

Leadership Line
Session Meeting Highlights & Updates
March 23, 2017

Desiring for more effective communication with the congregation, the Elders have committed to sharing updates and highlights of the Session Meetings as soon as possible following the meetings. Also included in these communications are the approved minutes from the previous month.

Highlights:

- Staff Updates:
 - The Elders voted unanimously to extend a call to Kara Norton to serve as Director of Children's ministry for Springhill Presbyterian. Kara will be introduced Sunday in the worship services. Kara, husband Ryan and their daughter Sydney have been at Springhill for almost two years and are excited to serve the church in the capacity.
 - At a special called meeting of the Session, March 8, 2017, the Missional Pastor Search Team recommended the Rev. Keith Peeler to serve. The Elders voted unanimously to call Rev. Peeler to serve as a Staff Pastor in this capacity. Keith and his wife Megan will be in worship on April 2, where he will be formally introduced as the Missional Pastor for Springhill Presbyterian Church.
 - The Worship Pastor Search Team are in the next steps with a small group of very strong candidates. Please continue to pray for this search team as they discern God's will.

Worship Pastor Search Team members:

Merlin Nelson
Rachel Osen
Robyn Erlenbush
Dave Stanish
Bryan Kelsey
Keith Anderson
Kody Van Dyke
Kristen Robinson

- The Session of Elders have overseen a restructuring of the Deacon Board to support the Deacon Ministries of Springhill Presbyterian. Working with the Session's Ministry Teams - Worship, Equipping, Missional, Leadership and Operations - all of the Deacon ministries have been assigned to the appropriate Ministry Team. The Deacons will meet quarterly for training, mutual encouragement and prayer as well as the regular Ministry Team meetings each month. Deacon Jim Bader was elected by

the Board of Deacons to serve as Moderator and Deacon Marsha Montgomery was elected to serve as Recording Secretary.

- As you know, we have been praying for an EPC Pastor who was arrested and imprisoned in Turkey during the recent political unrest in that country. The Elders encourage you to continue to pray for Rev. Andrew Brunson and his family. Below is the latest information we have received from the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, Jeff Jeremiah.



Dear friends,

This has been a quiet week in Andrew Brunson's situation. I spoke with his wife, Norine, for about an hour on Monday, and she told me that Andrew is holding up though she would not describe him as "doing well."

One tangible item I want to let you know about is that U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is scheduled to visit Ankara, the capitol of Turkey, on March 30. Norine has contacted Deputy Ambassador Phil Kosnett asking for a meeting with Tillerson. His response was that meeting with Norine was on Tillerson's "short list."

Please pray that this meeting gets on Tillerson's schedule while he is Turkey, and that Norine is able to travel safely to and from Ankara on March 29-30 (Ankara is almost 400 miles from Izmir, where Andrew is in prison).

Thank you for your continued prayers for Andrew's and Norine's continued safety, and ultimately for Andrew's release. We update our Andrew Brunson resource page (www.epc.org/forgottenamericaninturkey) frequently as news articles come to our attention. Please share this page with your congregation so they can stay aware of Andrew's situation.

God bless you and remember, He is risen!

Jeff

- The Elders of Springhill Presbyterian regularly pray for and seek to Shepherd those who are facing life's struggles. Twice a month, the pastoral concerns and needs of the congregation are lifted up before the Lord in intercessory prayer. Each individual prayed for is also assigned an Elder who will follow up and Shepherd those congregants. If the Elders are aware of situations, we can care for the congregation in this manner. Please let us know so that we can serve this church faithfully.
- The next meeting of the Elders will be April 26 at 6:30 pm at the Bozeman site.