

Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting  
Faith Presbyterian Church  
Tallahassee, Florida  
February 2, 2019

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 room 110 of Faith Presbyterian Church by the Moderator, Senior Pastor Brad Clayton, at 11:55 a.m. Cory Hill provided the devotion.

The Ruling Elders (17) present were Lee Andre, Linda Antwi, Keagan Barrett, Randy Beach, Sue Colombo, Ginny Dailey, Janet Evans, Skip Forsyth, Cory Hill, Bill Hollimon, Chip Jennings, Becky Miller, Charles Ranson, Jason Taylor, Frank Walper, Malika Woody and Elaine Youngblood. **A quorum of at least one-third of the members of the Session was present.**

The Ruling Elders (4) absent were Kevin Askew, Syauchen Baker, Charles Dodson, and Dennis Ferguson.

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

2. Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Joys were shared for Barney's mother who successfully completed cancer treatments, Keegan's school dance marathon that raised \$31,000 for the Children's Miracle Network, Faith Preschool Fall enrollment of 120 slots were all filled, Chip's retirement in June and plans to travel abroad, Randy Zepp's marriage to Carol and Kay Trammell's health improvement. Concerns were shared for Brad's father's upcoming cancer treatments, Syauchen's recovery from a fall, and Leah Ansley's health.

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 **December 2, 2018 Stated Session Meeting and December 2, 2018 Congregational Meeting**. No revisions were proposed and **the minutes for both meetings were approved as submitted.**

b. Commissioner's Report

No elders attended the Presbytery Meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup> so the Moderator provided a report of the meeting. He mentioned that one of the Co-Moderators from the General Assembly was present and spoke. He said there were several amendments to the Book of Order approved by the Presbytery which were all technical in nature but one about prohibiting ministers from speaking in support of a specific political candidate or cause was not approved. It was mentioned that doing so could cause the loss of a non-profit tax exemption. A provisional budget for 2019 was approved. Two inquirers into ministry were moved the candidacy stage. The minister at the Havana church was recognized as retired.

c. Communications

Letter received from Emily Green at Presbyterian College about her Capstone project in March at the church. **A Motion was made to send a letter of**

**affirmation to Emily Green and to allow Shannon Guse to review and work with Emily on her lesson. The motion received a second and was approved.**

d. **Approval of Statistical Report – A motion was made to approve and was seconded. Motion was approved.**

4. Pastor's Report – The Moderator stated that the Officer Exams is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Parlor. Please let Cheri if you are able to attend. Trinity said that there are Called Session Meetings on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, Feb 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> to receive new members. Good news is we have 18 new members but they all cannot attend the same Sunday to be received by the Session.

5. Youth Elder Report – Keegan Barrett reported that both Middle School and High School groups were holding a Super Bowl party tomorrow and that Souper for Bowl for Caring would collect contributions for local charities. An 850 youth event was held at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Tallahassee last week. There were many positive comments about it.

6. Finance Report – Randy Beach mentioned that the church finished 2018 with a deficit of \$5,000 but that gap was bigger before closing the year.

7. Diaconate Report – No deacon was present and no report provided.

8. Consent Agenda –

a. **Children & Families Committee recommended approval of Cokesbury's *To Mars and Beyond* as the curriculum for the 2019 Vacation Bible School.**

b. **Worship & Music Committee recommended approval of**  
i. **a wedding request from Grayson Lee Hagan (Paige Hagan's daughter) and Jason Cooper to be officiated by Brad Clayton in November 2019.**

ii. **a baptism request from Whitney and Jim Burleson who would like to have their children Mabry and Wilder baptized and from Callaway and Carter Scott who would like to have their child Aubrey baptized.**

The Moderator asked if anyone wanted to remove an item from the consent agenda for discussion. It was mentioned that the date for the wedding request was incorrect. It is scheduled for March 2019. Hearing no other requests, 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

a. **Building & Grounds Committee recommended that Session approve moving the \$15,425 balance from the Reserve 2017 Year End Carryover (Account 3708) to the Buildings & Grounds Designated Fund for Renewal & Renovations (Account 4058) which has a current balance of \$3,825 which would bring that balance to \$19,250. This designated fund would cover any unscheduled maintenance that would not be covered in the Unscheduled Maintenance part of the 2019 budget. The motion received a second and was approved.**

b. The Finance Committee recommended the Session approve the 2019 budget of \$1,195,948 in budgeted receipts and \$1,181,769 in budgeted expenditures. The 2019 budgeted expenditures presented were \$67,984 less than the 2018 budgeted expenditures. It was asked if budgeted receipts greater than budgeted expenditures were normal. It was explained that there is always some portion of the pledged receipts that are not received. Also The Non-Pledged Contributions line was over projected in 2018 (\$228,000 budgeted versus \$181,556 received) and was adjusted down to \$175,000 for 2019. Both Buildings & Grounds (B&G) and Management Committees were comfortable with their reduction in the budget. A concern was mentioned that although the 15,000 reduction to the B&G budget was offset by the previously approved motion to move \$15,348 to a designated funds for unscheduled maintenance that due to the age of the church's facilities, we should not cut the budget for unscheduled maintenance. Of the \$15,000 reduction, \$5,000 was to the Unscheduled Maintenance line of the B&G budget.

**Ginny Dailey made a motion to amend the budget presented by the Finance Committee to increase the B&G budget by \$5,000 for Unscheduled Maintenance in the 2019 Budget. Cory Hill seconded the motion.** Randy Beach mentioned that the church does have about \$300,000 in cash reserves that could be used for unanticipated costs. The Moderator received a request to Call the Question. The Moderator called for a vote of the motion. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Ginny Dailey said that the Preschool Board had requested \$8,000 to fund one scholarship to the preschool that was not included in the 2019 budget. She said that she would like to see this added to the budget but if it is not she would like to explore fundraising options to fund a scholarship for a child from the community that would not otherwise be able to afford the tuition. She said that this idea is consistent with our church's partnership with Sealey Elementary School for the preschool to be a feeder program. **She made a motion to increase the Preschool Budget by \$8,000 to fund a scholarship. Frank Walper seconded the motion.** After some discussion, the Moderator received a request to Call the Question. The Moderator called for a vote. **The motion was not approved.**

Chip Jennings asked if the reduction to the Worship & Music (W&M) budget was discussed with Peter Pursino. Randy explained that with the overall reduction in budgeted receipts, reductions were targeted toward committees that have undesignated funds accounts that could fill the gap. W&M has undesignated accounts to use. Chip asked if there were any raises for staff in the budget and the answer was no.

**The Moderator asked if there was a second to approve the amended motion to approve the 2019 budget. A second to the motion was made.** The Moderator called for a vote of the amended 2019 Budget of \$1,186,769 in budgeted expenditures. **The amended budget was approved.**

#### 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. **Courtney and Mike Barry wish to have their daughter Ansley baptized on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded and was approved.**

**Ginny Dailey requested to add preschool fund raising to the agenda. The Session approved adding to the agenda. Ginny requested Session permission for the Preschool Board to develop a fundraising plan to fund preschool scholarships from the Sealey community. The motion 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 no further requests, he proceeded with the agenda.

11. Informational Items – On Wednesday, Feb 27<sup>th</sup> Reverend Henry Steele (son of CK Steele) will speak about his personal faith and the church community. Jarrod (church custodian) had surgery about a month ago on his foot. He is still healing but plans to return to work as soon as he can.

12. Communion - Holy Communion was observed to conclude the meeting at 1:37 p.m.

**No actions of Session Approved by Email between December 2<sup>nd</sup> & February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

The next Stated Session Meeting is during the Officer Retreat on Sunday, March 3, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by

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Barney Ray, Clerk of Session

Approved by Moderator

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Brad Clayton, Senior Pastor