

Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting  
Faith Presbyterian Church  
Tallahassee, Florida  
November 4, 2018

1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Devotion

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 12:25 p.m. Syauchen Baker provided the devotion.

The Ruling Elders (15) present were Linda Antwi, Kevin Askew, Syauchen Baker, Keagan Barrett, Randy Beach, Sue Colombo, Charles Dodson, Janet Evans, Cory Hill, Bill Hollimon, Chip Jennings, Jason Taylor, Frank Walper, Malika Woody and Elaine Youngblood. **A quorum of at least one-third of the members of the Session was present.** Lindsey Volpe was present as a Diaconate representative.

The Ruling Elders (6) absent were Lee Andre, Ginny Dailey, Skip Forsyth, Dennis Ferguson, Becky Miller, and Charles Ranson.

The Church Administrator Randy Zepp was present. The Associate Pastor Trinity Whitley (Teaching Elder) and the Clerk of Session Barney Ray were both absent.

2. Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Joys and concerns were shared for Cory Hill's boss, who was victim of shooting (killed), Randy Zepp's brother (Renfred) in hospital (UTI), Charles Dodson's granddaughter doing very well, home from hospital, back for surgery in December/January, Brad Clayton has new nephew born (Grady Parrish Clayton) who is healthy and he going to visit soon.

3. Clerk's Report

a. Approval of the Minutes

The Moderator asked if there were any discussion or recommended revisions to the minutes from the **September 23, 2018 Stated Session Meeting.** **Meeting minutes were approved as submitted.**

b. Commissioners Report for October 30<sup>th</sup> Presbytery Meeting

Janet Evans and Brad Clayton attended. Mary Kite was present and spoke about experience at General Assembly. Janet Evans felt it was humbling to hear from Pastors and Elders affected by Hurricane Michael, but joyful to hear of resilience and charity. There was a vote on structural changes to committees. New Presbyter made proposal to change certain structures at Presbytery level. New committees include Christian Education, revitalization, etc., but budget remained the same. There will probably be a need for more volunteers and there will be new opportunities to serve at that level. People are to see Brad Clayton for more information. Significant portion of meeting was devoted to effects of Hurricane Michael. Two churches from Panama City were present and described current status (continued loss of power and lack of communication, fear of being forgotten) and long-term recovery. There is specific donation process through the Presbyterian Foundation and churches were encouraged to work together. Brad Clayton has started some communication with Panama City Churches to work to help. Specific request

was made for gift cards to Lowe's, etc., which let people buy what they specifically need. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is prepared and will come in as the first wave of assistance wanes.

Additional Discussion as to recovery assistance - Witness committee has discussed shorter-term mission in Panama City (3-4 days) in near future (to be in addition to other trips). Frank Walper raised idea of donating funds the church may have in excess of budgeted costs and this can be considered in the future.

#### 4. Pastor's Report

a. Long Range Planning Committee Update – Charles Ranson sent note that Long Range Planning Team will probably not be ready by March 2019 deadline. There have been issues with meeting and the desire is not to put out a survey during the holiday season. The new plan currently is to take information from earlier processes to develop a survey for distribution after the holidays (January). Goal is to generate excitement about process and avoid trying to do too much at one time. Elder retreat will still occur in February 2019, but long range planning and capital campaign discussions will occur later in the year.

Capital Campaign should be able to proceed in 2020. Frank Walper discussed history and patterns he observed from review of records to note cultural issues and prevent in the future. Chip Jennings expressed positive opinion of current status of church.

b. Personnel Report – Adam (new organist) started. Peter Pursino led search and interviewed two candidates. Request was made to make sure to make him feel welcome.

c. 2019 Budget – Goal has not increased and there is not intention to increase at this time. New budget is uncertain at this time based on need to complete commitment and committee information. Status of pledges is very positive and Brad Clayton expects that to continue. He requests we put in pledges and discuss with others and would like to get to 227 pledges. Brad Clayton believes Commitment Sunday had a good outcome.

d. Congregational Meeting Dec 2, 2018 To Elect Officers – We are close to completion on work for same. Brad Clayton believes we will be prepared for first Sunday in December. We can reschedule if something changes. Motion to approve was made and seconded. Discussion included that session meeting will start late and there is also a book fair with a chili luncheon that day, too. The expectation is that the session meeting will start at 12:15 p.m. Motion passed.

#### 5. Youth Elder Report

Keegan Barrett reported that the Pumpkin Patch completed record year. Night of Service with all youth groups will be 11/18/18. Four youth and parents will be visiting Atlanta this coming weekend in association with reading Dear Martin book. The trip will include service at a mission. The next weekend trip to Dogwood is cancelled due to Hurricane Michael damage and there will be no new trips until March 2019. Although uncertain, it appears that Family Retreat will not go forward. There is a desire to reschedule all

events. Middle school participation is doing well, while high school is currently experiencing a slight decline.

Brad Clayton commented on the very positive impression he had regarding the success of the Pumpkin Patch, as well as the events related to it including Trunk or Treat (possible traffic control next year), and Spooky Movies in the Patch. Cory Hill noted the potential for people to be coming from outlying areas given effects of Hurricane Michael.

6. Finance Report – Randy Beach stated we are in similar position to previous years. We have surplus of \$15,000.00 and are looking to increase receipts in November and December. Revenues and expenses are typical for this time of year. There was discussion of line item related to Diaconate and Randy Zepp provided information that church will fill in for donations not made by others and last year received surplus of cash to be able to do that. This has been a regular occurrence for several years.

Frank Walper noted change in tax laws related to itemized deductions and inquired as to potential impact to church. Randy Beach did not have specific information as to effect at this time, but there is not a specific indication it will affect giving to church. It could affect other charities more.

Brad Clayton advised that there will be statements sent out to encourage fulfillment of pledges, but stated that November/December are typically biggest month. Fortunately our expenses and revenues are in line.

7. Diaconate Report – Lindsey Volpe stated Jubilee was very positive and thanked everyone for help. Diaconate voted on changes to use of giving, including increase in support for Second Harvest and backpack fund for Sealy Elementary. Funds have been pulled from Lutheran Services due to unconnected use. There was an effort to avoid duplication in giving and to improve participation and coverage for Angel Tree. Support was reduced for Habitat for Humanity and removed for Pregnancy Help Center with the possibility of donating to a similar organization closer to PCUSA. There will be a continued effort to evaluate for special needs and effective use of funds.

Diaconate is continuing to look for volunteers for Wednesday night service/dinner (using biodegradable paper products) and Angel Tree is coming up.

8. Consent Agenda – No items on the agenda

9. Motions in Action Agenda –

a. The Stewardship Committee recommends to Session the following persons be removed from the church's active membership roll (read aloud by Linda Antwi):

Bryant, Matthew W.,

~~Carothers, Mary Lou,~~ (removed from this list due to contact with Church)

Holton, Paul

Mabry, Debbie (Deborah A.)

Mabry Jr, Pete (Peter Harvey)

Neal, Patrick (J. Patrick)

Neal, Meg (Margaret H.)

Neal, Matt (Matthew Edward)

Smith, Bonnie (Bonnie Louise Ollis)  
Sparks, Betty (Betty R.)  
Thurston, Eydaila (Eydalia Rivera)  
Thurston, Lee (Lee Frederick)

Question was asked about attendance being “never.” Brad Clayton responded that it could be a system transfer error or because they were present, but did not sign in. It is based on the red roll books. Frank Walper stated attendance in its strict sense is not being taken. It is not used for any purposes in reports Pam Mills generates. He raised issue of 850 on rolls, but regular attendance number is 350.

No names asked to be removed other than Carothers, no other discussion was had. **A Motion was made to approve the request, was seconded, and approved.**

10. Items Not In Agenda

The Moderator asked if there were any items not on the agenda that anyone wished to have considered.

11. Informational Items

Chip Jennings asked about presence of Class of 2019 at Officers Retreat. Brad Clayton said he would like for outgoing class to attend and share experience. No other requests or comments were made.

Speaker from Southern Poverty Law Center will present on 11/14/18 at 6:00 p.m. Sue Colombo expressed desire for attendance.

Keagan Barrett is working with Holiman Law Firm.

12. Communion - Holy Communion was observed to conclude the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

**No actions of Session Approved by Email between September 23<sup>rd</sup> & November 4<sup>th</sup>**

The next Stated Session Meeting is Sunday, December 2, 2018.

Respectfully submitted by

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Jason Taylor, acting Clerk of Session

Approved by Moderator

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Brad Clayton, Senior Pastor