March 28, 2019 St. Andrew Session Highlights

Spring Break delayed Session’s regular meeting in March by a week, but a quorum was reached by 7:00 pm, Thursday, March 28. Here are the highlights from the nearly three-hour meeting:

Church Leadership: As St. Andrew prepares to form a Pastor Nominating Committee to search for our next installed pastor, the Session is beginning a series of discussions about what St. Andrew’s leadership team — pastors, staff and volunteers — should look like. A special Session meeting will be scheduled to discuss the topic in more detail, and opportunities for congregational feedback will be scheduled at some point over the next two months.

Land Sales: In February, the Session voted to sign a listing agreement with local real estate agent Jeff Edberg for the 7.2-acre property that we call “The Triangle.” The Session voted in March to also name Jeff Edberg as the listing agent for the 4.4-acre property west of the main parking lot, the area we call “Outlot A.” Session also approved spending $1,500 of general fund money to update the assessment on Outlot A and to assess all land within 400 feet of our eastern property line. There has been some interest expressed in that eastern property, and the Session is taking the preliminary steps to see what it is worth. If an offer seems likely on that property, the Land Sales Team will hold an informational session between worship services as soon as convenient.

Future Vision: Dan Steele gave an update on the “Missional Church: Congregational Diagnosis.” He described the process that the planning team has undergone since the day-long planning event on January 27. The team intends to have a draft report completed by May 14. That diagnostic work also will be helpful as the Pastor Nominating Committee works with the Session to write a job description for our next pastor.

Capital Campaign: A group of staff and volunteers have stepped up to form the leadership team for the next Capital Campaign. They will work with Tom Norwood, an outside consultant hired by the Session, and more information about campaign’s schedule and message will be forthcoming.

Pews: Session is looking forward to a time when money will be available to expand the number of pew chairs in the Sanctuary. In the meantime, the Session has directed the Buildings and Grounds Team to explore purchasing enough fabric for future pews to ensure they will match our existing pews.

Mister Rogers: Session approved the spending of $1,000 from the Session Discretionary Fund to help cover the costs of bringing biographer Maxwell King to Iowa City on Saturday April 27 as part of St. Andrew’s weekend-long “A Friend Just Like You: The Music and Message of Fred Rogers.” The Presbytery of East Iowa also is recommending local congregations read King’s biography, “A Good Neighbor: The Life and work of Fred Rogers,” as part of the Presbytery’s theme for 2019: “Neighborliness in the Covenant Community.”

Mission Giving: The Session approved mission funds to be distributed to the Steven Fry Family in Kosovo, the Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County, the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and IMPACTO ministries.

Building and Grounds: The Session also discussed updates on the work being done in the MPR (adding an athletic floor) and the Sanctuary (adding acoustically reflective tiles to the ceiling). The hundreds of volunteer hours involved in both these undertakings is impressive and inspiring, and we very much appreciate all the people who have given of their time, treasure and talents for these projects.