

Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting
Faith Presbyterian Church
Tallahassee, Florida
January 28, 2018

1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer

The Stated Session Meeting of Faith Presbyterian Church was called to order and opened with a prayer in Room 110 of Faith Presbyterian Church by the Moderator, Senior Pastor Brad Clayton, at 12:15 p.m.

The Ruling Elders (15) present were Linda Antwi, Randy Beach, Sue Colombo, Charles Dodson, Janet Evans, Dennis Ferguson, Skip Forsyth, Michaela Fredrickson, Chip Jennings, Pam Leslie, Becky Miller, Charles Ranson, Caitlin Ray, Lewis Shelley and Frank Walper. **A quorum of at least one-third of the members of the Session was present.**

The Ruling Elders (6) absent with prior notice were: Leigh Ansley, Jill David, Alison Denny, Vicki Weber, Elaine Youngblood and Shaun York.

Also present (4) were: Trinity Whitley (Teaching Elder/Associate Pastor), Barney Ray (Clerk of Session), Randy Zepp (Church Administrator) and Courtney Barry (Deacon).

2. Devotion Chip Jennings provided the devotion.

3. Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Joys and concerns were shared for Lewis Shelley's recent retirement as city attorney of Tallahassee, Trinity and Leigh traveling to continuing education opportunity next week, the health of member Al McCully and the effects of the flu across the country especially with the recent closure of Gulf County (FL) schools on Friday.

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 **December 3, 2017 Stated Session Meeting, the December 3, 2017 Congregational Meeting and the January 21, 2018 Called Meeting. All minutes were approved as submitted.**

b. Approval of 2017 Statistical Report

Questions were asked about the number of baptisms in the report as they appeared low and about how the ethnic numbers are collected. Trinity said the new membership form requests the ethnic identification. Linda Antwi stated that her ethnicity was incorrectly identified on the report as African when she her identification is African American. The Clerk of Session mentioned that a previous member of Session had identified herself in the Other category as she was multi-cultural but that is not reflected in this report.

The Moderator said that he would request that staff review the number of baptisms and the ethnic numbers to revise the report. He recommended that a revised report would be sent out by email and for

Session to vote by email since the report is due by February 15th and no Stated Meetings are scheduled before then.

No vote was taken on the statistical report.

- c. Commissioners Report for 1/27 Presbytery Meeting in Quincy
Pam Leslie mentioned that two churches were removed from the Presbytery per their request. Both had memberships in the 20 to 25 range.

A presentation on Thornwell House in South Carolina was provided. They have branched out to provide non-residential services in Florida.

An overture to present to General Assembly to divest all investments in fossil fuels was presented. After much discussion, it was passed.

The Presbytery Women annual meeting will be on April 7th at Fellowship Presbyterian.

Dogwood Acres is holding a week for the family of children below second grade to attend the week after July 4th. Appreciation was expressed to Faith Presbyterian for construction of a deck led by the Denny's at the recent Family Retreat at Dogwood Acres.

The Presbytery financials were better last year. They ended the year in the black. Only two churches did not fulfill their pledges. She noted that 1st Presbyterian (Tallahassee) and Faith are about 44% of the funding for Presbytery.

An offer has been made and accepted by a General Presbyter (GP) candidate. The candidate still needs examination by the Committee on Ministry (COM) for their approval.

Sheldon Steen did the mediation/sermon at the meeting.

Another overture was approved for certified church administrators (Professional Administrators) to have a voice at Presbyterian meetings. This would require a change to the Presbytery constitution and Book of Order.

Lauren Scott, a student at Florida State and a member of UKirk has requested to become an Inquirer into ministry.

5. Pastor's Report

- a. Committee Formations
The Moderator requested that elders provide him with their top three choices for committee service for next year.
- b. Officer Exam
The Moderator reminded everyone that the officer exam for new elders and deacons is on Tuesday, February 13th at 6pm in the parlor and that a quorum

is needed. He also requested everyone add to their calendars the Confirmation Exam on Tuesday, May 1st at 6pm.

c. Presbytery Update

The Moderator said that as reported in the Presbytery Meeting report, a candidate for the GP position has accepted an offer but he could not identify the candidate until the candidate is examined by COM and then is approved at a called presbytery meeting.

d. Presbytery Exchange on February 25th

The Moderator reminded everyone that he (at Monticello) and Trinity (at Havana) would be preaching at other churches on February as part of the Presbytery exchange among churches. The pastor who was scheduled to preach at Faith that day has left for another call but an interim or other substitute would fill in at Faith that day. The Moderator said that this is also an opportunity for a leadership exchange as well so if anyone wants to attend, to notify him and Trinity.

6. Youth Elder Report

Michaela Fredrickson reported that the Souper Bowl of Caring was next Sunday this is raising money for Kearney Center and food for Manna on Meridian. Dogwood Acres Youth Conference is February 16-18 and this is a Presbytery Retreat for 6th – 12th graders.

7. Finance Report

Lewis (Lew) Shelley requested to address this under the 2018 Budget item on the agenda.

8. Diaconate Report

Courtney Barry reported that Deacons did not meet last month but would meet in February. The next Fellowship luncheon will be on Feb 25th.

9. Evangelism Committee Report – New church logo

Frank Walper reported that there is a need to develop a new church logo. The current logo is difficult for church staff to apply and is not consistent across different mediums. He said that the Evangelism Committee has budget to contract with 99 Designs to provide proposals. We only pay if we select one of their proposals. He mentioned that we need to have a plan to transition to the new logo which impacts every committee. He said he was not proposing any motions but seeking feedback from the Session. He offered to bring back a plan to the Session. Randy Zepp mentioned that the current logo was developed using a new mission statement several years ago. He mentioned that if there was going to be work to develop a new mission statement then this might need to be worked into the new logo design. Janet Evans said that it has been a while since our last leadership retreat and maybe that might help with the development of a new mission statement and strategic goals which could feed into the design of a new logo. Lew mentioned that he is not sure that a change is needed has everything has been improving financially while using the current logo. The Moderator said that he thought scheduling a leadership retreat is logically the next step.

10. Stewardship Committee Report – Spring Faith on April 29th

Linda Antwi reported that a meeting was held last week to do some preliminary planning for the Spring Faith event on April 29th. Assignments were made but a more detailed report would be sent to the Session. The Moderator said that the church staff will work on the gratitude part of this event. Frank said that this is the time to thank volunteers and to recruit members to serve.

11. Consent Agenda –

- a. The Adults and Families Committee requested approval of the book *Holy Cross, Life Giving Tree* by Donnel O'Flynn for our Lenten Study.
- b. The Stewardship Committee requested approval of membership report which reported that Davidson Dunlap, Sr as deceased on December 21st and Melanie E. and Elizabeth A. Black as baptized on January 21st.
- c. The Worship and Music Committee requested approval to move the April 8th communion date to April 1st for Easter Sunday and to add special communion dates for Ash Wednesday on February 24th, Maude Thursday on March 29th and Christmas Eve on December 24th.

The Moderator asked if anyone wanted to discuss any of the items on the consent agenda. Hearing no further requests, **a motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda items were approved.**

12. Motions in Action Agenda

- a. The Worship and Music Committee
 - i. New AV system control/automation

Pam Leslie asked a procedural question as to whether this request had been presented to the Buildings & Grounds (B&G) Committee or the Finance Committee. The committee chairs for both said no. It was mentioned that it was originally included for consideration by B&G as a part of their stretch budget request for 2018 but was not prioritized in their budget request. Pam said that according to the Finance Committee procedures, this should come through Finance Committee. Discussion centered around what the current policies and procedures require and whether this request conforms with those guidelines or not. The Moderator said that he recommended that this item go through the Finance and Building & Grounds Committees and come back to the March meeting with a request. **The motion was withdrawn.**

- ii. Harbor Chase as extension of Furthest Pew

Caitlin Ray reported that we have volunteers go over every 3rd Sunday to conduct a service with residents at Harbor Chase which is a retirement and assisted living community. The volunteers would also like to serve communion as well however this is not the same Sunday that we serve communion at Faith. They asked about moving to the same Sunday at our communion but another church has that Sunday. However the request is to consider this as an extension of our Furthest Pew project where volunteers take communion to shut-ins the same day as the

church's communion. She asked if the delay from our Communion at church too far apart. Pam asked why the Session has to approve since Worship & Music can provide for communion to set-ins. The Moderator said that he and Trinity are not always available to perform communion at Harbor Chase and he would like for elders and deacons to provide the communion in those instances. This is intended as an extension of our church service to serve communion to those at Harbor Chase a week later. **Janet made a motion to make Harbor Chase an extension of Furthest Pew. The motion received a second and was approved.**

b. 2018 Budget

Lewis Shelly said that it had been many years since projected receipts were at least 8% greater than the prior year. He said that the Stewardship Committee members and volunteers were to be congratulated for their efforts. Projected receipts were enough to meet all stretch budget items for all committees. He highlighted a 3% raise for staff, \$5,000 for Manna on Meridian and \$3,500 for the Sealey Partnership in the Diaconate budget. B&G Committee requested \$10,000 for replacement or renovation but Finance Committee feels that it is better to put this in a designated funds account so that if any of it is not needed in 2018, the remaining funds would continue beyond the current budget. Chip Jennings said in a previous meeting that it was mentioned that Sheldon Steen had requested an increased contribution to UKirk. Lew said that the 5% increase in giving to UKirk is in the Witness Committee proposed budget. Pam asked about the increase in Children & Families Committee and what that included. Lewis said that this reflects a more realistic budget for actual operating costs rather than relying on Pumpkin Patch funds to supplement these costs. A question was asked about whether all program and church staff were receiving a 3% increase. The answer was yes.

A motion was made to approve the 2018 budget of \$1,249,752.88 as submitted. A second was made. The motion was approved.

The Moderator said that because of the approval of the budget which included a change in compensation for ordained staff, a congregational meeting to approve a change in terms of call for the senior pastor and associate pastor was required. He said that Sunday, February 11th was the soonest this meeting could occur. He requested approval to call a congregational meeting for this purpose on February 11, 2018 at the worship service. **A motion was made, seconded and approved to call a congregational meeting for February 11, 2018 at the worship services to approve the terms of call for the senior pastor and associate pastor.**

13. Items Not In Agenda

The Moderator asked if anyone had anything they wished to add to the agenda.

Dennis Ferguson requested approval to add to the agenda approval of a concert on April 8th to benefit UKirk. The Moderator called for a vote to approve adding the item requested. **The Session voted to add this item to the agenda.**

Dennis said that the Witness Committee requested approval for use of the Sanctuary for a concert about 3pm for the benefit of UKirk on April 8th. Their plan is to host a community event appealing to the University and local Presbyterian community. UKirk students will act as greeters. Signage and promotional materials will request suggested donations of \$10 per adult and \$5 per student. They hope to have student musicians and musicians from area churches, along with possibly children's choirs from area churches. The UKirk staff and Board will coordinate and supervise. The purpose of the fundraiser is to fund rent assistance and Montreat scholarships for students.

A motion was made to approve the request. The motion received a second and was approved.

Caitlin Ray requested approval to add to the agenda approval of a baptism request received this week. The Moderator called for a vote to approve adding the item requested. **The Session voted to add this item to the agenda.**

Caitlin said they just received a baptism request from church members Clain and Kimberly Zimmerman for their son Kyler on March 25th. She said that the Worship & Music Committee members had approved the request via email.

A motion was made to approve the request. The motion received a second and was approved.

12. Informational Items

Frank Walper said that Father Meninger would be at Faith on February 26th. Dennis Ferguson said that he had received a request from Haiti mission partners for people to come and help paint a house there in April. It was mentioned that we have two hosts for lenten studies but more hosts would be appreciated. March 4th is date for the new officer ordination.

13. Communion - Holy Communion was observed to conclude the meeting at 2:04 p.m.

Actions of Session Approved by Email between December 3rd and January 28th

No actions were conducted by email.

The next Stated Session Meeting is March 4, 2018.

Respectfully submitted by

Barney Ray, Clerk of Session

Approved by Moderator

Brad Clayton, Senior Pastor