

Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting  
Faith Presbyterian Church  
Tallahassee, Florida  
February 26, 2017

1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer

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 12:22 p.m.

The Ruling Elders (19) present were Linda Antwi, Randy Beach, Sue Colombo, Jill David, Alison Denny, Charles Dodson, Janet Evans, Dennis Ferguson, Skip Forsyth, Michaela Fredrickson, Chip Jennings, Pam Leslie, Becky Miller, Caitlin Ray, Lewis Shelley, Frank Walper, Thomas Whitley, Shaun York and Elaine Youngblood. **A quorum of at least one-third of the members of the Session was present.**

The Ruling Elders (3) absent with prior notice were Leigh Ansley Charles Ranson and Vicki Weber.

Also present (5) were: Barney Ray (Clerk of Session), Edward Hood (the Diaconate Representative), Sheldon Steen (Parish Associate) and Randy Zepp (Church Administrator).

2. Devotion Elaine Youngblood provided the devotion.

3. Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Joys were shared for more than four hundred (400) people in attendance at today's worship services, the new officers installed today, the handbell workshop attended by various church handbell choirs hosted at Faith this weekend, the coed softball season that begins this week and for at least the 4<sup>th</sup> generation of Forsyth's ordained as officers in the church. Concerns were shared for the family of Clara Jane Smith whose funeral is tomorrow at 10am.

4. Motions in the Action Agenda

The Moderator moved the approval of the church MIF form for the Associate Pastor search since members of the search committee were present to answer questions. Members present were Ruth Reynolds (chair), Drin Apgar, Cory Hill, Rob McNeely and Chad Van Iddekinge.

Ruth Reynolds described the process and methods used to create the church MIF form. Pam Leslie asked a question about whether or not the position description in the consent agenda was changed under a separate item on the consent agenda whether that would change or conflict. Brad didn't think that it would but he couldn't know for sure. However he doubted that it would affect it.

**A motion was made to approve the church MIF form. A second was received. The motion was approved unanimously.**

4. Clerk's Report

a. Approval of the Minutes –The Moderator asked if there were any discussion or recommended revisions to the minutes from the **January 22, 2017 Stated Session Meeting or the February 19, 2017 Called Session Meeting for receiving new members. A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion received a second.** The Moderator called for a vote of the motion. **The minutes were approved as submitted.**

b. Report from January 28 Presbytery Meeting

Mike Metz reported on Presbytery Meeting. He mentioned that a Child Protection Policy for the Presbytery was discussed and was sent to all churches after the meeting to provide feedback. He said there were questions about the difficulty of implementing the proposed policy for some many volunteers. He said there was also discussion of delaying the implementation since some events have already been planned in the near future. The financial challenge for Presbytery was a big topic of discussion. The part-time exec says we need a full time exec. Of the forty-three (43) churches in the Presbytery, twelve (12) gave nothing. Fourteen (14) churches have 30 or fewer members. They discussed a loss of connectiveness between churches. Possibility of merging with another neighboring Presbytery was discussed. Meetings are scheduled for different sites throughout the Presbytery to discuss further. A meeting for the Tallahassee area churches is scheduled for 4pm on March 5<sup>th</sup> at Fellowship Presbyterian Church. The Moderator asked if others would join him there. Shaun York asked how long it will last since it wasn't included beyond the starting time. The Moderator said that he didn't know but thinks maybe a couple hours. Lewis Shelley encouraged everyone to go if possible as we may have a vote in 2017 or in 2018 related to this issue. Janet Evans asked if there had been any additional giving. The Moderator stated that the 2017 church meet the per capita giving requested by Presbytery and no change to the Mission Giving pledge. Frank Walper asked if other Presbyteries are having financial issues. Jill David said that Flint River is not. Shaun, Barney, Thomas, Lewis, and Mike volunteered that they would attend the meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Pam asked if the Presbytery dissolved, would we be required to join another Presbytery. The Moderator stated that it is the church governing structure to belong to a Presbytery. The Moderator explained the difference between per capita giving (\$16.94 per member this year) and mission giving.

5. Pastor's Report –

a. Make up exam of new officers. Randy Beach and Caitlin Ray shared their Faith statements and were asked questions on Presbyterian Doctrine by the Moderator. **A motion to sustain the examination and received a second. The motion was approved unanimously.**

b. Session Orientation

The Moderator discussed the process and procedure for committee moderators to plan, run and report committee meetings.

c. Maudy Thursday Communion – The Moderator stated that the communion schedule approved at last month's meeting did not include serving communion at the Maude Thursday service which is traditional. **He requested a motion to approve**

**servicing communion at this service. A motion was made and received a second. The motion received unanimous approval.**

d. Baptism request for April 2<sup>nd</sup> for Britton Boyd who is the daughter of members Brett and Ramsey Boyd – The Moderator requested a motion to approve. A motion was made to approve and received a second. **The motion received unanimous approval.**

6. Youth Elder Report – Michaela Fredrickson reported that Share in Love Day is Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.and we are still looking for more volunteers. She also reported that fifteen (15) people attended a recent Dogwood Acres retreat.

7. Finance Report – Lewis Shelley said that as of last Thursday, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> the news was good. As of that date, budget for the period was \$155,708, amounts received were \$180,277 and the amount spent \$112, 085.

8. Diaconate Report – Ed Hood reported that at the Diaconate meeting was primarily for getting new deacons on board and set up to volunteer for specific diaconate projects. Planning for the Easter breakfast between the sunrise service at Lake Ella and St Paul's and Faith service is the next major event.

9. Consent Agenda – The Moderator asked if anyone wanted to discuss any of the items on the consent agenda. Pam Leslie stated she had questions about four of the five consent agenda items. The item from Youth & Families was the only item to remain on the consent agenda...

**e. The Youth and Families Committee requested approval of a Suicide Prevention curriculum *Soul Shop for Youth*.**

The Moderator called for a vote of the remaining item on the consent agenda. **The Consent Agenda was approved.**

10. Motions in Action Agenda

a. Old Business – No old business was presented.

b. New Business – Items for Discussion From the Consent Agenda

a) **The Buildings & Grounds Committee requested approval from the Session to use \$23,000 from undesignated funds account for HVAC replacements.**

Charles Dodson, the Moderator of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, stated that a \$12,000 unit needs replacement immediately and a \$5,000 unit is on its last legs. Lewis Shelley, the Moderator of the Finance Committee, stated that funds were requested in the 2017 green light budget for this purpose but the Session approved the yellow light budget based upon pledges received instead. Randy Zepp (Church Administrator) stated that some undesignated (reserve) funds were purposely not placed in CDs in anticipation that the funds would be needed in the short term. He said that the amount of remaining funds in CDs is sufficient to provide ninety (90) days cash.

The Moderator received a request to call the question. The Moderator called for a vote of the motion. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

b) **The Personnel Committee requested approval from the Session for the revised job description for the vacant Associate Pastor position.**

Pam Leslie asked some questions about the proposed description (PD). She asked if this is updating the most recent PD updated with changes or an older version. The Clerk observed that from his recollection that this marked up version did appear to contain one particular item from the revision in February 2016. Pam asked what difference was between the requirement “Leads adult education program” and the other descriptions related to this program. The Moderator provided an explanation. Janet Evans observed that Diaconate responsibilities are removed in the proposed changes. The Moderator confirmed saying that he will attend all Diaconate meetings instead.

Jill David asked if these changes reflected the Pastor’s vision for this position. The Moderator confirmed that it did. He said that membership and Adult Education are now the primary emphasis for this position.

The Moderator received a request to call the question. The Moderator called for a vote of the motion. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

c) **The Preschool Board requested approval from the Session to approve of extended hours for the Preschool.**

Alison Denny stated that a survey of families and teachers currently at the preschool expressed strong interest in extended preschool hours. A question was asked about whether there were any increased costs that would be incurred from extending hours. Alison Denny said she did not know of any. Randy Zepp said that there will not be any additional insurance costs because the church is already insured as a 24 hour operation.

The Moderator called for a vote of the motion. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

d) **The Worship & Music Committee requested approval from the Session to move communion to the second Sunday of each month.**

Janet Evans, the Moderator of Worship and Music requested to amend this motion from the Committee for the request to begin in August and to keep the Dec 1<sup>st</sup> date for communion to not conflict with the Service of Lessons and Carols. The reason provided for moving communion dates was that there are fewer conflicts on second Sundays of the month.

The Moderator called for a vote of the motion. **The motion was approved with one dissent.**

11. Items Not In Agenda – The Moderator asked if there were any other items to consider that were not on the agenda. No items were requested.

12. Informational Items – Frank Walper expressed an appreciation for the new officer training and posed the question of how can we work together to accomplish important things in our vision of this church. Sue Colombo mentioned the upcoming Lenten study and the Moderator mentioned the Taize service next Friday. Charles Dodson mentioned that March 25<sup>th</sup> is the next church clean up for Buildings and Grounds.

13. Communion - Holy Communion was observed to conclude the meeting at 2:06 p.m.

**Actions of Session Approved by Email between January 22<sup>nd</sup> and February 26<sup>th</sup>**

No actions were conducted via email.

Respectfully submitted by

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Barney Ray, Clerk of Session

Approved by Moderator

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Brad Clayton, Senior Pastor