

Leadership Line
Session Meeting Highlights & Updates
April 26, 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 Session approved Pastor Isaam Nadeer to preach in all services on May 7. Pastor Nadeer is the ministry director in Lebanon that Leslie Garner and Jennifer Knight worked with in conjunction with Vision Beyond Borders while on their recent mission trip. Pastor Nadeer is currently traveling in the USA with one of his sponsoring ministries, [Mission One](#). Pastor Nadeer is going to be in Bozeman May 5-8 and will preach at Springhill on Sunday, May 7.
 - The Elders have called a congregational meeting on May 7 at 12:30 pm at the Bozeman Site. The purpose of the meeting is to change the call status of Pastor Ryan Cook from a Staff Pastor to an Associate Pastor within the guidelines of the denominational polity of the EPC. Pastor Ryan is being examined before the Presbytery on May 10 at a meeting in Denver. Changing his call status allows Pastor Ryan to be an EPC Pastor and member of the Presbytery.
 - Please continue to pray for Worship Pastor 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

- 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,

After more than six months (including Thanksgiving, Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday) in prison, Andrew Brunson and his family are still waiting. Waiting for official word from the Turkish authorities. Waiting for a trial date. Waiting for something to materialize. Waiting for his release. And waiting with mounting anxiety.

I spoke with Norine earlier this week, and she is very appreciative of the efforts of Vice President Pence, Secretary of State Tillerson, allies on Capitol Hill, the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ), and others who have prayed and advocated on behalf of Andrew. However, Andrew and Norine are convinced that President Trump is the only person in the U.S. who can get him out.

Possible confirmation of her certainty is today's White House visit of Aya Hijazi, an Egyptian-American aid worker who spent three years in custody in Egypt before the Trump administration quietly negotiated her release. While we have heard from reliable sources that Trump is aware of Andrew's situation, to date Norine has not heard from the President directly that he is working on it. And the result so far has been the same as when Obama was in the White House—waiting.

In our conversation, Norine pleaded with me to “do everything you possibly can” to engage the President, including—if possible—going to the White House. While that has proven difficult so far, it is common knowledge that Trump is active on Twitter. Would you help me by engaging your Twitter followers in a campaign to get his attention? I am going to use the following messages, and you are welcome to copy and tweet them yourself.

@realDonaldTrump Please get Andrew Brunson, our #ForgottenAmericanInTurkey, next to you in the Oval Office soon! Kudos on #FreeAya's release

@realDonaldTrump great job getting #FreeAya Aya Hijazi back! Our #ForgottenAmericanInTurkey, Andrew Brunson, needs your help to come home!

@realDonaldTrump congrats @WhiteHouse on freeing #FreeAya Aya Hijazi! I appeal to you to help Andrew Brunson, our #ForgottenAmericanInTurkey

If you are not on Twitter, please consider joining this effort by going to www.twitter.com and clicking the "Sign Up" button. It only takes a minute, and your time may prove invaluable in securing Andrew's freedom.

Thank you for your help on this, and for your continued prayers for Andrew and Norine. We update our Andrew Brunson resource page (www.epc.org/forgottenamericaninturkey) frequently as news articles or other items come to our attention. Feel free to share this page with your congregation and your social media networks.

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 Bozeman site worship services are now available on Livestream via the [Springhill Facebook](#) page. The entire Easter Sunday service video is also available if you missed worship that Sunday.

The next meeting of the Elders will be May 24 at 6:30 pm at the Bozeman site.