher, Chrystie Thrasher, and Mary Margaret MacMillan, with Rev. Barden as an ex-officio member.

New Business

The strategic plan will guide all PCLT members in the effort to achieve congregational sustainability.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Rev. Barden at 1:56 pm.


Mary Margaret MacMillan, Clerk


Rev. Dr. John H. Barden, Moderator

AUGUST FINANCIAL REPORT

8 August 2021

The basic financial issues remain unchanged for the moment. For the month of July our revenues roughly balanced our expenses with a much welcomed \$10K gift from the estate of one of our members. As we go forward in 2021 PCLT has in the bank roughly just under \$50K, currently split \$25K in the money market account and \$22K in checking. For the final five months of the year we project a deficit in the neighborhood of \$75K, obviously an untenable position if nothing is done. Our drop dead date financially is either the end of September or more likely the end of October. There is some play in this for we have discovered something over \$20K in revenues were undelivered. The bulk of our funds from congregants come in the first three months of the year. This year, 2021, you will recall that the USPO performance was unusually wanting and that, coupled with the February freeze caused a number of member's contributions to remain undelivered. This was discovered only with the normal mid-year issue of each giving unit's year-to-date contributions thru 30 June 2021 when individual congregants were able to see a discrepancy between their presumed gifts and the delivered amounts. We know that several congregants have already made arrangements to replace checks that went astray in the mail and we anticipate those funds to arrive before the end of the month. We do not, of course, have any way internally to know of such discrepancies in balances presumed and actual balances and so depend on individual giving units to check their mid-year statements.

For just over a month now an informal group of interested and experienced members have been meeting with Jack to develop a plan to right the ship. The outcomes of those discussions are presented below to Session for their comments, questions, and ultimate blessing. The plan has three specific points.

1. Debt Financing for Mid-term Financial Stability

To obtain a Line of Credit Loan in the amount of \$200K for a five year term with outstanding zeroed out each January. The loan is expected to come from PILP.

2. Congregational Ask for Short Term Financial COVID-Induced Revenue Crisis

A Congregational ask for \$50-75K to cover expenses for remainder of 2021. Currently we have approximately \$50K in the bank with an anticipated deficit for the remaining five months of roughly \$75K. Our drop dead date is end of September or end of October. Jack will speak in more details as the ask develops

3. Long Term Strategy for Growth: The Only Road to Financial Viability

After thought and discussion we propose as a long-term growth strategy, one that focuses on the needs and desires of a congregation familiar with and attracted to “traditional Presbyterian” service, study, and worship. It is a niche strategy targeted at being “A Churched for the Churched” as a way toward our greater purpose of service and outreach as expressed in the PCLT vision statement, in More Light Presbyterian Messaging, and as a Mathew 25 Church “actively involved in the world”.

We suggest that we seek outside expertise in the functional areas of (1) Fundraising, and (2) Public Relations to offset our lack of skills in these activities.

We propose that PCLT Outreach and Worship Committees, Session as a whole, or a new committee especially appointed and constituted by Session hold the primary responsibility for the formulation of this strategy and that it report directly to Jack.

It is imperative that the formulation of the Long Term Strategy for Growth be begun immediately and that a first draft be presented to Jack and to Session by within thirty days. This deadline is driven by the need to present evidence of a Strategy and accompanying Plan of Action with the loan request to PILP.

We would ask that Session approve these three related efforts put forth to regain the resources and momentum lost to the COVID years and to put PCLT again in a strong and long term viable position to carry out the work and service so important to us.