

YOUR SESSION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The June 16, 2010 Session meeting was opened with devotions and prayer by Mary Mullins. The Rev. Ed Schneider, pastor of a start-up church, The Rock, spoke of its needs to share space with another church for four months. After much discussion, the Session did not feel called to join them in this venture and voted unanimously not to share space for this purpose.

It was with mixed feelings that we received Daniel Tipton's letter of resignation. We will miss him and deeply appreciate his wonderful service to our church. The good news is that Daniel is a much loved member of our family, and we have the privilege of supporting him, both financially and spiritually, in his journey through seminary.

New opportunities and challenges continue for our church - it is exciting to see where we are going as God leads us and to discern His will for us as a church family. The Search Committee is in the process of receiving applications for the position of Director of Youth and Children's Ministries. The job description has been posted on the website and advertised in various places - at the time of the Session meeting, there had already been 14 applications received! A two-year contract with the Anderson County Schools, Early Head Start of Clinton, Tennessee, was approved by the Corporation.

Despite excellent and tireless efforts last year in approving a nearly balanced budget, session is already seeing a large deficit – primarily a reduction on the income side under “regular contributions.” This is a continuing concern for both the leadership and the entire church.

The Session thanks those who attended the congregational meeting on June 6 to discuss a possible proposal to the Lilly Foundation for a Clergy Renewal Grant, and we also thank those who have sent comments, or talked with elders about Pastoral and Congregational Renewal both before and after that meeting. However, the application process was on a very tight time-table, and because of the need for strong congregational support for this grant, Pastor Kerra indicated to Session that she didn't think we were ready to go forward with a proposal in this year's cycle. However, the conversation continues. Session will be setting aside time to talk further with Kerra about her needs for renewal, and to discuss what we might do as a congregation to be renewed. ***Your comments and observations as members of this congregation continue to inform our discussions!***

UPCOMING IMPORTANT EVENTS

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| July 25, Daniel Tipton Day | Recognition in worship service
Send-off Party in evening (see Bulletins, e-mails for more news!) |
| July 12, 13 and 14 | Vacation Bible School |
| August 15 | Sunday School Kick-Off - featuring The Rev. Elizabeth “Liz” Peterson and Wendel Werner (watch Bulletins, e-mails for details!) |

“GRACE AND GRATITUDE”
RETREAT NOTES

Want some spiritual growth and renewal for yourself? There is a great opportunity happening October 7-10, and you can still join in on the fun. Check out the display in the Fellowship Hall or call Ginny Cone or Mary Cathcart for information about our All-Church Retreat! This promises to be a very special weekend in the mountains of western North Carolina.