

Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting
Faith Presbyterian Church
Tallahassee, Florida
August 27, 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 (17) present were Linda Antwi, Randy Beach, Sue Colombo, Jill David, Alison Denny, Charles Dodson, Janet Evans, Skip Forsyth, Chip Jennings, Pam Leslie, Becky Miller, Caitlin Ray, Lewis Shelley, Frank Walper, Vicki Weber, 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 were Leigh Ansley, Dennis Ferguson, Michaela Fredrickson and Charles Ranson.

Also present (5) were: Ann Wild (Diaconate Representative), Jeff Bryan (Deacon), Trinity Whitley (Associate Pastor), Barney Ray (Clerk of Session) and Randy Zepp (Church Administrator).

2. Devotion Becky Miller provided the devotion.

3. Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Joys were shared by Charles Dodson for the church workday. The Moderator thanked Randy Zepp for his work as a member of the church and as a staff member. Alison Denny shared a joy for the new gaga ball pit on the church grounds. Elaine Youngblood shared that the Presbyterian Women have their kickoff luncheon on Sept 10th. Joys expressed for Trinity's new member class. Leah Ramsey hosted a lock in for Club 45 kids (4 boys and 13 girls) and over 100 people came for the splash party on Friday.

Concerns were expressed for prayers for the people in Texas and Louisiana during Hurricane Harvey recovery.

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 **July 23, 2017 Stated Session Meeting or the Congregational Meeting of July 23, 2017.**

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.**

5. Pastor's Report –

- a. The Moderator stated that he and the Worship and Music Committee approved a request from church member Ken Hovey and non-member Beverly Rogers for a wedding. A motion was made to approve this request. The motion was seconded and approved.
- b. Officer Nominating Committee (ONC) Update – Management Committee researched and found that the Book of Order does require the congregation to approve a nominating committee. Janet Evans and Linda Antwi had previously volunteered to serve as elders and a deacon and a youth have been identified to participate on the committee. The Moderator said that they are still recruiting three (3) at-large members. **The Moderator requested that the Session approve calling a congregational meeting for September 10th for the purposes of electing a 2017 Nominating Committee. A motion was made and seconded to call a congregational meeting for this date and purpose. The motion was approved.**

The Moderator also requested that the Session call a congregational meeting for December 3rd for the purposes of electing new officers and a 2018 Nominating Committee. A motion was made and seconded. Lewis Shelley observed that if the 2018 Nominating Committee is elected in December, that is before the next class of officers begins and they would be excluded from consideration for serving on that Nominating Committee. The Moderator stated that the purpose for electing the new class of officers and the 2018 Nominating Committee at the same congregational meeting was be more efficient in calling congregational meetings. After some further discussion of the merits of combining or not combining these two actions in one meeting, Janet Evans called the question. The Moderator called for a vote of the motion. **The motion was approved with one dissent.**

- c. Committee Agenda Format Reminder. The Moderator wanted to remind all elders that a sample agenda was provided to all moderators to provide your committees. It specifically included a section to communicate actions of the committee to go to the Session and for Session actions to communicate to the committees. Shaun York asked if maybe we should send out an electronic copy of the sample agenda. Vicki Weber said she wasn't aware that committee members serve three year terms. She asked how other committee moderators handle this. The Moderator said that if our church policy manual says that committee members serve three year terms, we should do that. Discussion continued around issues of recruiting and maintaining sufficiently sized committees in order to continue the work of the committees.

6. Youth Elder Report – Michaela Fredrickson was absent with prior notice. The Youth kickoff was earlier this month and a large group participated. The Rock the Universe trip is planned for September 8th.

7. Finance Report – Lewis Shelley reported that the current data was in the church bulletin this morning with total receipts of \$738,000 and expenditures of \$670,000. He reported that some additional expenditures from the summer youth trips will be paid soon that were not reflected in this update. He said that historically we are normally in

the red at this time of the year so the fact that we are not is good news. Both Youth & Families and Children & Families Committees currently show expenditures in excess of their operating budget but expenditures will be transferred to Pumpkin Patch funds to reduce the expenditures against budgeted funds.

8. Diaconate Report – Ann Wild reported that the Deacons are working to include people other than just the Deacons to sign up to washing the dishes on Wednesday nights. They are also planning for Jubilee on October 29th. The Moderator expressed appreciation for all the work of the Deacons. Randy Zepp said that there were over 120 people at the first Wednesday night dinner. Vicky Weber wondered if we could include sign up links in the This Week in Faith emails from Cheri and on the church's website. Shaun York mentioned that we just got a new module with the Shelby software that could be used for this purpose. He said that they still need to test it first and figure out how to allow the proper permissions for people to see what they should see. Lewis Shelley mentioned that he has been taking leftover food from church meals to a couple of halfway houses in the Macon community. Since we can no longer bring leftovers to the Shelter, he mentioned that there may be other opportunities to share food for other good causes.

9. Consent Agenda –

- a. Children and Families Committee requested approval of curriculum for Children's Worship titled "Teaching Children Worship" for 2017-2018 year.
- b. Stewardship Committee requested approval of:
 - 1) Revised Policy
 - 2) Delay Capital Campaign until 2020
 - 3) Approve Membership Report

The Moderator asked if anyone wanted to discuss any of the items on the consent agenda. Pam Leslie requested that the Revised Policy and Capital Campaign items from the Stewardship Committee be moved to the Action Agenda.

The remaining consent agenda items were approved.

10. Motions in Action Agenda

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

Stewardship Committee requested approval of:

- 2) Revised Policy related to maintenance of the church rolls.

Discussion: Janet Evans asked about what we do if we do not **hear** back from someone. The response provided was that letters are sent and they are given three (3) months to respond. In October, the names of these people not responding will be brought to the Session for approval to remove from the rolls. Lewis Shelley asked about the inactive member category. The Moderator said the Book of Order eliminated inactive member category a few years ago. Alison Denny expressed concern that mailing letters to a physical address should be one of multiple methods of contacting these members. Examples of other means including by email or with a phone call. The Moderator said that there is a vetting process that includes staff and

contacting parents of young adults. Pam Leslie said that the letter is the last step after other methods have been unsuccessful. Frank Walper has been working with Linda Antwi and Ted Baker to identify missing members so that we can contact them sooner. An amendment was offered to place “3)” in front of the “The Annual Review should be completed” Pam Leslie said she was okay with the amendment. **The motion as amended was approved.**

3) Delay Capital Campaign until 2020

Pam Leslie said that the Stewardship Committee would like to conduct more planning for a Capital Campaign. She mentioned that increasing the annual operating budget for building and equipment repairs and replacement is preferred and that the Capital Campaign is a broader, higher level focus. Lewis Shelley said that we should look at this as more than a request for funds for the church campus. **The motion was approved.**

11. Items Not In Agenda – The Moderator asked if anyone had anything they wished to add to the agenda. No items were requested.

12. Informational Items – Shaun York said that the Management Child and Youth Protection Policy included in the packet are now posted on-line. Sue Colombo mentioned that this October is the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s Reformation. It was mentioned that August is the Moderator’s first anniversary at Faith. Lewis Shelley mentioned that UKirk is having a BBQ event welcoming back all college students on Monday, August 28th. The first Men’s Breakfast is on September 1st at 7am. Chip mentioned Pumpkin patch signup is on the website.

13. Communion - Holy Communion was observed to conclude the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Actions of Session Approved by Email between July 23rd and August 27th

No actions were conducted by email.

The next Stated Session Meeting is September 24, 2017.

Respectfully submitted by

Barney Ray, Clerk of Session

Approved by Moderator

Brad Clayton, Senior Pastor