

Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting  
Faith Presbyterian Church  
Tallahassee, Florida  
July 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 (19) present were Linda Antwi, Randy Beach, Sue Colombo, Jill David, Alison Denny, Charles Dodson, Janet Evans, Dennis Ferguson, Skip Forsyth, Chip Jennings, Pam Leslie, Becky Miller, Charles Ranson, Lewis Shelley, Frank Walper, Vicki Weber, 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 were Leigh Ansley, Michaela Fredrickson (on youth trip), and Caitlin Ray (illness).

Also present (2) were: Barney Ray (Clerk of Session) and Randy Zepp (Church Administrator).

2. Devotion Charles Dodson provided the devotion.

3. Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Joys were shared for the fence donated to protect the Manna on Meridian garden from stray basketballs from entering the garden on the church's property. Joys were shared for Trinity (new Associate Pastor) and Thomas Whitley's (Elder) participation in our church. Joys were shared for a safe and successful mission trip and the financial support received for the mission team. Joys were shared for the recent Dogwood Acre's camp for the children in our church. Joys were shared and prayers requested for safe travels for the middle school youth coming home today and the high school youth leaving for Montreat today. Joys were shared for retired Faith Senior Pastor Glenn Bass' recent induction into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame.

Chip Jennings expressed a joy for Brad's service in his first year of service which began last August.

Concerns were expressed for Linda Antwi whose house had a tree fell on it this weekend, Jill David's aunt who passed away, for Thomas Whitley's grandmother who has health concerns and for his mother who is the primary care giver and for Dr. Cooper who went through recent surgery.

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 **May 21, 2017 Stated Session Meeting or the Called Session Meetings of June 4<sup>th</sup> or July 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**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.**

b. Called Presbytery Meeting June 25<sup>th</sup> - Commissioners' Report

Thomas Whitley attended as a commissioner and reported that the meeting was to examine Brian Yount for ordination as an associate minister at Trinity Presbytery in Pensacola. The candidate was approved by Presbytery.

5. Pastor's Report –

a. New Associate Pastor – Since the church's by-laws do not allow family members to serve on Session and since Trinity Whitley will become the Associate Pastor, Thomas Whitley will not be able to continue on the Session. Her focus will be on new and current membership, Adult Education, and Evangelism. She will start August 1<sup>st</sup>. Even though Trinity has served on staff at this church previously, we should not take her for granted and should welcome her as if she were completely new to our church. She has developed her skills since working at Faith at UKirk and participating in the work of the Presbytery. A welcome for her is scheduled for after the church service on August 6<sup>th</sup>.

b. Officer Nominating Committee (ONC) Update – Notice was advertised today seeking nominations for elder and deacon. Alison Denny mentioned that the ONC committee needs a congregational meeting to approve them. The Moderator mentioned that she was correct based upon the current by-laws. He stated he would like to change this requirement to have the Session approve the nominating committee in the future in order to steam-line the process. Frank Walper mentioned that it might be good to let the congregation know of the change for informational purposes. Vicki Weber asked what committee would be responsible for bringing this change to the Session. It was mentioned that Management Committee would probably be the committee to do this since they maintain the policies and procedures for the church. The Moderator said he would check the church calendar and identify a good date to hold a congregational meeting to approve the ONC members soon.

6. Youth Elder Report – Michaela Fredrickson was absent due to participation in the Montreat youth trip and not available to report.

7. Finance Report – Lewis Shelley reported receipts are still slightly ahead of the budgeted amounts and expenditures were slightly lower than budgeted for this time of year. He expects that these will come closer together due to the summer activities.

8. Diaconate Report – No one was present from the Diaconate. The Moderator mentioned that they had not met over the summer.

9. Consent Agenda –

- a. Adult and Families Committee requested approval of curriculum for:
  - i. Sojourners class to study N.T. Wright's Colossians and Philemon
  - ii. The Black Dog class to study Eager to Love by Fr. Richard Rohr and Fr. Thomas Keating Contemplative Outreach video series and discussion

- iii. Faith Fusion (formerly Young Adults) class to study an Engage Series from the PCUSA website.
- b. Children and Families Committee requested approval of The Blue Kids Sunday curriculum for the 2017-2018 year.

The Moderator asked if anyone wanted to discuss any of the items on the consent agenda. Hearing no such request, the Moderator called for a vote of the consent agenda. **The Consent Agenda was approved.**

10. Motions in Action Agenda

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

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 – Sue Columbo shared that Bill Holliman has agreed to start up and organize the Men’s breakfast beginning in September. Charles Dodson said that the next Church workday is on August 26<sup>th</sup> and azaleas are a hot topic in Buildings and Grounds Committee since they are maintained only by church volunteers. The committee has discussed taking the azaleas out and planting trees instead which would require less maintenance. So he asked for people to come out and help. Vicki Weber mentioned that the Personnel Committee was able to give a 3% increase to staff that they identified as below market for their positions and responsibilities and still remain within their approved budget. The staff receiving these increases were identified as Cheri Harkema and Shannon Guse.

13. Communion - Holy Communion was observed to conclude the meeting at 12:34 p.m.

**Actions of Session Approved by Email between May 21<sup>st</sup> and July 23<sup>st</sup>**

No actions were conducted via email.

The next Stated Session Meeting is August 27, 2017.

Respectfully submitted by

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Barney Ray, Clerk of Session

Approved by Moderator

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Brad Clayton, Senior Pastor