

Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting
Faith Presbyterian Church
Tallahassee, Florida
March 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 12:15 p.m.

The Ruling Elders (18) present were Linda Antwi, Randy Beach, Jill David, Alison Denny, Charles Dodson, Janet Evans, Dennis Ferguson, Skip Forsyth, Michaela Fredrickson, Pam Leslie, Becky Miller, Charles Ranson, 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 (4) absent with prior notice were Leigh Ansley, Sue Colombo, Chip Jennings and Vicki Weber.

Also present (4) were: Barney Ray (Clerk of Session), Lindsay Volpe (the Diaconate Representative), Jeff Bryan (Diaconate) and Sheldon Steen (Parish Associate).

2. Devotion Alison Denny provided the devotion.

3. Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Joys were shared for church grounds following Saturday's church workday. Concerns were shared for Chip Jennings (member of Session) who is in the hospital this weekend, for Wanda (who prepares Wednesday evening dinners at church) who was in the hospital this week but is now out and for Church Administrator Randy Zepp whose mother past away last week in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

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 **February 26, 2017 Stated Session Meeting or the February 21, 2017 Called Session Meeting for examining new officers. Three corrections were notes to the Stated Session Meeting minutes.**

A motion was made to approve the minutes as amended. The motion received a second. The Moderator called for a vote of the motion. The minutes were approved as submitted.

- b. Election of Officers

The Clerk of Session explained that the church is required to submit an annual report to the Department of State which identifies the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The church bylaws identify the Clerk of Session as President, the Moderator of Buildings and Grounds as Vice-President, the Moderator of the Management Committee as Secretary and the Moderator of the Finance Committee as Treasurer. Based upon those

designations, the following persons are presented for the Session's consideration: Barney Ray (President), Charles Dodson (Vice-President), Shaun York (Secretary) and Lewis Shelley (Treasurer). **A motion was made to approve the officers as identified. The motion received a second. The motion was unanimously approved.**

The Clerk mentioned that the Clerk of Session must be approved annually by the Session. The Moderator indicated that Barney Ray had indicated he was willing to serve for another year. He asked if there were any other candidates. Hearing none, he asked if there was a motion to approve Barney Ray as Clerk of Session for this year. A motion was made and received a second. The motion was unanimously approved.

- c. Communications – The Clerk indicated that he had received a letter from UKirk requesting that Faith consider them to receive part of the Pentecost offering in June. After some discussion, the request was referred to the Witness Committee for consideration.

5. Pastor's Report –

- a. Presbytery Reorganization – The Moderator discussed the request from Presbytery and the district meetings held in the past two month across the Presbytery. He mentioned that several members of Session had attended the East District meeting at Fellowship Presbyterian in Tallahassee. He invited members who attended to share their perspectives from the meeting.

Pam Leslie said that she didn't think all churches in the east were there. She was moved by the comments of Brandt Copeland. He asked if we committed to the mission of the Presbytery not just to fully funding a full-time Presbytery Executive. Lewis Shelley said that we as the largest church in the Presbytery going need to commit to support the Presbytery whether it be this one or another one in the future not just financially but also in participation. This extends to Synod and General Assembly as well. We do not have any single committee or person at Faith who is designated to communicate Presbytery, Synod or General Assembly issues to the Session or church membership. He mentioned that after reviewing recent church financial information that he is comfortable recommending that Faith can give an additional \$6,000 in mission giving this year without adversely affecting the church.

Jill David and Frank Walper asked what was if anyone knew why some churches were no longer giving or giving considerably less. Charles Ranson asked what other options were available. The Moderator said the options discussed included whether to keep the status quo of a part time Coordinating Executive, increase support to fund a full time Executive Presbyter or to consider changing the Presbytery boundaries along with adjoining presbyteries. We are asked the following questions:

- 1) Do we support the Presbytery of Florida?
- 2) If we do, how will we support them?
- 3) Can we give more to meet their financial goal of an additional \$60,000 to fund a full time Presbytery Executive? What else can we do to support?

The Moderator said that he had received an email Saturday that five churches have already committed enough to reach the stated goal of \$60,000 annually for three years.

One church is giving funding from their endowment funds. Alison Denny supported Lew's recommendation to increase support by serving as volunteers on Presbytery committees. Thomas Whitley said that just hiring a full time Presbytery Executive will not fix all of the issues. He would like to see Presbytery set a per capita goal for mission giving based upon the goals of the Presbytery so that churches can consider that goal rather than only looking internally to budget support.

The Moderator said that he was hearing that the Session wants to increase support. **Thomas Whitley moved to increase mission giving to the Presbytery of Florida by \$6,000 annually for three years and to increase our support and participation in the mission of the Presbytery. The motion received several seconds. The motion was unanimously approved.**

6. Evangelism Committee Report – Frank Walper said that the Evangelism Committee is working with Children and Families Committee to add a welcome station in the Narthex specifically for children.

7. Youth Elder Report – Michaela Fredrickson reported no Youth meetings due to Spring Break. Youth group is starting back tonight.

8. Finance Report – Lewis Shelley said positive trends are continuing in receipts and that expenditures are below their budgeted amount for the year through the first two weeks of March. The Moderator said that we should be grateful to God for this positive news.

9. Diaconate Report – Lindsay Volpe reported that Manna shelves are full but they could use some more monetary donations. Planning is continuing for the Easter Sunday breakfast. They are always looking for volunteers to help with meals such as running the dishwasher at the breakfast. Jeff Bryan added that as Brad as told them, Deacons do not need to be the only people involved as volunteers. He said they will be looking to expand the number of volunteers to help.

10. Consent Agenda – The Moderator asked if anyone wanted to discuss any of the items on the consent agenda. Pam Leslie indicated she had questions about the item from the Witness Committee requesting approval for soliciting donations for the Mission Trip.

b. The Witness Committee requested approval of written committee policies regarding (a) Mission Partners and (b) Mission trips.

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

11. Motions in Action Agenda

a. Old Business – No old business was presented.

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

a. **The Witness Committee requested approval of solicitation through Newsletter of contributions for specific aspects of Mission Trip (e.g. VBS Supplies, Medical Supplies, Fee for Medical Professionals, etc.)**

Dennis Ferguson said that the Witness Committee budget does not cover the full cost of the Mission Trip and that they normally rely on contributions specifically for the Mission Trip. He wants to provide a specific purpose and amount to help raise donations. Pam Leslie asked if this was a normal request each year. Dennis said that it was but he wanted to target the message of the solicitation.

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

12. 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.

13. Informational Items – Pam Leslie announced a Spring for Faith event on April 30th. The Diaconate will not have a Fellowship Luncheon on April 23rd. This is similar to the recent fall ministry fair. The Stewardship Committee is asking all committees to create story boards and maintain a booth that highlights no more than the top three volunteer needs with job descriptions. Food will be provided at each booth in order to keep people moving from booth to booth. Pam also said that volunteer recognition is another emphasis for her committee. They would like to highlight unsung heroes (groups) by thanking them on posters around the church and in other ways. She is asking for committees to identify groups to appreciate. Frank Walper said that all committees need to revisit their Time and Talent needs to see what changes are needed to revamp the Time and Talent forms. Charles Dodson said that the church workday went very well on Saturday and a lot of work was completed. Alison Denny mentioned the upcoming church Easter egg hunt.

14. Communion - Holy Communion was observed to conclude the meeting at 1:43 p.m.

Actions of Session Approved by Email between February 26th and March 26th

No actions were conducted via email.

The next Stated Session Meeting is April 23, 2017.

Respectfully submitted by

Barney Ray, Clerk of Session

Approved by Moderator

Brad Clayton, Senior Pastor