

## Highlights of Paulin Session meeting June 13 & June 27, 2022

**Elders of session:** We received a letter of resignation from Jane VanBuskirk effective, July 1st. Jane has been an active member of session for many years and has served faithfully as our roll clerk. We give thanks for her service. The Session has also decided that they will moving forward with term eldership in the future, each elder will be able to serve for a six year term, and after their term is up they will be able to run for re-election. It is our hope that every two year we will be able to get new voices and ideas at session. A letter of intent will be sent to the Presbytery and we will be bring this up before the congregation for a vote at a congregational meeting in September.

**Minister's report:** Reverend Lisa Aide spent the first two weeks of May on a self-directed study leave on Critical behavior theory and how it can relate to the gospel of Jesus Christ. She has already incorporated much of what she has learned in several sermons during the Easter season, and she believes that this will be a useful tool for ministry in the coming years. She has continued to lead worship and prepare her daily devotions throughout this past month, and has begun the task of writing thank-you notes to everyone who has donated to the mission and ministry of the church, as well as reaching out via phone to members of our church family. Lisa was able to attend this year's General Assembly as a commissioner. This year's assembly has the national church giving a public confession to the members of the LGBTQ community for the way that the church ministered to those who did not fit into our traditional understanding of marriage. There was also a great debate about graceful dismissal (the ability to leave the denomination with all your goods and buildings) in the light of the two understanding of marriage that our church now holds. The solution that was reached at GA is that a church that would like to leave the denomination have up to a year to signal their intent after getting an 80% approval from their members and they will be allowed to leave with 50% of their money. In the past if a church wanted to leave the denomination they would not be allowed to take anything.

**Board Report:** A joint meeting between the session and the board took place on May the 16<sup>th</sup> to agree with the Worship committee's recommendation for Heather Inksetter to become our Music director. Eric Tulp will be working on repairing the stones outlining the ring garden and will be looking for a few people to lend a hand in that repair. Troy Fire has come in for our annual check on our fire alarms and systems and everything is up to code and ready for another year. Our upper kitchen has also been inspected and is once again food safe qualified. Board is concerned about the state of Paulin's finances. Board thanks the Scouts for their work on the gardens and the Scouts would like to do more volunteering around the church.

**Capital Fundraising Report:** The Mother's Day Tea was a great success, \$1371 raised for the general fund. Everyone enjoyed both the food and the entertainment. There will be two upcoming fundraising events during the summer months. The first will be a Hamburger Dinner on Saturday July 23<sup>rd</sup> with the cost being \$20 per person and the second will be a Steak BBQ on Saturday August the 20<sup>th</sup> with the cost being \$25 per person. The reason for in the increase in cost is that we now have to rent a BBQ where in the past it used to be donated for our use.

**Mission and Outreach Committee:** The Committee recommended that we participate in the Cereal drive carried on through Children's Hospital in Detroit. Several of our church members work in the US and participate in this project. Drop off of cereal took place from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, with the donations taken to the Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan. We will participate in the June 27 Miracle Food Drive. There is no porch pick up this year. Paulin will be collecting from June 20<sup>th</sup> to July 10<sup>th</sup> at the church. Donations to be put in boxes by sanctuary doors. Donations will be delivered to the Food Bank at Our Lady of Guadeloupe Catholic Church. Paulin Indoor Yard Sale – Sat. August 27<sup>th</sup>. Members staff their own table and all funds go to a PWS&D project. This event is also an outreach project as it allows our community to recycle "stuff." Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> – Orange Shirt Day (September 30<sup>th</sup>). To acknowledge the role of the Presbyterian Church in Residential schools and to continue with Truth and Reconciliation. Members of the

congregation can order an orange T-Shirt from an Indigenous company to wear on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Any extra funds raised will be designated to a Presbyterians Sharing Indigenous Ministry.

**Congregational Life:** We are preparing Packages for our new graduates in our Paulin Family if you know someone who has recently graduated please let the Joanne Zuk know.

**Stewardship Committee:** After hearing the dire news from our treasurer that we are operating in a deficit after only 3 months (up to the end of April) session agreed to create a Stewardship Committee that will consist of session members, board members and members of the congregation. This group will be looking at how to encourage all of us to find new ways to support the church in all aspects of our lives. If you are interested in becoming a member of this committee, please speak to Reverend Lisa or Joanne Zuk. A group of session/board members will be putting together a letter to be sent to all families in our congregation and following up with calls and visits. The letter should be mailed in early July.

**Worship Committee:** Choir rehearsals will continue until Thursday June 30. There will be no choir during July and August, but a **“pick-up” choir is encouraged including volunteers from the congregation.** We will have soloists during this time, as arranged by Heather Inksetter, who will also provide rehearsals when required. Heather would like to encourage congregational singing by such means as more upbeat music, faster tempo for some hymns, and eliminating some verses in longer hymns (indicated on the Power Point). Always looking to increase the size of the choir, especially tenors, as there is no tenor section at this time. Choir will utilize the substantial music library the church already has. Communion will be held on June 26<sup>th</sup>. We will continue to Live Stream our services through Facebook page and a recorded copy is on our YouTube channel. Worship will be looking for new members in the fall.

**Definition of Marriage:** A vote was taken by secret ballot to determine which definition of marriage Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church would accept as the definition to ascribe. The definition Paulin now accepts is:

**That faithful, Holy Spirit filled, Christ centered, God honouring people can understand marriage as a covenant relationship between two adult persons.**

**Reverend Lisa’s Vacation:** Reverend Lisa will be on vacation from Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup> until Monday July 25<sup>th</sup>. Reverend Shirley Murdock will be preaching on Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> and Reverend Nancy Carle will be preaching on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Carle will provide pastoral care during this time.

*Respectfully submitted by Rev. Lisa Aide & C. Johnson-Hicks (acting clerk of session)*