

Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting
Faith Presbyterian Church
Tallahassee, Florida
March 3, 2019

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 12:20 p.m. Sue Colombo provided the devotion.

The Ruling Elders (13) present were Lee Andre, Linda Antwi, Kevin Askew, Keagan Barrett, Randy Beach, Sue Colombo, Charles Dodson, Janet Evans, Chip Jennings, Becky Miller, Frank Walper, Malukah Woody and Elaine Youngblood. **A quorum of at least one-third of the members of the Session was present.**

The Ruling Elders (8) absent were Syauchen Baker, Ginny Dailey, Dennis Ferguson, Skip Forsyth, Cory Hill, Bill Hollimon, Charles Ranson and Jason Taylor.

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

2. Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Joys and Concerns were shared for Nancy Tollisma, Davis Armstead, Betty Henderson, Lexi (Charles' Dodson granddaughter), Jerry Chestnut, Ross Andre, Brad's father and the church coed softball team beginning their spring season this week.

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 **following meetings:**

- February 2, 2019 Stated Session Meeting,
- February 3, 2019 Called Session Meeting for New Members,
- February 17, 2019 Called Session Meeting for New Members,
- February 24, 2019 Called Session Meeting for New Members,
- February 19, 2019 Called Session Meeting for New Officer Examinations

No revisions were proposed. **Charles Dodson moved to approve all minutes as submitted. Chip Jennings seconded the motion. The Moderator called for a vote of the motion. The motion was approved.**

4. Pastor's Report –

a. Focus 2019 Update – The Moderator said that this initiative from the Officer's Retreat will remain on the agenda each meeting for the committees to provide their update toward the stated goal of increasing or strengthening connections within the church and community relationships. He asked that each committee identify their priorities toward this goal and especially for ways to measure success.

He mention recent Sealey Elementary school events that Faith volunteers have helped support and the appreciation expressed by the teachers and administration of the school. He asked if anyone had anything initiatives to report.

Trinity mentioned that Cheri Harkema, Amanda Bevis and George Reynolds IV had met and have planned to make our upcoming Ash Wednesday Service our first Facebook Live event.

Chip Jennings expressed how connected he feels having served as Worship & Music Committee moderator this past year. Becky Miller mentioned the recent Flower workshop and how that brought new people together. Sue Colombo expressed appreciation for Trinity bringing Henry Steele to speak at our Wednesday night program and that we need more speakers from our community. Frank Walper said we all need to challenge ourselves to follow through and hold ourselves accountable toward our goals. He said that we have wonderful and talented staff but they need us to be responsible for these goals. We should include the goals and committee initiatives in the agendas and minutes each month so that we do not forget them. Chip Jennings suggested that we conduct a church wide survey to ask each member how connected to the church they feel on a scale of 1 to 10.

- b. Long Term Strategic Plan (LTSP) Update – The Moderator reported that he met with the committee last week and reframed the work of the LTSP committee. He mentioned using Holy listening during this process. The survey will be sent to church members in September and that we will be sharing the same trend information with the congregation that he shared during the officer retreat. Frank Walper expressed concern that the LTSP process has not made more progress. The Moderator said that is why he met with the committee this week. He is holding himself and the committee more accountable moving forward for this important initiative.

5. Youth Elder Report – Keegan Barrett reported that they have had a lot of different speakers on a lot of different subjects that are important for youth. She mentioned that Thomas Whitley had discussed how their electronic footprint can have an impact years later and how social media can be used to share their faith with others. She reported that about 10 youth are signed up to go to the Dogwood Acres Youth Conference the first weekend of spring break. She said that tonight's speaker is from Refuge House.

6. Finance Report – Randy Beach said that the financial report in the packets were for January which showed a small deficit however he had received the February financial report and it has a surplus of \$70,000 to date. The Moderator added that the response to contacting people in January about pledging increased the number of pledges to 227 which is the most in five years and the total pledged is about \$985,000 which is also a five year high. This is getting us closer to the \$1 Million goal that we've had the past couple of years.

7. Stewardship Report – Linda Antwi reported that the committee is planning to send hand written notes to everyone who pledged in 2019. The Moderator said that he had learned this from asking other churches what they do to show appreciation to pledgers. They mentioned that the members of Session wrote handwritten notes and he would like our Session to do the same. With the number of pledgers, each elder would write about 10 cards each. He also mentioned that he had started a Generosity Corner in this month's newsletter. Malukah Woody expressed support for hand written notes as she has done this at work. Her employees express gratitude for receiving them.

8. Preschool Report – Long time preschool director Beverly Sims has announced her planned retirement in June 2020. The Moderator mentioned that Faith Preschool is one of only three early learning centers in Tallahassee with the highest form of accreditation. The Preschool Board has a timeline and plan for conducting a search for a new director. He said that he will ask the Personnel Committee to consider offering resources to support the search and plan for a show of appreciation for Beverly. He is sending out two letters tomorrow announcing Beverly’s retirement. One is for the preschool parents and the other is to the church membership.

9. Diaconate Report – Carissa Nye from the Diaconate reported that Chad Van Iddekinge will take over the operational details of running Manna on Meridian and Shelley Camp will run the meetings. Deacons are planning for the Easter breakfast and will request donations of food. She mentioned that last weekend’s Family Retreat at Dogwood Acres was a great success. All adults and children attending helped with clean up and repairs. Members also got to meet new people they did not know at our church.

10. Consent Agenda –

- a. **Adults & Families Committee recommended approval of A Dangerous Dozen by C.K. Robertson as the curriculum for Lent Book Study.**
- b. **Stewardship Committee recommended approval of the following changes to the church rolls:**
 - **Members to be Dropped from Active Roll Per Their Request (2):** L. Stephen Sarbeck and Teresa L. Sarbeck.
 - **New Members Received (15):** James Patrick Burleson, Whitney Ward Burleson, Carin Leigh Butler, Karen Haynes Curtis, Alexandra Davis, Bruce M. Horack, Sylvia Schulz Horack, Charles Bell Littlejohn, Cynthia Road Littlejohn, Carter Whaley Scott, A. Callaway Griffith Scott, Jeramiah Matthew Grittith-Seabolt, William Nicholson Spicola, Ashley Ellis Spicola and Carol Parker Zepp.
 - **Marriages:** Carol Parker and Randy Zepp.
 - **Baptisms:** Aubrey Anne Scott.

The Moderator asked that after reading the information provided with each motion, did anyone want to remove an item from the consent agenda for discussion. Hearing no other requests, he called for **a motion to approve the agenda which was made by Janet Evans and seconded by Charles Dodson.** The Moderator called for a vote of the motion. **The motion was approved.**

11. Motions in Action Agenda

Witness Committee requested permission from the Session to collect supplies and funds for hurricane relief during the season of Lent. The collection will coincide with the Lenten theme of “Restoration”. We have received a list of items from 1st Church in Marianna and supplies lists from the local early learning coalitions in the hardest hit areas. Peter Pursino suggested paying for a bus for students to attend the choral MPAs in Tallahassee since the school buses were damaged and they could not attend otherwise. Charles

Dodson made a motion to approve. Chip Jennings seconded the motion. The Moderator called for a vote of the motion. **The motion was approved.**

12. Items Not In Agenda

A request was made for Session to approve by 2/3s vote to consider adding two baptism requests approved by the Worship & Music Committee that did not make the agenda. The Session by consensus added this request to the agenda for consideration.

Javonne and Kendall Taylor are joining the church on March 24th and wish to have their daughter Emerson baptized on the same day.

Rebecca and Zack Summy are joining the church on March 31st and wish to have their son Lewis baptized on the same day.

Janet Evans made a motion to approve and Charles Dodson seconded the motion. The Moderator called for a vote of the motion which was approved.

13. Informational Items –

Trinity said that there will be a called meeting of the Session in the Sanctuary on March 24th and 31st to receive a total of ten (10) new members. Betsy Wood is working on a project to get photos of 2019 new members and get messages from them to share with the congregation to help them become connected within our church. Vacation Bible School (VBS) registration was opened to the public this week. We have 120 registered from the church membership with a goal of 300 children to attend VBS this year.

14. Communion - Holy Communion was observed to conclude the meeting at 1:42 p.m.

No actions of Session Approved by Email between February 2nd & March 3rd

The next Stated Session Meeting is on Sunday, March 31, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by

Barney Ray, Clerk of Session

Approved by Moderator

Brad Clayton, Senior Pastor