

Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting  
Faith Presbyterian Church  
Tallahassee, Florida  
January 23, 2022

1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Devotion and 2. Joys & Concerns

The Stated Session Meeting of Faith Presbyterian Church was called to order in the Fellowship Hall by the Moderator Dr. Brad Clayton and opened with a devotion by Wayne McDaniel at 11:45 a.m. Joys and concerns were shared and the Moderator offered an opening prayer.

The Ruling Elders (13) present were Bob Apgar, Courtney Atkins, Ruth Bedell, Leon Corbett, Pat Farrell, Laura Ketcham, Karen Linville, Wayne McDaniel, Linda Shelley, Matt Sirmans, Robert Volpe, Jason Welty and Roy Youngblood. **A quorum of at least one-third of the members of the Session was present.**

The Ruling Elders (7) absent were Aggie Bell, Amanda Bevis, Neal Evans, Andee Harrison, Mary Keyt, Lee Marsh and Frank Walker III,. Teaching Elder Trinity Whitley (Associate Pastor) was also not present

Barney Ray (Clerk of Session), Randy Zepp (Church Administrator), Will Armstead (Diaconate Representative) and Ginny Dailey, Mike Metz, Anita Parish (chairperson) and Ruth Reynolds from the Anti-Racism Task Force were also present.

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 **December 5, 2021 Stated Session Meeting and December 12, 2021 Congregational Meeting. Hearing none, the minutes were approved by acclamation.**
- b. Ministry Information Form (MIF) – For the Director of Christian Education for Youth and Young Adults. **Roy Youngblood moved to approve the MIF and Linda Shelley seconded the motion.** The Moderator said that the MIF in the packet did not require an ordained person so that the church could go ahead and get it advertised. He explained that they plan was to seek the congregation's approval to seek Presbytery's approval for another ordained position. Another MIF would be required to advertise for an ordained person once approval is received. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Wayne McDaniel expressed appreciation for those who completed the form. The Moderator requested that the **Session approve calling a congregational meeting following the worship service on Feb 6<sup>th</sup>. Jason Welty moved as such and Linda Shelley seconded his motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

- c. Annual Statistical Report – **Linda Shelley moved to approve the report. The motion received a second. The motion was unanimously approved.**
- d. Commissioners for Winter Presbytery Meeting – **Linda Shelley and Roy Youngblood volunteered to serve as commissioners.** The Moderator also asked for volunteers to help with hosting the meeting that day and requested elders to let him know if they could help.

The Moderator announced that he was moving the antiracism task force report up in the agenda before the Pastor's Report so that task force members could leave the meeting sooner if they chose to leave at the end of their report presentation.

5. Anti-Racism Task Force Report – Anita Parish (chairperson) provided an overview of the process her task force went through to prepare the report presented. The three (3) recommendations from the report were:

- Seek information from members on their views of structural and systemic racism and the need for ongoing work on antiracism, using listening sessions planned by Session or Task Force.
- Form a standing committee of Session to continue the work of education and action on racial justice, disparities, and inequities.
- Respond to the PC(USA) challenge to become a Matthew 25 church.

The committee members expressed their desire for the work of the task force to continue beyond the end of the task force at Faith Church. Several members of the Session expressed appreciation for the work of the task force. The Moderator invited elders to ask questions of the task force members present.

The Moderator said he would like to refer two of the recommendations to standing committees. **He requested that the Adults & Families Committee meet and come to the Session for recommendations for the first item. He requested that the Witness Committee meet and come to the Session for the second and third items. He also requested that all elders learn more about the third item.**

#### 4. Pastor's Report

- a. Faith Worship by the Numbers – Numbers of in-person and virtually viewing of services were included in the Session packet. Attendance this month is up from January 2021 but still less than prior to the pandemic in March 2020.

He reported that the preschool closed Friday due to the number of teachers who were required to quarantine due to exposure and would have to stay closed at least a couple of days next week. He reported that some of the church staff have quarantined due to exposure. There was some discussion about asking the task force about any recommendations they would have including whether to encourage but not require vaccinations to the congregation. Several elders said that they were comfortable with the current policies and were not in favor of shutting down current programs and expressed optimism that the current omicron variant wave is starting a decline.

- b. Session Study "Naked Spirituality" by Brian D. McLaren – Discussion of Part II of the book.

6. Financial Report – Robert Volpe reported that the financial report in the packet was the end of the year report for 2021. He said he would answer any questions about it but none were asked.

7. Diaconate Report – Will Armstead reported that Diaconate approved requesting a 2% increase to the 2022 budget. He said they had a presentation from Janet Bard Hanson to speak about Annie's Nursing School, a proposed childcare/daycare school in Frenchtown set to open in the fall of 2022. The Diaconate voted to give \$2,000 toward \$50,000 the school needs in start-up money.

8. Consent Agenda – The Moderator asked if anyone wanted to pull anything from the consent agenda for discussion. Ruth Bedell asked to discuss the motion from Finance Committee about changing the procedure for the processing of the offering. The Moderator then asked if there was a motion to approve the remainder of the consent agenda. **Jason Welty moved approval of the remaining items and Robert Volpe seconded the motion. The consent agenda was unanimously approved.**

- a. **Worship & Music Committee** requested the baptism request for Eliana Jolee Zimmerman, daughter of Cole and Mayra Zimmerman on January 30, 2022. Cole is a member.
- b. **Membership Report** requested that the Session approve the membership report which included the following changes to the church rolls:
  - Members to be Dropped from Active Roll (1): Charles “Skip” Cook.
  - Deceased (2): Larry Austin and Bill Reed.Total Membership after these changes is 791.
- c. **Children & Families Committee** requested approval for Communion to be served at the Faith Family Retreat February 25-27.
- d. **Finance Committee** requested approval of the following items:
  - Move the Fellowship Meals budget and designated fund accounts from Management Committee to the Diaconate.
- e. **Adults & Families Committee** requested approval of the following items:
  - The book *A Gentle Answer* by Scott Sauls for church wide study during Lent
  - The book *How to Heal Our Divides: A Practical Guide* by Brian McLauren, Diane Butler and others for study by the Black Dog class.

## 9. Action Agenda

From the consent agenda

- d. **Finance Committee** requested approval of the following item:
  - Revise the procedures to allow two unrelated officers of the church to sign for the offering and deliver to the safe in the counting room in the office after church services.

Ruth Bedell said that as a head usher, there are times she has had to ask ushers to perform this task even if they are not officers. She asked if Finance was going to assign specific officers for each Sunday to perform this task. Robert Volpe said he would circulate a sign-up sheet. **The Moderator suggested that the motion should be tabled to address this issue in the procedure.**

- a. **Youth & Families Committee** requested that the Session approve purchase, preparation and serving of meals by gloved adults for Sunday night youth group. Pat Farrell (moderator of committee) said that the alternative offered was to order boxed meals. He said currently youth bring food and eat outside.

**Linda Shelley moved approval of both the motion and the alternative offered by the Committee. Pat Farrell seconded the motion. Wayne McDaniel offered**

a friendly amendment to require masks for adult serving outdoors. No objections to the friendly amendment were raised. The amended motion was unanimously approved.

b. Finance Committee requested that the Session approve the 2022 Budget.

<b>Budgeted Revenues</b>	
Pledged Contributions	\$1,015,472
Non-Pledged Contributions	\$230,000
Loose Offering	\$6,000
<b>Total Contribution Receipts</b>	<b>\$1,251,472</b>
Miscellaneous Receipt	
Preschool Donations	\$10,000
Excess Carryover Prior Year	\$53,891
Other Miscellaneous Receipts	\$5,000
Online Process Fee Donations	\$1,200
<b>Total Miscellaneous Receipts</b>	<b>\$70,091</b>
<b>Total Budgeted Receipts</b>	<b>\$1,321,563</b>
<b>Budgeted Expenditures</b>	
Presbytery, Synod, & G.A.	\$70,000
Presbytery of Florida	\$53,520
Delta Court Taxes	\$2,000
Delta Court Mortgage Interest	\$1,600
Delta Court Mortgage Principal	\$14,000
Preschool Scholarships	\$9,180
Children & Families Committee	\$9,600
Adults & Families Committee	\$6,252
Youth & Families Committee	\$15,200
Communications Committee	\$3,000
Stewardship Committee	\$2,095
Management Committee	\$136,466
Diaconate Operating	\$1,250
Diaconate Benevolence	\$24,148
Presbyterian Women Operating	\$1,300
Presbyterian Women Benevolence	\$3,240
Witness Committee Operating	\$1,025
Witness Committee Benevolence	\$61,654
Personnel Committee	\$809,435.41
Worship & Music Committee	\$22,100
Buildings & Grounds Committee	\$124,000
Evangelism Committee	\$3,350
Finance Committee	\$6,000
<b>Total Budgeted Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,326,895.41</b>

The motion was unanimously approved.

The Moderator expressed his gratitude for the financial gifts from the members during the pandemic that allowed the church to finish 2021 in a positive position and to provide for the 2022 budget. Robert Volpe expressed appreciation for the work of his committee and all committees on their budgets.

- c. **Personnel Committee** requested that the Session approve adding the following language to the church policy on salary adjustments.

An employee may be granted a salary adjustment if the employee's responsibilities are increased and the supervisor and the Personnel Committee deem that a salary increase is justified and the budget allows.

Bob Apgar (moderator for Personnel) noted that the motion in the packet left off "...and the budget allows." With that change to the submitted motion, **the motion was unanimously approved**.

- d. **Buildings & Grounds Committee** requested that the Session approve \$6,510 to refinish the front wooden doors of the Sanctuary. **The motion was unanimously approved**. Linda Shelley said that the designated funds account is for replacing pew cushions and flooring in the Sanctuary.

10. Items Not In Agenda – The Moderator asked if there were any items anyone wanted have considered adding by a 2/3's vote.

11. Information items – Linda Shelley reported that an update to the elevator would be required by the end of 2023, and the Building & Grounds Committee would be requesting funds needed for that purpose as soon as final estimates were received.

The Moderator closed with prayer to conclude the meeting at 1:43 p.m.

### **Summary of Motions Approved by the Session**

- **Approved of the minutes from the Stated Meeting of December 5, 2021 and the Congregational Meeting of December 12, 2021.**
- **Approved Ministry Information Form for non-ordained Director of Youth and Young Adults.**
- **Approved calling a congregational meeting following worship in the Sanctuary on February 6, 2022.**
- **Approved Annual Statistical Report.**
- **Approved of commissioners for the Presbytery of Florida meeting on February 22, 2022.**
- **Approved the baptism request for Eliana Jolee Zimmerman, daughter of Cole and Mayra Zimmerman on January 30, 2022.**
- **Approved the membership report and changes to the church rolls.**
- **Approved serving Communion at the Faith Family Retreat February 25-27.**
- **Approved moving Fellowship Meals budget line and designated funds to the Diaconate from the Management Committee.**
- **Approved books for Lenten study and for the Black Dog adult Sunday school class.**
- **Approved for adults to bring prepared meals or order boxed meals to serve with mask and gloves outside to youth on Sunday nights.**
- **Approved the 2022 budget of \$1,326,895.41.**

- **Approved personnel procedure for a salary adjustment for a church employee if the responsibilities are increased and both the supervisor and Personnel Committee approve within budget.**
- **Approved \$6,510 in funds to refinish the front doors of the Sanctuary.**

**The Moderator referred the three recommendations from the Antiracism Task Force report to the Adults & Families Committee (Recommendation 1) and Witness Committee (Recommendation 2 and 3) for discussion with direction to bring motions to the Session at a future meeting. He also asked all elders to learn more about Recommendation 3.**

**Actions of Session Approved by Email between December 5, 2021 & January 23, 2022:**

No actions were requested by email.

Respectfully submitted by

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Barney Ray, Clerk of Session

Approved by Moderator

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Dr. Brad Clayton, Senior Pastor