



# FIRST PRESS *EXPRESS*

The newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Concord, California

March 2023

## Highlights of February Session Meeting



- Opening prayer time** CLP Rebecca Chase
- Testimony/Devotional** “Habits and the Power of Sin” by David Dowell
- Mission Statement:** Love God, Love People...Serve.
- Consent Docket**

The Mission Team’s calendar for 2023 fundraisers was pulled from the Consent Docket, discussed, and approved. The Mission Team was asked to reformat the calendar to distinguish between fundraising projects, budgeted projects, and projects requiring volunteers.

Mission’s request for approval of Maji Development Coalition as the beneficiary of the Easter offering was also pulled from the Consent Docket and discussed separately. When the requested additional information is received, Session will vote on the item by e-vote. (Note: this was subsequently approved by Session by e-vote on February 23, 2023.)
- Clerk’s Report**

The Regular Session Minutes for January 17, 2023, were approved. FPCC’s 2022 membership, attendance, and financial information for its 2022 Annual Statistical Report to the PC(USA) was also approved. The Clerk of Session will file the report.
- Presbytery Meeting Commissioners**

The Commissioners appointed at the January Session meeting for the February 21 Presbytery meeting are: CLP Darryl McCollum, and Elders David Stearns, Jim Whitfield, and Jon Myers.

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

**Plans for the February 26 Annual Congregational Meeting**

Session discussed the draft Agenda for the Annual Congregational Meeting in detail and a final agenda was agreed upon.

**2023 Lenten Study**

The theme for Lent will be Matthew 25. A workbook is available from PC(USA) and will be provided for several small groups for their use during the Lenten period. (Note: The workbook was made available in the Narthex on Sunday, February 26).

**Proposed changes to FPCC Bylaws**

CLP Darryl McCollum presented the revised Bylaws for discussion by Session, before asking for their approval at the Congregational Meeting. Session requested a few additional changes and approved the revised Bylaws, and they will be presented to the congregation for approval at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

**Mission Study Team update**

CLP Darryl McCollum reported that the presentation at the Annual Congregational Meeting will focus on the Mission, Purpose, and Values statements, with emphasis on the newly recommended Purpose statement.

**Staff Report**

**Deacon Report**

CLP Rebecca Chase reported that Carrie Smith and Matt Chapman were nominated as Co-Moderators for 2023, and Wayne Matzen was elected as Secretary. A realignment of parishes is in progress, which will reapportion members amongst fewer parishes.

**New Business**

**Proposed hiring of a part-time Temporary Pastor**

Personnel Chair, Elder Jon Myers, reported that FPCC has been operating under the Transition Ministry Partner model for almost a year, and our four Ministry Partners have been doing a very good job.

In light of the hard work that they are putting in, and since it might take up to two years to hire a full-time pastor, it is recommended that the church hire a part-time Temporary Pastor to help out. Several potential applicants have already been identified.

The process will begin with appointment of a search committee consisting of the Personnel Chair (Jon Myers), a member of the Pastoral Staff (CLP Rebecca Chase), and a Deacon.

Session approved the creation of the search committee, subject to finding a Deacon to also serve. (Note: Deacon Wayne Matzen subsequently agreed to serve on the search team.)

**Next Session Meeting**

At 7 pm on March 21, 2023, in the Fireside Room.

**By David Dowell and Jon Myers**

## Highlights of the Annual Congregational Meeting – February 26, 2023



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation, as provided for in the Bylaws of FPCC, was held on February 26 in the Fellowship hall. It began with an extraordinary lunch consisting of delicious Mexican dishes served on the patio.

### **Election of Officers**

The Nominating Committee nominated the following individuals, who were elected by the congregation:

**For Elder, Class of 2025:** Joey Rosete and Maren Stanczak

**For Deacon, Class of 2025:** Kaffy Cecil and Marilyn Wollenweber

**For the 2023 Nominating Committee,** the Membership-at-Large positions: Margaret Bachman, Vern Hance, and Darryl McCollum

### **Clerk's Report**

Clerk of Session, Jon Myers, presented the Minutes of the February 20, 2022, Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation. The congregation approved a motion to accept the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes.

### **Missions Study update**

CLP Darryl McCollum reported that the Mission Study was nearly done. He focused on the section of the Study titled Mission, Purpose, and Values, with special emphasis on the newly added Purpose statement.

### **Review of the 2022 FPCC Annual report**

Outreach (and Connections) report – Elder Jim Whitfield

Spiritual Growth report – Chairs, Marilyn Wollenweber, and Judith Snider

Deacon's Report – Ministry Partner, CLP Rebecca Chase

Finance Report – Elder, David Stearns

David Stearns moved acceptance of the 2022 Finance Report and acceptance of the 2022 FPCC Annual Report. The congregation accepted both reports.

## Corporation Meeting, conducted by the FPCC Trustees

2022 Trustee President, Frank Fribley, presided over the Meeting of the Corporation and explained the role of the Trustees. Frank introduced Bill Selb as the Vice President and Clayton Worsdell as the Member at Large.

CLP Darryl McCollum moved that the congregation endorse Frank Fribley as the 2023 Trustee President and Bill Selb as the 2023 Trustee Vice President. Both were approved by the congregation. The Bylaws require a fourth Trustee to be appointed by Session. This is planned for the March Session meeting.

### New Business

Ministry Partner, CLP Darryl McCollum, presented proposed changes to the FPCC bylaws, which were approved by the Congregation.

Elder Jon Myers presented a report on the Transition Ministry Partners that have led FPCC for the past 10 months, and Session's approval to create a search team to find a part-time Temporary Pastor to help out and serve until a new Pastor Nominating Committee can be formed and a permanent Pastor is hired, a process which may take up to two years.

### Adjournment

By David Dowell and Jon Myers

### Pancake Supper Photos (Event held on February 18)



#### FPCC Staff

Rebecca Chase, CLP  
Lisa Justice, Student Pastor  
Darryl McCollum, CLP  
DeVonn Powers, CLP  
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

David Dowell

Acting 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.