



# FIRST PRESS *EXPRESS*

The newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Concord, California

June 2022



## Mission Study Meetings

Church family, it's once again time when we must update our mission study. The mission study is a framework for our future. It helps prospective pastors to see what we're all about. It also helps them understand the demographics of the area, the cost of living, our church history, and our goals.

Perhaps the most crucial parts are the mission, vision, and values statements. These are developed via input from each of you. With that in mind the Sunday school hour on July 10th, 17th and 31st will be dedicated to the mission study. Please plan on attending one of these meetings. It would be ideal if every one of you, member or not, would participate in helping to build our future. A brief survey will be conducted regarding the church. Data parsed from that survey will help us define our mission (Who are we?), vision (What do we want to do?), and values (How do we get there?). For planning purposes, please email [leadership@fpccconcord.org](mailto:leadership@fpccconcord.org) with your name and your date preference. I look forward to building our future together.

“Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.” — Andrew Carnegie

Darryl McCollum, CLP





## June Biography: David Stearns

David Stearns was already an Elder (for the first of innumerable times) when he stated in a service testimonial during Mary Naegeli's pastorate, "that he was no longer a pew potato." He rarely has worshipped from a pew since then.

David's service to our church knows no bounds. As an Elder he has been Clerk of Session, chair of the Finance Committee, chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, as well as servicing on Congregational Care and Personnel Committees. You might see him in the sound booth, or in the tenor section of the choir, or emptying a waste basket or vacuuming the church, or working on a construction project at the preschool or being consulted about any engineering problem on the church property. If you visit the church campus on a weekday, you very likely will see David here with his keys in hand.

David was born in San Diego but grew up in Lodi. Both he and future wife, Diana, played clarinet, so one could say "they made music together" in the Lodi High School Band and the melody has continued through the years, as they married during David's senior year of college and celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last year. He attended the University of California, Berkeley as a civil engineering major and played clarinet in the marching band. The couple became the proud parents of four girls: Cheryl, mother of teenage son, Charles; Michelle; Robin, director of Beginnings and Beyond Montessori Christian Preschool; and Marie, mother of Claire and Kaitlyn (husband Rodney Asistin.)

Upon graduation from Cal in 1972 David was employed by PBTB, the joint venture that designed and managed construction of the BART project, and in 1977 he was transferred to Bechtel Corporation. In 1981 he was sent to Saudi Arabia for two years to work on the King Khaled International Airport as a member of the project controls team.

Diana is an important part of the Stearns' church service team. When she was my Deacon, on May Day I found a nosegay of flowers hanging on my front door handle. She has been a faithful soprano in the choir and loves to spoil choir members with candy gifts on Christmas and Easter. In the early days of the preschool, Diana was on hand to help Robin with the preschool, and you can see some of her quilt artwork on the preschool walls. I'm sure Diana appreciates the fact that David does a lot of the cooking and is the master chef for Saturday morning breakfasts.

David retired from Bechtel, but fortunately does not punch a time clock at 1965 Colfax Street or we could not afford to pay him!! He works for the Kingdom of God, serving his creator with all his talents, wisdom, and strength.

Thank you, God, for the Stearns family and their dedication to our church family. They are a blessing to each one of us!!!

Beth Byrne,  
FPCC Biographer

## Summary of the June Session Meeting

**Action Item:** David Stearns reported on the revision of the budget in light of the actual income and expenses to date. A motion to approve it passed. The revised budget estimates a loss for 2022 to be \$59,202, but additional steps to reduce it are still being considered.

### **Moderator's Report** Rebecca Chase - CLP

- ***U.S Flag Placement.*** The Church will adhere to the policy previously approved regarding placement of the flag in the Sanctuary on Sunday. Accordingly, the flag will be displayed with respect to certain holidays, including, but not limited to, President's Day, Independence day, Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. The Worship & Music team will determine which holidays, and report back to Session in July.
- ***Covid Policy.*** The following proposed revision of the Church's Covid policy was approved and includes:
  - The wearing of masks in the Sanctuary and inside other buildings will be optional, and temperatures will no longer be taken.
  - The following types of questions will be asked at the door or displayed on a chart for people to respond to:
    - Have you recently tested positive for Covid?
    - Have you recently had a temperature or cough?
    - Have you traveled out of state recently?
    - Have you been in contact with anyone who tested positive with Covid recently?
- ***Storage container in Parking Lot.*** A motion was passed to allow the City to temporarily place a storage container in the parking lot.
- ***PCC.*** The City Council has suggested that we take certain steps to prevent homeless people from sleeping in front of the PCC. How to do this is under consideration.
- ***Architectural Report.*** A report presenting different options for the best use of our facilities has been prepared by an architect and will be discussed at the next meeting of the Session.
- ***Finance Committee Report.*** David Stearns moved that he, Vern Hance, and our bookkeeper, Linde Weber, be approved to be our contact persons with Chase Bank.
- ***Communications Team Report.*** David Dowell reported that the focus is currently on enhancing our image in the community and how to better portray what we have to offer families and individuals.
- ***From the Committee Minutes***
  - Program Committee** – The choir will return in late August. The search for a company to repair the carillon system continues.
  - Children's Spiritual Development** – Camp Agape (Vacation Bible School) has been cancelled due to Covid concerns.

**Connections (Congregational Care)** – The Church barbecue is scheduled for August 14 after the service and will be held in the courtyard under the shade of a canopy.

**Missions Team** – The following missionary representatives are scheduled. They will be scheduled for the Mission Minute at the Sunday service and to teach the Sunday school class that day:

Marlene Ssebulime (Raise the Roof Academy) – July 24

Darla and Nathaniel Gregoriev (Wycliffe Bible Translators) – August 14

### **Members in the News**

On June 25 Kimi Dowell was awarded the Paul Harris Fellow award from Rotary International Foundation for community service for her leadership and efforts in helping to secure honorary diplomas for the families of Mt. Diablo High School Students who were taken out of school and sent to the internment camps during World War II. She was nominated by and the award presented by the Clayton Valley/Concord Sunrise Rotary Club, whose membership includes Bill Selb and Clayton Worsdell, both of whom are past presidents.

Over a year ago, Kimi conceived the idea for Mt Diablo High School to recognize and grant honorary diplomas to families of the 40 former students who were taken out of school and incarcerated in internment camps. Her effort came to fruition on graduation day as she stood at the podium for the presentation of those diplomas to the families before an audience of more than 1,000 people. Kimi partnered with the Mt. Diablo High School Ethnic Studies classes and their teacher, Laura Valdez, in making this idea a reality.

### **FPCC Staff**

Darryl McCollum, CLP

Rebecca Chase, CLP

DeVonn Powers, CLP

Lisa Justice, Student Pastor

Andrew Cardiasmenos

Robin Stearns

Linde Weber

Harold Lund

Ministry Partner

Ministry Partner

Ministry Partner

Ministry Partner

Director, Music & Worship

Preschool Director

Financial and Human Resources Specialist

Custodian & Night Watchman

Allen Nickerson

Editor, First Press and *Express*



**Editor's Note:** *First Press Express* is a publication of the First Presbyterian Church of Concord, California, printed several times each year.