Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting

Faith Presbyterian Church

Tallahassee, Florida

January 26, 2020

1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Devotion

After determining that everyone expected was present, 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 11:45 a.m. Becky Miller provided the devotion.

The Ruling Elders (13) present were Bob Apgar, Lee Andre, Randy Beach, Amanda Bevis, Ginny Dailey, Andee Harrison, Cory Hill, Bill Holliman, Mike Metz, Becky Miller, Charles Ranson, Linda Shelley, and Malikah Woody. **A quorum of at least one-third of the members of the Session was present.**

The Ruling Elders (7) absent were Linda Antwi, Syauchen Baker, Neal Evans, Lee Marsh, Molly Novin, Jason Taylor and Frank Walper.

Associate Pastor Trinity Whitley (Teaching Elder), Barney Ray (Clerk of Session) and Randy Zepp (Church Administrator) and Joanna Forsyth (Diaconate representative) were also present.

2. Sharing of Joys and Concerns –

Concerns were shared for Kevin Askew, Duff Maki, the family of Joetta Heerema, Mike Metz, Sheryl Ranson, and Andrew Ray. Prayers were requested for the Preschool Search Committee for the Director position as they interview candidates. Joy shared for Lee Andre’s promotion at work. The Moderator said a prayer for those mentioned by name.

The Moderator said that Cory Hill (elder and member of the Finance Committee) had requested to move the 2020 Budget approval to earlier in the meeting before he had to leave the meeting in case there were questions. Hearing no objections, the action item for the 2020 Budget was discussed at this time.

10. Motions in Action Agenda

a. The **Finance Committee** recommended the Session’s approval of the 2020 Budget. Randy Beach started by reviewing the final Financial Report for 2019. He said that while the receipts had trailed expenditures during the year, the month of December received an increase in receipts that closed the gap and ended the year with a $16,000 surplus. He said that the church had received 230 pledges so far and that 38 pledges had not yet been received from members who pledged in 2019. So the total pledged is expected to increase. The 230 pledgers are greater than recent history of 215 to 220. The non-pledged contributions line was reduced from $175,000 to $144,840 to be closer to the 2019 actual receipts of $132,002 for this line.

Total Budgeted Receipts is $6,000 greater than Total Budgeted Expenditures for 2020. Initially they were $15,000 greater but the Finance Committee used $9,000 to add to the newly created Preschool Scholarships line. Other increases to the budgeted expenditures included increase to Diaconate Benevolence and creating a $3,000 budget line for Communications Committee. The Personnel Budget was increased to provide an across the board 5% increase to all church staff compensation. Randy Zepp said that it had been two years since the last increase and the cost of living was 2.8% and 1.6% for those two years. Amanda Bevis and Ginny Daily both expressed appreciation for the staff and that we have the best church staff around. The Moderator thanked them for their comments and he agreed that we have great staff.

The Moderator asked if Shannon Guse’s request for a $3,000 increase to Youth & Families Committee to fund a youth retreat at Dogwood Acres had been received by the Finance Committee. Randy Zepp said that the request from that committee was the same amount as for 2019. Ginny Dailey made **a motion to amend the proposed budget to add $3,000 to the Youth & Families Committee budget for the youth retreat and approve the budget** submitted with this addition. Charles Ranson seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote of the motion.  **The motion was approved.**

The Moderator stated that since the approved budget including a change in compensation for the Pastor and Associate Pastor that a Congregational Meeting was required to approve the new Terms of Call for both ordained positions.

Charles Ranson made a **motion to call a congregational meeting on February 16th for the purpose of approving the Terms of Call for the Pastor and Associate Pastor** and Ginny Dailey seconded the motion. The Moderator said that since it was Faith’s tradition to have someone other than the Pastor or Associate Pastor moderator a congregational meeting for the purpose of approving their Terms of Call, he said he would check to see if Sheldon Steen could moderate the meeting. **The motion was approved.**

Cory Hill said that the Finance Committee hopes to have something to bring to the Session in February regarding a recommendation for On-line giving.

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 December 15, 2019 Stated Session Meeting, the December 22, 2019 Called Session Meeting or the December 15, 2019 Congregational Meeting. Linda Shelley requested correction in the Stated Minutes to correctly identify Trinity Whitley as the new Moderator of the Presbytery’s Committee on Preparation for Ministry. A motion **to approve minutes as corrected and the other two as submitted. The motion received a second. The Moderator called for a vote of the motion. The motion was approved.**
2. Report on the Presbytery Meeting at First Presbyterian (Pensacola) on Saturday, January 26th – No commissioners from Faith attended. The Moderator and Associate Pastor Trinity Whitley did attend and they provided a report. The Moderator was commissioned as a delegate from the Presbytery to the General Assembly in Baltimore this summer. The new Moderator of Presbytery was commissioned. A total of five (5) overtures were presented and approved by Presbytery. These included approval of up to 12 weeks of maternity/paternity leave for ordained staff; enforced severance pay and divestment based upon environment issues. Lauren Scott was approved as a candidate for ministry. A new pastor was received for Grace Presbyterian in Panama City.

1. Approval of the 2019 Statistical Report - A motioned was made and received a second to approve the 2019 Statistical Report. **The motion was approved**.

4. Pastor’s Report –

1. Focus 2019 Update – The Moderator said that he needed to schedule another officer’s retreat for 2020 but that we would be continuing to report on the Focus 2019 priorities until then. Bill Holliman attended a Salt shaker meal and was very complimentary and encouraging for continuing this new initiative. Lee Andre said that her committee was beginning Vacation Bible School (VBS) planning. Lee Marsh was absent from the Session meeting due to the Mission trip informational meeting at the same time.
2. 2020 Stated Session Schedule –

All meetings start at 11:45am unless otherwise indicated.

January 26   
February 23 (Start at 12:15pm due to Fellowship Lunch)  
March 29  
April 26  
May 17 or 31  
June – no meeting  
July 26  
August 23  
September 27 (Start 12:15pm due to Fellowship Lunch)  
October 25  
December 6

The Moderator asked the Session if they preferred meeting in May the week before Memorial Day weekend or the weekend after. No preferences were expressed. Associate Pastor Trinity Whitley said that a church luncheon was planned for May 17th so the meeting would start later if held that date. May 31st includes a summertime breakfast before church. The Moderator said he would check his schedule to see if he could be back from time off for May 31st.

1. Reminder of Called Meeting on 2/2/2020 to receive new members. The Moderator asked for a show of hands from elders who can attend. Barney Ray requested for someone to serve as the Clerk of Session for the meeting. Amanda Bevis volunteered.

5. Youth Elder Report – Molly Novin was absent due to attending a church youth event in Orlando at Rock the Universe.

6. Finance Report – Randy Beach covered the finance report under the approval of the 2020 Budget action item.

7. Diaconate Report – Johanna Forsyth reported that new diaconate leadership was announced at their last meeting.

8. Communications Reports – Amanda Bevis reported that we launched the new sermon podcast for those who missed a Sunday. She discussed the results of the use of Google Ads. Since our website gets a lot of use, one idea for 2020 would be to update the church’s website. Ginny asked about the event form and if there was a standard for use of Signup Genius. Amanda said there was not one at this time.

9. Consent Agenda – The Moderator asked if anyone had wanted to discuss any of the items on the consent agenda. Hearing no such request, the two motions were moved to the Consent Agenda.

a. The **Adults & Families Committee** recommended the Session’s approval of *The Walk*by Adam Hamilton for the 2020 Lenten Study.  
 b. The **Buildings & Grounds Committee** recommended the Session’s approval of allocation of any carryover 2019 funds to the B&G Designated Funds account to cover the cost of replacement equipment and unbudgeted emergency repairs as needs arise during 2020.c. The **Stewardship Committee recommended approval of the** Membership Report to reflect Keith C. and Stephanie M. Humphries, Marc F. Paul and Robert H. Perry as new members received on 12/22/2019. James Biggert as a member dropped from the Rolls and Junn Conn Guthrie as deceased.  
 d. The **Youth & Families Committee** recommended the Session’s approval of the screening and discussion of Resilience (<https://kpjrfilms.co/resilience/>) in March.

Bill Holliman moved to approve the consent agenda and Charles Ranson seconded the motion. The Moderator called for a vote of the consent agenda. **The Consent Agenda was approved.**

10. Motions in Action Agenda –

b. The **Preschool Board** recommended the Session’s approval for**:** i. The Lighting Improvement Project for all preschool classrooms and hallways. The cost estimate is $13,000 of which the Board budgeted $10,000 for the expense but they also have memorial contributions on behalf of Karen McGehee that will cover the remaining expenses. Wayne McDaniel is working to conduct some work with church volunteers to lower the budget. **The motion was approved.**

ii. 2019-2020 Fundraising Plan Update

Regarding the fundraising plan update to sell bags of Luck Goat coffee in the Narthex in February, the Moderator mentioned that the church has a long standing policy of not allowing the selling of tickets or fundraising in the Sanctuary or Narthex. Bill Holliman asked if they could set up outside instead of in the Narthex. Ginny said they could do so when the weather is nice. Charles Ranson called the question. **With the stipulation that coffee sales would take place either outside the Sanctuary and Narthex after church or in the Fellowship hall, the motion was approved.**

iii. 2020-2021 Fundraising Plan Approval

Trinity asked if Step up money could reduce some of the need for fundraising dollars. Ginny said that it could but they would also consider using any surplus from fundraising for facility updates. **The motion was approved.**

c. The **Youth & Families Committee** recommended the Session’s approval of*Our Whole Lives* (Sexuality curriculum) for Middle School aged students on April 15, 22 and 29. This is new curriculum not used by the church before. **The motion was approved.**

11. Items Not In Agenda – No other items were brought forth.

12. Other – Linda Shelley reminded everyone that next Sunday was the annual Souper Bowl of Sharing event. The Moderator mentioned that the Girl Scout Building located behind the church campus was coming up for sale. The church was offered an opportunity to purchase before it is publically listed. Church staff has walked the building but anyone else who is interested should let him know. Ginny Dailey mentioned that the Preschool wing has a major plumbing improvement coming in the future. She said preschool board doesn’t have budget for it and may be coming to the Session with it. Linda Shelley said that the Session approved rolling over 2019 surplus into a fund for unexpected repairs. Ginny said that they are looking at a Conscious Discipline workshop and she would probably bring to Session a request in February for a workshop in May on parenting for preschool, church members and community. Trinity Whitley said that for Evangelism Committee, the next new member classes are on Wednesday night March 4th and 11th. For the Personnel Committee, the Moderator said that Pam Mills has announced that she is retiring in May. They will work on how to thank her for her years of service and for filling her position. With Preschool Director Beverly Sims’ retirement the same month, they are the two longest tenured staff at the church.

# 13. Communion - Holy Communion was observed to conclude the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

**Actions of Session Approved by Email between December 15th & January 26th**

Since there was no scheduled Stated Meeting of Session before January 26th, the Pastor requested by email on January 16th for Session’s approval of a baptism request for the 2-year-old daughter of Stephanie and Keith Humphrey (Jane) on January 26. The Humphreys are new members at Faith. Worship & Music had approved the request. **The request was approved by email vote of members of the Session.**

The next Stated Session Meeting is on Sunday, February 23, 2020.

Respectfully submitted by

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Barney Ray, Clerk of Session

Approved by Moderator

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Brad Clayton, Senior Pastor