

Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting
Faith Presbyterian Church
Tallahassee, Florida
December 2, 2018

1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Devotion

The Stated Session Meeting of Faith Presbyterian Church was called to order and opened with a prayer in the Music Center of Faith Presbyterian Church by the Moderator, Senior Pastor Brad Clayton, at 12:30 p.m. Bill Hollimon provided the devotion.

The Ruling Elders (18) present were Lee Andre, Linda Antwi, Syauchen Baker, Keagan Barrett, Randy Beach, Sue Colombo, Ginny Dailey, Charles Dodson, Janet Evans, Skip Forsyth, Cory Hill, Bill Hollimon, Chip Jennings, Becky Miller, Charles Ranson, Frank Walper, Malukah Woody and Elaine Youngblood. **A quorum of at least one-third of the members of the Session was present.** Betsy Wood was present as a Diaconate representative.

The Ruling Elders (3) absent were Kevin Askew, Dennis Ferguson and Jason Taylor.

The Church Administrator Randy Zepp, Associate Pastor Trinity Whitley (Teaching Elder), Diaconate Representative Betsy Wood and the Clerk of Session Barney Ray were also present.

2. Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Concerns were shared for Leigh Ansley, Charles Cooper, Shannon Guse, Lynne Metz, Charles Dodson's younger brother Joey and granddaughter Lexi, Keagan Barrett's friend Emily, Ginny Dailey's dad Glenn and those affected by Hurricane Michael. Joys were shared for Pam Humphries and Sue Colombo and Elaine Youngblood.

3. Clerk's Report

a. Approval of the Minutes

The Moderator asked if there were any discussion or recommended revisions to the minutes from the **November 4, 2018 Stated Session Meeting and November 18, 2018 Called Session Meeting. One correction was noted for the Stated Meeting that the meeting occurred in Room 110 rather than the Parlor. With this one revision the minutes for both meetings were approved.**

4. Pastor's Report

a. Long Range Planning Committee Update – Charles Ranson reported that he has had some difficulties getting information but thinks he know has what he needs to move forward. He will meet with Chad Van Iddekinge and plans to have a survey out to the congregation in January with a 1-2 week window for responses. He was asked who was on the committee. Ginny Dailey, Malukah Woody, Ruth Reynolds, Charles Dodson, Bill Holliman, Robert Volpe, Blaine Click, Jill David and Vicki Weber. Brad Clayton and Trinity Whitley serve as support to the committee.

b. 2019 Budget – We are running about \$140,000 short on pledged income for 2018 and November was not a good collections month. Prior to October,

receipts were in good shape. November and December are normally high receipt months. If we do not close the gap for 2018, we do have reserves to cover the short fall however that affects what is available for 2019.

We have received 178 pledges for 2019 totaling \$867,000. The number of pledges for the past 2-3 years have been 226 and we are about \$100,000 short of a continuation budget for 2019. The Moderator said that he normally pauses for a few weeks during December to give the congregation a break from the request for pledges. He said that he will ask the Stewardship Committee to call people who pledged in 2018 that have not done so yet for 2019. Randy Zepp said that there are 59 pledges that have not been renewed yet and that if they will all at least continue the same level of pledge for 2019, we would have enough to continue the current level of budget. The Moderator said that after calling on individuals, he will give the congregation an update the second week in January on our current financial situation. Ginny Dailey asked what the current fulfillment rate was for 2018. Randy Zepp said that it is normally 97% and that we're at about 86% at this point. Ginny said that Hurricane Michael may have put giving behind and that maybe a reminder would help people remember to catch up on their giving. Ginny Dailey volunteered to help make calls for 2019 pledges.

The Moderator said that there are a lot of positive things going on at Faith especially with community programs like the pumpkin patch. Sunday service attendance has been strong but Wednesday night programs attendance has dipped a little. The Clerk mentioned that with the election of new officers today, elders need to make sure that they keep the momentum going forward through their committees and ensure a smooth transition when officers finish their term and new officers begin.

- c. 2019 Calendar - The Moderator detailed the dates for Session meetings for the coming year. The Officer Retreat is still planned for Feb 1-2 with a Stated Session Meeting on Feb 2. Since no meetings were planned for January due to the original date for the Family Retreat at Dogwood Acres, two meetings would be needed for March on the 3rd and 31st. Additional date were April 28th, May 19th, July 28th, August 25th, September 29th, October 27th and December 3rd with no meetings planned for June or November which is normal. It was mentioned that Jubilee Sunday is usually the end of October. The planning of Jubilee of next year is under discussion.
- d. Cold Night Shelter – A request was made for Faith to consider becoming a cold night shelter for homeless families whenever the temperature is projected to be below 35 degrees for more than 3 hours. The local shelters try to partner with local churches to provide a place to sleep overnight during cold nights. The churches would only be used to provide a place to sleep. Food, showers and transportation are handled by the shelters in their buildings. The buses would pick up families by 6:30am in the morning to bring them back to the shelters. The Moderator asked if there was a committee who was willing to explore this request for future consideration by the Session. Ginny Daily volunteered the Witness Committee.

5. Youth Elder Report – Keegan Barrett mentioned that the Atlanta trip has been postponed because housing fell through. They are exploring rescheduling for the spring. Faith hosted an 850 event on November 14th for youth from local Presbyterian churches. Attendance by high school youth has dropped some but sport seasons may have some impact on this. She said that middle school aged attendance is going strong.

6. Finance Report – Randy Beach mentioned that non-pledged receipts are also lagging this year and will be considered in planning receipts for 2019.

7. Diaconate Report – Betsy Wood reported that the Diaconate has been reviewing their benevolence funds and made some decisions to discontinue giving in some cases and increasing giving in others. They have revised their mission statement to focus on hunger and other targeted causes. The Angel Tree project still needs people to sign up for gifts to the families in need and will need help with transportation of large items.

8. Consent Agenda –

a. **Adults & Families Committee recommended approval of the book *Release My Grip* by Kami Gilmour.** This book was recommended by Shannon Guse and will be given to the parents of high school graduates. This book gives help and hope to the new empty nesters. Not only is this an adjustment for the graduates but also for the parents. The book emphasizes this is a season of parenthood. Parenthood is not over. The author has filled the book with stories, scripture, devotions and an opportunity to journal one's thoughts while on this journey.

b. **Worship & Music Committee recommended approval of**
i. **a wedding request from Brittney Harvey** (not a church member), but her grandmother is Nancyanne Carothers, who would like to get married at Faith Presbyterian March 14, 2020 and use their own officiant: Scott Alvis of Crosswoods Church, Beachton, Ga.

ii. **a baptism request from Theo and Melissa Strauss** would like to have **Ava (age 12) and Felicity (age 3) baptized 01/06/2019**. Theo and Melissa are joining Faith Presbyterian Church on 11/18/2018 by reaffirmation of faith.

c. Youth & Families Committee recommended approval:

i. of the purchase and use of *All the Best Questions from Sparkhouse* as resource for Sunday morning high school Sunday school classes.

ii. to allow Shannon to schedule the listed speakers and topics in 2019 based on the parent input received earlier this school year. High school and middle school students would meet separately and parents would be informed of the topics/content before each session.

Proposed topics and speakers are:

Refuge House - consent, healthy relationships

- a. Thagard Health Center – alcohol use and decision making
- b. Judges Dodson and Marsh – decision making/choices/judicial law
- c. NAMI Tallahassee – National Alliance of Mental Illness – depression/suicide – NAMI Ending the Silence is an in-school presentation designed to teach middle and high school students about the signs and symptoms of mental illness, how to recognize the

early warning signs and the importance of acknowledging those warning signs.

- d. Jillian White and Thomas Whitley – college admissions, how to choose the right college
- e. Thomas Whitley – Electronic Footprints, such as social media

The Moderator asked if anyone wanted to remove an item from the consent agenda for discussion. Hearing no such request, he called for a motion to approve the agenda which was made. **The motion received a second and was approved.**

9. Motions in Action Agenda – No items for action agenda.

10. Items Not In Agenda

A request was made for Session to approve by 2/3s vote to consider adding a baptism request that did not make the agenda. The Session voted to add this to the agenda for consideration. Trinity Whitley said that members Julianne and Jacob Taylor requested baptism for Sutton on December 23rd. A motion was made to approve and received a second. The motion was approved. The Moderator asked if there were any other items not on the agenda that anyone wished to have considered. Hearing none, he proceeded with the agenda.

11. Informational Items - Skip Forsyth asked about the status of churches in Panama City related to hurricane damage. The Moderator said that the church in Lynn Haven cannot use their sanctuary due to damage. He said there were 3-4 churches that suffered damage to their sanctuaries. He mentioned that there is a fund for people to donate money to help churches affected. We can find out how by checking the Presbytery's website. He volunteered to reach out to Presbytery to try and find out more.

Trinity mentioned that 40 people went to Dogwood Acres on Veteran's Day to help with fixing up the campus. She mentioned that Sheldon Steen drove 18 people over using the church bus.

It was mentioned that 712 people from the community attend the Midtown Reader guest speaker and author Louise Penny. Many compliments were received on the beauty of the sanctuary.

12. Communion - Holy Communion was observed to conclude the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

No actions of Session Approved by Email between November 4th & December 2nd

The next Stated Session Meeting is during the Officer Retreat on Saturday, February 2, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by

Barney Ray, Clerk of Session

Approved by Moderator

Brad Clayton, Senior Pastor