

Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting
Faith Presbyterian Church
Tallahassee, Florida
April 23, 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 11:45 a.m.

The Ruling Elders (16) present were Linda Antwi, Randy Beach, Sue Colombo, Charles Dodson, Janet Evans, Dennis Ferguson, Michaela Fredrickson, Chip Jennings, Pam Leslie, Becky Miller, Charles Ranson, Caitlin Ray, Lewis Shelley, Frank Walper, Vicki Weber and Thomas Whitley. **A quorum of at least one-third of the members of the Session was present.**

The Ruling Elders (6) absent with prior notice were Leigh Ansley, Jill David, Alison Denny, Skip Forsyth, Shaun York and Elaine Youngblood.

Also present (4) were: Barney Ray (Clerk of Session), Randy Zepp (Church Administrator), Courtney Barry (the Diaconate Representative) and Sheldon Steen (Parish Associate).

2. Devotion Michaela Fredrickson provided the devotion.

3. Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Joys were shared by Chip Jennings for all of the visits, calls and cards he received during the past few weeks. He said that he was planning to start back to work the day working part time initially. Frank Walper shared that for Easter Sunday, we had 78 visitors. Vicki Weber said that she talked to one of the visitors last week who said they were planning to transfer their letter to Faith because they felt welcomed and comfortable at our church.

Concerns were shared for Carol Goughnour and her health. Carol is looking for someone to take over as the coordinator for the Furthest Pew ministry.

4. Clerk's Report

- a. Communications - A letter was received from Shannon Guse as the President of the Board for UKirk Tallahassee inviting anyone interested to attend their annual meeting on Monday, May 1st at 5:30pm. RSVPs were due last Friday but anyone interested in attending should contact Trinity Whitley by Monday, April 24th. Barney said he would forward the email to all of the Session that afternoon. Barney also mentioned receiving a letter for a celebration event at Philadelphia Presbyterian Church in Gadsden County in May.
- b. Approval of the Minutes –The Moderator asked if there were any discussion or recommended revisions to the minutes from the **March 26, 2017 Stated Session Meeting.**

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

c. Election of Commissioners

A request for volunteers to serve as commissions for the May 16th Presbytery Meeting in Panama City was made. Lewis Shelley and Frank Walper volunteered to serve as the two commissioners. Janet Evans volunteered to serve as an alternate in case one of them could not attend. **A motion was made to approve as commissioners Lewis Shelley and Frank Walper with Janet Evans serving as an alternate. The motion received a second. The motion was unanimously approved.**

5. Pastor's Report –

a. Request for Longest Table, June 11 - Faith has been requested to host as one of the community sites for the Longest Table meal. It is a community initiative started by the mayor to try and bring people from across the community together. Lewis Shelley said that there is no set agenda or presentation. A list of some suggested topics are shared for consideration. **Lewis Shelley made a motion to approve use of the church for this event and to assign it to the most appropriate committee to coordinate. Frank Walper seconded the motion. Frank said that the Evangelism Committee would accept responsibility for coordinating the event.** It was stated that while people in the community are invited to bring food to share that it might be nice to provide some food from the church as well. This would be a great opportunity to invite people from the community who live near the church to come. **Motion was approved.**

b. Report from Community Summit on Children – The Moderator said that he, Shannon Guse and Leigh Ramsay went to The Community Summit on Children. Members of Faith who were leaders that spoke or led some of the committees were Matt Guse, Nancy Miller, Courtney Atkins, Steve Evans, Lewis Shelley and Loranne Ausley. He said that there may have been others. It focused on early childhood education and its impact on the long term effects on the human brain. He thought of our own preschool and wondered if this might be something we would want to become more involved in. Preschool has an endowment that funds four (4) full scholarships which are spread over several children. He said that they heard about a community school in Orlando that brings multiple organizations together on the school campus to provide support to children and families after school hours. Charles Dodson suggested that this might be a good topic for a future Pastor's Series and invite these Faith members mentioned to participate. Charles Ranson suggested that we not duplicate something already in place in the community but to be a connector that fills important needs.

c. The Moderator reminded everyone of the Confirmation Exam on Tuesday, May 2nd. He encouraged everyone to attend if possible. Barney Ray said he will likely be out of town and requested a substitute clerk for the meeting. Dennis Ferguson volunteered.

6. Worship and Music Committee Report – Caitlin Ray reported that due to Carol Goughnour's health issues, we are in need of coordinator to replace Carol and ordained

elders and deacons who can serve communion to those unable to attend the church service in person . She said that the few volunteers who have been serving are in need of additional volunteers to spread the work out more. The Moderator said to contact him you are willing to help out. Barney Ray suggested that a target message could be sent to all ordained Elders and Deacons requesting volunteers.

7. Youth Elder Report – Michaela Fredrickson reported that the Confirmation Exam is May 1st at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall and Confirmation Sunday is May 7th..

8. Finance Report – Lewis Shelley said the budget-to-date was \$333,660, receipts received were \$385,882 and expenditures-to-date were \$296,916. So overall the positive financial position has continued. Charles Ranson asked if the expenditures are greater in the latter part of the year which would affect this trend. Lew said that the current information is ahead of last year's trend to the good. He said that summer is when we typically expend more than the receipts coming in.

9. Diaconate Report – Courtney Barry wanted to recognize Lindsay Volpe for her role in coordinating Easter breakfast last week. The Deacons delivered Easter lilies after the service. The Bottles for Babies campaign begins on May 7th and ends on May 14th. Dishwasher volunteers for Wednesday night dinners are always needed. The Deacons discussed their participation in the upcoming Spring for Faith event on April 30th.

10. Consent Agenda – The Moderator asked if anyone wanted to discuss any of the items on the consent agenda. Hearing none,

- a. Rolls Review from Stewardship Committee
 - **New members** received were **Tracey Dowling, Garrett Doyle and Brent and Amanda Sutton.**
 - Members **dropped from the rolls** were **Mary Linzee VanLeuven Bradham** per her mother's Susan VanLeuven's request since she is attending another church and **Joseph Maccarone** per his request as he is attending another church.
 - **Deceased** member **Eileen Causey Bachemin.**

The Moderator asked if anyone wanted to discuss any of the items on the consent agenda. Hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote of the consent agenda. **The Consent Agenda was approved.**

11. Motions in Action Agenda

- a. Old Business – No old business on the agenda.
- b. New Business – No new business on the agenda.

12. Items Not In Agenda – The Moderator stated that he had received a request from church member Wayne McDaniel for the Session's consideration. **He asked for a two-third vote to add the item to the agenda. Motion was made to add and received a second. The motion was then approved.** Second Harvest would like to apply for Two Cents A Meal grant from the Presbytery of Florida. This requires a sponsoring church and Wayne McDaniel requested that the Session approve sponsoring Second Harvest's application. **Janet Evans moved support the Second Harvest request for grant funds. The motion received a second. The motion was unanimously approved.**

13. Informational Items – Vicki Weber shared that on May 7th we are celebrating Pam Mills thirty (30) years of service to Faith Church. Dennis Ferguson said the Mission Luncheon is set for May 21st. Lew Shelley said there is still a great need for funds to support the Guatemala Mission trip this summer. The cost of airfare has increased and there are a large number of people going on this mission trip.

Charles Dodson reported that the Associate Pasto Search Committee continues to meet and discuss candidates to narrow the committees search. Since the Committee on Ministry only meets every other month and the next meeting is July 11th, Charles said he does not think they will be ready for that meeting but anticipates having a candidate to recommend for their September meeting.

Pam Leslie reminded everyone of the Spring for Faith event is next Sunday, April 30th and committees are asked to bring their posters to the Fellowship Hall Saturday night about 5pm.

14. Communion - Holy Communion was observed to conclude the meeting at 12:48 p.m.

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

No actions were conducted via email.

The next Stated Session Meeting is May 21, 2017.

Respectfully submitted by

Barney Ray, Clerk of Session

Approved by Moderator

Brad Clayton, Senior Pastor