Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting

Faith Presbyterian Church

Tallahassee, Florida

May 31, 2020

1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Devotion

As was approved at the Called Session Meeting of March 25, 2020, the meeting was conducted via teleconferencing.

The Stated Session Meeting of Faith Presbyterian Church was called to order and opened with a prayer by the Moderator, Associate Pastor Trinity Whitley, at 11:30 a.m. Cory Hill provided the devotion.

The Ruling Elders (16) present were Bob Apgar, Lee Andre, Aggie Bell, Amanda Bevis, Alice Bonn, Leon Corbett, Neal Evans, Cory Hill, Mary Keyt, Laura Ketcham, Duff Maki, Tracy Morales, Linda Shelley, Robert Volpe, Malikah Woody and Roy Youngblood. **A quorum of at least one-third of the members of the Session was present.**

The Ruling Elders (6) absent were Ginny Dailey, Andee Harrison, Bill Holliman, Lee Marsh, Jason Taylor and Frank Walker III.

Barney Ray (Clerk of Session) and Randy Zepp (Church Administrator) and Nancy Wesley (Diaconate representative) were also present.

2. Sharing of Joys and Concerns – The Moderator asked if anyone had any joys or concerns to share. Prayers were requested for W.O. Bell for his surgery this week, a person who was the first employee who tested positive at his place of work and for their co-workers, the curfew in Leon County announced last night and for Caitlin Ray’s return from Seoul, South Korea on June 15th. Joys were shared for the recent high school and college graduates.

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 **April 26, 2020 Stated Session Meeting, the Called Session Meetings of May 18, May 19 and May 21.**

Hearing no corrections, the Moderator asked if there was a motion to approve all minutes as submitted. Linda Shelley so moved and Bob Apgar seconded the motion. Calling for a vote of the motion, a**ll minutes were approved as submitted.**

1. Email received from W.O. Bell who is the Chair of the Committee on Presbytery Administration expressing gratitude to the Session and members of Faith for their pledge above what was requested.
2. Ginny Dailey and Linda Shelley have registered as commissioners for June Presbytery meeting.

4. Pastor’s Report –

1. Session Retreat in the Fall – Reminder of the retreat dates of September 25-26 and that the Stated Session meeting would be held on the last day instead of on Sunday.
2. Faith Online By the Numbers – The Moderator said that the numbers show a decrease in views from the prior month which could be for a variety of reasons including increased travel of members.
3. Returning to Worship – The Moderator went through the current draft plan for return to worship and asked for the Session’s input. Neal Evans suggested that a safe dismissal process be developed for the end of worship services.

Mary Keyt expressed concerns about the increased risk associated with the choir and congregational singing and the spread of the virus. The Moderator said that Peter Pursino is aware of the concern and is a member of two national choral organizations and is monitoring the advice, research and recommendations regarding singing. At this time, he does not foresee a choir in the worship services when we return.

The Moderator asked if the Session was still comfortable with allowing the church staff to make decisions every two weeks. The Session members all indicated they were still comfortable with staff continuing to make their plans at two week intervals.

Leon Corbett and Neal Evans asked questions about whether this plan would be updated for CDC guidelines as they change in the future and training for nursery workers that will be responsible for cleaning. The Moderator said that they would continue to monitor for changes in CDC guidelines and that nursery workers would be trained on cleaning and other guidelines. If a child is brought to the nursery with a temperature, the parents would be lovingly told that they will not be able to leave the child in the nursery.

1. Youth Elder Report – Alice Bonn reported that youth are planning to meet over the same in small groups of no more than six (6). Activities include meeting at someone’s house on their drive way in chairs at least six feet part and wearing masks and high school trail walks for physical exercise. They will continue with volunteering at the Second Harvest food bank but restricted numbers will be allowed to sign up. Virtual cooking dates are scheduled beginning Monday, June 15th as well.

5. Financial Report – Cory Hill reported that he recently received updated May receipt and expenditure information since the finance report was sent with the Session packet. He reported budget receipts of $512,000 and actual receipts of $508,000. He then reported budgeted expenses of $526,000 and actual expenses of $518,000. He said the receipts do not reflect the on-line giving receipts for May which we should get soon. These have been averaging about $10,000. All in all the financial picture is still very positive as we head into the summer months. He mentioned that the Finance Committee minutes for their meeting provide information about the PPP loan obtained by the church with about half going to cover the salaries of the preschool staff and half to cover the salaries of church staff. This will give us an extra $100,000 to cover the budget.

6. Diaconate Report – Nancy Wesley reported good news about Shellie Camp volunteering as the new Manna on Meridian coordinator. Betsy Wood will coordinate the number of volunteers for bagging to ensure that only a safe number come to our campus. The deacons are planning for the resumption of Wednesday night dinners in the fall and for Jubilee in September. They may ask the elders to help with some setup since we will be on-site for the officer retreat the day before.

7. Consent Agenda – The Moderator asked if anyone had wanted to discuss any of the items on the consent agenda.

a. The **Stewardship Committee recommended approval of the** Membership

Report to reflect:

Members to be dropped from Active Roll: Alyssa D. Shipe per her request.

With these changes, the total membership of the church is 823 members.

Hearing no such request, a vote on **the Consent Agenda was approved.**

8. Items Not In Agenda – The Moderator asked if there were any items anyone wanted have considered to add by a 2/3’s vote. None were offered.

9. Informational Items/Committee Reports –

Pam Mills last day in the office before retirement was last Thursday. Remaining staff will take up her duties including maintain the Shelby church membership software. A question was asked about when her position would be filled. The Moderator said she would pass this question on to the Senior Pastor but that she thought he might be waiting for office staff to return to the office and waiting to see how the budget picture develops this year.

Neal Evans said that Management Committee is looking into acquiring a Zoom account for the church so that we do not have to rely on personal accounts like Amanda’s in the future. He also mentioned that Peter Pursino is waiting on a device he ordered to support live streaming of worship services in the future. We should have the device in a couple of weeks. There will be three (3) set up and the ability to add visual content to the video picture as well.

For the Communication and Evangelism Committees, Amanda Bevis requested that elders like, comment or share church Facebook posts to help boost our social media presence which has declined recently.

The Moderator reported that the Preschool Board met this month and voted to delink the preschool calendar from the Leon County Schools calendar as a policy decision. If public schools do not open to students coming on campus, the preschool is preparing a re-opening plan that may reduce class size. Daycare is a critical need for many families with parents who work. They also decided to discontinue drop-ins for extended care due to the need to provide adequate coverage. They plan to provide each student ages 3 and above with two washable masks. Contact Becky Miller if you are interested in making masks for the preschool children. The new preschool director, Alison Lee, starts Monday, June 1st though Beverly Sims is still helping with the transition.

1**0**. Closing prayer - to conclude the meeting at 12:23 p.m.

**Actions of Session Approved by Email between April 26th and May 31st**

No requests for approval by email occurred during this time.

The next Stated Session Meeting is on Sunday, July 26, 2020.

Respectfully submitted by

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Barney Ray, Clerk of Session

Approved by Moderator

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Brad Clayton, Senior Pastor