

Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting  
Faith Presbyterian Church  
Tallahassee, Florida  
September 24, 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 12:18 p.m.

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

The Ruling Elders (5) absent with prior notice were: Leigh Ansley, Jill David, Alison Denny, Becky Miller, and Vicki Weber.

Also present (2) were: Trinity Whitley (Teaching Elder/Associate Pastor) and Barney Ray (Clerk of Session). Peter Pursino (Director of Worship Arts) was present for the discussion of the motion about the Community Arts Series from the Worship and Music Committee.

2. Devotion Dennis Ferguson provided the devotion.

3. Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Concerns were expressed for Windy Taylor (death of her mother), Shannon Guse's son Mitchell Guse who was injured playing sports and had surgery, for all students beginning the new school year, Arden McKenzie's son Andrew who is battling brain cancer, and for Jerry Chestnutt who is in the hospital. Joys were expressed for Linda Antwi's house which has been repaired from tree damage during the storm and for a new member class to begin on Oct 8<sup>th</sup> with five (5) people confirmed so far. Prayer.

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 **August 27, 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.**

- b. Commissioners for 10/24 Presbytery Meeting in Pensacola - Janet Evans volunteered to go. Barney Ray will check with Elders not in attendance to see if one of them will attend as the other commissioner.

- c. Presbytery 's Budget, Finance and Stewardship Team is holding a breakfast at Faith on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am to present their proposed 2018 budget for anyone that would like to attend and provide input.

5. Pastor's Report –

- a. Officers Coffee on October 15<sup>th</sup> at 9am - As part of the annual Stewardship campaign, there will be a coffee to share information from the Stewardship Campaign with the officers.
- b. Committee Meeting Locations - The Moderator mentioned that there has been some confusion over where committees meet each month. He requested the date and place from each committee.
- c. Installation Service for Trinity Whitley – **A motion was made to approve the installation service for Trinity Whitley on Oct 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm. The motion received a second and was approved.**

6. Stewardship Report – Pam Leslie (Stewardship Committee Chair) reported that the Dailey's will not be able to host the Faithapalooze event for members under age 50 as an unofficial church event. She said there was some discussion about having this event at a local brewery (Proof Brewery) which also has hosted children's parties. There is no action item for approval. This intent is to get feedback from the Session. Skip asked why this hasn't been held at the church. Pam said this is more of a party or fellowship event which includes a live band, beer and wine. This was one of the recommendations from our church consultant a couple of years ago. This targets the younger church members. Charles asked if this was a church event. The Moderator said it was is because we ask for pledge cards there. Sue said that St Johns has had an event there. Discussion about whether or not individuals members of Session had concerns about holding an event there. Some members expressed sentiments that were concerned and some that were not. Some people will likely be offended and concerns that why should we run that risk when it is possible to hold the event elsewhere.

7. Youth Elder Report – Michaela Fredrickson reported that forty-nine (49) youth came for the 850 event at the FSU Reservation last week and that the pumpkin patch kickoff is next week.

8. Finance Report – Lewis Shelley reported that there was nothing unusual in the financial report. We're in good shape. Charles Ranson asked why the value of the Land for the church is only valued at \$27,000 when it would obviously be worth more. It was explained that property is only reported at historical costs under generally accepted accounting principles. A follow up question was about what name the property was under for legal purposes. For legal documents, Faith Presbyterian Church is listed as the owner however the church would need Presbytery approval to borrow money using the property as collateral or to sale the property as all property reverts to the Presbytery if the church were to disband. The discussions about ownership and borrowing of money were to understand the responsibilities of the Session of Faith Presbyterian and no suggestions were made to borrow, sell the property or disband the church. The discussions were for clarity and educational purposes.

9. Diaconate Report – No deacons were present. The Moderator said that they are working on dividing up the responsibilities in three small teams to meet separately. The three proposed teams are Fellowship, Service and Care. They provided for the Fellowship luncheon this month and are getting ready for Jubilee at the end of October.

10. Consent Agenda –

- a. Adults and Families Committee requested approval of curriculum “*Women of the Torah*” by author Stephen Binz for a ladies study and for “*Being Single in the Church Today*” by Phillip Wilson for a new group to hopefully start in November.
- b. Stewardship Committee rolls review.

The Moderator asked if anyone wanted to discuss any of the items on the consent agenda. Pam Leslie (Moderator of Stewardship Committee) **requested that the Rolls Review item be pulled from the agenda.** She wanted to come back with more details about the requests at a future meeting. A motion was made to approve to remaining items. Motion received a second. **The remaining consent agenda items were approved.**

11. Motions in Action Agenda

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

Worship & Music Committee requested approval of:

- 1) Baptism of Landon Loutzenhiser on October 8<sup>th</sup>

The Moderator said that the Worship & Music committee did approve after much discussion to recommend to Session this baptism. The parents did not indicate that they were members of a church in Colorado where they live but that they did attend church there. The mother grew up at Faith and her parents are currently members of Faith. The Moderator read from the Book of Order on baptisms which said that normally the parent(s) are members of a church. He said that Brandon’s older brother had been baptized at the home church of his father and that he had attended Vacation Bible School at Faith this summer. After some discussion, a second to motion was received and the motion was approved without dissent.

- 2) Changes to Worship & Music Policies and Procedures

Caitlin Ray (Moderator of Worship and Music Committee) said that the changes were made to eliminate the references to specific names in the policies since they have and will change from time to time. The changes also eliminated overlap of responsibilities between subcommittees to bring clarity. **A friendly amendment was offered to change the reference in the policy to Sacristy and Flower Committees to Subcommittees since they are subcommittees of Worship and Music and to replace reference to the name “Carlstedts” to “wholesalers”. The motion was approved with friendly amendments.**

- 3) Community Art Series

Peter Pursino (Director of Worship Arts) was present to provide information about this motion. He mentioned that Faith used to have a community arts schedule in the past. He said that an offering is proposed for collection to benefit Manna on Meridian for the Schubert "Mass in F" on November 7<sup>th</sup>. He said that ticket sales for "A Christmas Carol" on December 14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall would go toward offsetting the cost for the production of the event. A preview would be held prior to the event to ask for donations for Manna on Meridian. He said that future events would come back to the Session as dates are identified. He said that this was not a request for blanket approval. Each year, these events will come to Session for approval. A question was asked about the proposed ticket sales – how are ticket prices determined and what happens to the proceeds. Peter said proceeds would pay for the copywrite fees and professional musicians in the range of \$1800 - \$2500. Any proceeds over costs would go toward future productions. Lewis Shelley said that he was selling tickets to events at church and that these should be open to the community for free. He believed that a request for donations from those attending would be just as effective to cover the costs. Peter said that one of the reasons for tickets is because space is limited in the Fellowship Hall and if it were a free event he would be in a position of turning people away at the door if more than people showed up than the capacity there.

A request was made to split the motion in two separate votes by event. The Schubert "Mass in F" on Nov 7<sup>th</sup> received a second. After no further discussion the motion was approved. "A Christmas Carol" on Dec 14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> received a second. Further discussion of the motion it was mentioned by Lewis Shelley that as long as a ticket price was reasonable such as \$10 that would keep the cost from being prohibitive for people for some people to afford. A request was made to call the question. **The motion was approved with two dissenting votes.**

**Members of Session requested that Peter bring back specific budgets and any ticket prices requested for future events.**

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

13. Informational Items – Pam Leslie said she distributed copies of their monthly Stewardship Committee minutes as the ones in the packet were from an older meeting. Charles Dodson wanted to express appreciation for church staff and members who helped prepare the church grounds prior to Hurricane Irma and with clean up afterward. Dennis Ferguson mentioned that there is a clear water project by the Turks, our missionaries in Madegascar, who need an additional \$10,000 to complete this project. Sue Columbo mentioned that the first book talk is this Thursday. Lewis Shelley mentioned prior discussion about supporting our Presbytery. He spoke in favor of assigning Presbytery to a committee as a responsibility. The Moderator stated he is on the search committee for a new Presbyter. He said that it will be a challenge finding one given that funding for the position is only guaranteed for three years.

14. Communion - Holy Communion was observed to conclude the meeting at 2:11 p.m.

**Actions of Session Approved by Email between August 27<sup>th</sup> and September 24<sup>th</sup>**

No actions were conducted by email.

The next Stated Session Meeting is October 22, 2017.

Respectfully submitted by

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Barney Ray, Clerk of Session

Approved by Moderator

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Brad Clayton, Senior Pastor