Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting

Faith Presbyterian Church

Tallahassee, Florida

March 31, 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 11:45 a.m. Jason Taylor provided the devotion.

The Ruling Elders (15) present were Lee Andre, Linda Antwi, Bob Apgar,

Kevin Askew, Ginny Dailey, Neal Evans, Cory Hill, Lee Marsh, Mike Metz, Becky Miller, Molly Novin, Charles Ranson, Jason Taylor, Frank Walper and Malikah Woody. **A quorum of at least one-third of the members of the Session was present.**

The Ruling Elders (5) absent were Amanda Bevis, Syauchen Baker, Randy Beach, Bill Hollimon and Linda Shelley.

The Church Administrator Randy Zepp, Diaconate Representative George Reynolds IV, and the Clerk of Session Barney Ray were also present. Associate Pastor Trinity Whitley (Teaching Elder) was on maternity leave.

2. Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Mollie shared a concern for Lexi Davis who is new member. Frank Walper said that Kymani Patterson’s father past away this week. Kymani is a choral music student at Florida State University and our Associate Director of Music. Lee’s son Ross is off crutches, Frank Walper stated a joy for the new elders. the weather, The Moderator asked everyone to keep Duff Maki and Nancy Tolsma in their prayers as they deal with health issues. He also mentioned a joy for Trinity Whitley and for Len Turner who has been filling in for her while she is on maternity leave.

3. Clerk’s Report

1. Approval of the Minutes - The Moderator asked if there were any discussion or recommended revisions to the minutes from the **following meetings:**

* March 3, 2019 Stated Session Meeting,

No revisions were proposed. **Moved to approve all minutes as submitted. the motion received a second. The Moderator called for a vote of the motion. The motion was approved.**

1. Schedule of 2019 Session Meetings
2. Schedule of 2019 Communion Dates
   1. January 13, February 10, March 6 (Ash Wednesday), March 10, April 18 (Maundy Thursday),

**Moved, seconded and approved.**

1. Election of 2019 Executive Committee

**Moved, seconded and approved.**

1. Confirmation Exam April 30th at 6pm

4. Pastor’s Report –

1. Session Orientation – The Moderator highlighted some items from the Session Orientation packet.
2. Focus 2019 Update – Strengthening Connectedness in the Church and with the Community – The Moderator said that he wants all committees to set at least one goal at their April committee meeting and report back at the next Session meeting. He asked if anyone already had already set their goals and wished to share them with the Session. Ginny Dailey shared that Preschool staff hold a monthly parenting class for young families from 9am to noon. Some of the parents have become members or have expressed interest in joining the church. This class involves church staff as well. She also mentioned their goals to fund four scholarships to the preschool for the Fall. Four (4) African-American children have been identified as scholarship recipients. The Board needs to raise $14,000 to make this happen. Two (2) of the recipients are younger siblings of Sealey Elementary students. She also shared that the Witness Committee conducted a new intergenerational mission trip to Panama City during spring break. She provided details of how this trip helped local congregations. Laura Barrett is organizing another trip back to Panama City from April 18-20. This has helped us build a connectiveness with congregations and people in our Presbytery. Frank Walper said Evangelism Committee is focusing on connecting new members to programs and opportunities within the church. They are gathering information to understand what brought new members to Faith. They are also checking to see how often sponsors contact new members. They are also focusing on educating them on how to use the Shelby app. They are also communicating information on new members to church staff and all members. They are developing a visitor contact plan. Betsy Wood is contacting all visitors in Trinity’s absence. Mollie Novin mentioned that Youth & Families Committee is identifying four opportunities for youth outreach and four opportunities to connect with others in the congregation. Some ideas discussed were asking a woman’s circles to serve dinner to youth on Sunday night, holding a parent of youth class on Sunday mornings and potlucks. Also discussed was connecting with Bethel AME youth group on a joint service project. Neal Evans asked about the communications initiative identified in the officer retreat. The Moderator reported that Amanda Bevis and George Reynolds are working with Cheri Harkema on expanding social media presence. George Reynolds mentioned that there were over 1,100 followers on Facebook for the pumpkin patch. There are far fewer that follow the main Faith Church page. He mentioned a way to send an invite to someone you know that would be interested in following this page.
3. Long Term Strategic Plan (LTSP) Update – The Moderator said that they met again this week. They are focusing on listening and gathering information phase. He said that each member of the committee were assigned specific tasks to work on for this effort. Neal Evans said he would like include a member from Management Committee on this plan as well since the church’s policies and procedures list long term planning as within this committee’s responsibilities. Charles Ranson mentioned that identifying expertise within the church membership will help this plan.
4. Thank you Note to Pledgers Update – The Moderator said that he would leave a list of names and Thank You cards in each elder’s box to complete and send within the next two weeks.

5. Youth Elder Report – Molly Novin reported that youth discussed the recently completed Panama City mission trip over spring break. The domestic youth mission trip budget will be used to provide funds for youth going on international mission trip. A new summer intern from FSU named Florence has been hired. The youth will be providing meals for the Fargeson family as they are dealing with one of their children in the hospital.

6. Finance Report – Randy Zepp referenced the current church bulletin for the most recent receipts and expenditure totals. Receipts are ahead of expenditures which is not normal in March.

7. Committee Reports – The Moderator said this is a new addition to the agenda which provides committees to highlight initiatives and work of their committee. Randy Zepp mentioned that the Buildings & Grounds Committee has church workday scheduled for April 6th. For the Youth & Families Committee, Mollie Novin said that some incoming 6th grade parents would like a choir for the middle school aged group. The Children & Families is continuing to prepare for Vacation Bible School (VBS). Lee Andre said enrollment for VBS is going slower than normal and they looking into other avenues for advertising. She also mentioned the Easter workshop on Palm Sunday weekend, Mother’s Day and a splash party. Malikah Woody reported that the Adult & Families Committee is planning out the Lenten study schedule and planning for the Fall. Linda Antwi said that the Stewardship Committee is working on a narrative budget to communicate to the congregation. They have created and launched a time and talent survey for the congregation to complete. They are also launching a Circle of Faith endowment project. Andee Harrison reported for Worship & Music Committee about the two Easter services this year which is one more than the past few years. They have ordered new serving cups for Furthest Pew and next the Taize Service is on April 12th. For the Preschool Board, Ginny Daily mentioned Beverly Sims has announced retirement and they are organizing three subcommittees to prepare for her retirement and hiring a new director. Jason Taylor reported that the Personnel Committee is discussing ways to help support Beverly’s retirement recognition. For the Witness Committee, Ginny Daily mentioned we appear to have the largest number of participants in recent church history signed up for an international mission with 28 people of which 14 are youth for the trip to Guatemala this summer.

8. Diaconate Report – George Reynolds IV reported a good turnout at the first Diaconate meeting. Currently serving deacons were paired up with new deacons to help with assimilation into the work of the Diaconate. Lois Franklin has been our funeral service coordinator and is looking for a replacement. Amber Dodson is the new leader of the Diaconate.

9. Consent Agenda –

a. **Stewardship Committee recommended approval of the following changes to the church rolls:**

* **Request to Transfer by Letter from Active Roll (2)**: Andrew and Carol Oseroff.
* **New Members Received (4)**: Angela Madden, Kendall Taylor, Javonne Taylor and Patty Shirman.
* **Marriages (1)**: Grayson Lee Hagan to Jason Cooper.
* **Baptisms (4)**: Ansley Lynn Barry, Maryann Emersyn Taylor and Lewis Montgomery Summy.

b. Youth & Families Committee requested approval to hold a youth and families retreat at Dogwood Acres in the fall.

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, the Moderator called for a vote of the motion. **The motion was approved.**

10. Motions in Action Agenda – No items were listed.

11. Items Not In Agenda – No items were mentioned.

12. Informational Items – No items were mentioned.

# 13. Communion - Holy Communion was observed to conclude the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

**No actions of Session Approved by Email between March 3rd & March 31st**

 The next Stated Session Meeting is on Sunday, April 28, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by

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Barney Ray, Clerk of Session

Approved by Moderator

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Brad Clayton, Senior Pastor