

Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting  
Faith Presbyterian Church  
Tallahassee, Florida  
October 25, 2020

1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Devotion

The Stated Session Meeting of Faith Presbyterian Church was called to order in the Room 110 with teleconference for those elders not physically present and opened with a prayer by the Moderator, Senior Pastor Brad Clayton, at 12:20 p.m. Mary Keyt provided the devotion.

The Ruling Elders (14) present. Physically present (1) was Neal Evans. Present (13) via teleconferencing with Zoom were Aggie Bell, Amanda Bevis, Leon Corbett, Ginny Dailey, Alice Bonn, Cory Hill, Laura Ketcham, Lee Marsh, Linda Shelley, Robert Volpe, Mary Keyt, Malika Woody and Roy Youngblood. **A quorum of at least one-third of the members of the Session was present.**

The Ruling Elders (7) absent were Lee Andre, Bob Apgar, Andee Harrison, Bill Holliman, Tracy Morales, Jason Taylor and Frank Walker III.

Associate Pastor Trinity Whitley (Teaching Elder), Barney Ray (Clerk of Session), Allen McConnaughay (Deacon) and Randy Zepp (Church Administrator) were also present. All were physically present except for Allen McConnaughay who attended via teleconferencing.

2. Sharing of Joys and Concerns – The Moderator asked if anyone had any joys or concerns to share. Randy Zepp requested prayers for the parents of his wife Carole Zepp, Trinity Whitley requested prayers for her sister as she seeks advice and treatment for her cancer diagnosis and Barney Ray requested prayers for Skip, Kathy, Christie and Joanna Forsyth who held a memorial service in the Sanctuary on October 24<sup>th</sup> for their son (and brother) Andrew Forsyth who passed away unexpectedly in August 2020. Joys were expressed for the first in-person worship service in the Sanctuary on the morning of October 25, 2020 for the first time since March 2020.

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 **September 25, 2020 Stated Session Meeting**. **Neal Evans moved and Linda Shelley seconded the motion to approve** the minutes as submitted. **The minutes were unanimously approved.**
- b. Election of Elder for the Fall Presbytery Meeting on 10.27  
Linda Shelley and Roy Youngblood volunteered to serve as commissioner for the meeting. **Neal Evans moved and Cory Hill seconded the motion to approve them as commissioners. The motion was unanimously approved.**

4. Pastor's Report –

- a. Officer Nominator Committee – Trinity and Linda reported that they had not received any nominations from the congregation so they requested that elders think about people to nominate and submit them to Linda for consideration.

Linda said that she has read that getting leaders that represent a good cross section of the church is important for the health of the church. She said to especially think about people who have never served.

- b. **Presbytery Stewardship Report** – A video was played for the Session on-line and in person. Linda Shelley shared that she had received a challenge budget from the Presbytery for 2021. Linda said that Faith Church is the largest church and contributes the most money of any church in the Presbytery. She mentioned that there are churches with as few as 10 members that need our help. Roy suggested that Trinity share the video and slide show for new members and new officers training in the future. The Moderator thanked both Linda and Roy for serving on presbytery committees this year.

5. **Financial Report** – Cory Hill said that the budget is fairly stable. Receipts were about \$40,000 lower than budgeted but expenses were \$75,000 lower than budgeted. He said the Finance Committee anticipated having a 2021 budget for the next Session meeting. He said they expect to have the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) loan paperwork completed and submitted by the end of 2020. The total of the committee budget requests for 2021 is a total of \$1.3M which is about \$100,000 more than the 2020 budget. The total budget requested is greater than the challenge budget increase of 2%. Roy Youngblood asked if Randy Zepp could provide an update in the pledges received for 2021. Randy said that we have received 31% of the \$1.1M total pledges needed for the challenge budget. He said that of the 230 family units we had received 80 of them which is a total of \$334,000. Ginny Dailey challenged all elders including herself to get our pledges in by the end of the week. Robert Volpe said that it is easy to do using Google forms link from our website.

6. **Diaconate Report** – Allen McConnaughay reported that we have been in touch with Second Harvest who reported that there is such a great need for food in the community. They are requesting that people give to their general fund rather than a specific need. Deacons did not see any issue with this. Deacons are planning an alternative church fellowship lunch at the church. No food would be provided by the church. Attendees would bring their own food and would be assigned an area to picnic on the church grounds. November 15<sup>th</sup> is the first tentative date. The diaconate requested the Session's feedback. The Moderator asked if there were any voiced concerns. Hearing none, he told Alan to report that the Session voiced no concerns back to the Deacons.

7. **Consent Agenda** – The Moderator asked if anyone wanted to pull anything from the consent agenda for discussion. Hearing no such request, the Moderator asked if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda. Roy moved approval and Mary Keyt seconded the motion. **The consent agenda was unanimously approved.**

a. **Adults & Families Committee:** Requests that Session approve use of Light of the World: A Beginners Guide to Advent by Amy-Jill Levine for use in adult small groups during the Advent season. Published by Cokesbury in 2020, this study dives into the history of the birth of Christ.

b. **Worship & Music Committee:** Carson DaSilva, Maggie Linville and Jimmy Scheer are students that need to be baptized.

8. Action Agenda –

a. **Building & Grounds:** Requests that the Session add \$15,690 to its 2020 budget for the purchase and installation of an “i wave” air purification system for all areas of the church.

Discussion: Roy asked where the money is coming from for the 2020 budget. Neal Evans asked Cory Hill how the church was doing in the budget. Cory said that budget was available to cover this expense due to lower expenses this year. Mary Keyt said that it was a really good expenditure for safety reasons and supports this motion. Randy Zepp said this would be good to let the members know about this investment. Neal Evans said he’s only concern was using a sole source from a business perspective rather than seeking additional bids. Linda Shelley said that Central Heating & Air is the company that the church uses for HVAC services and knows our equipment and that we are receiving Charles Hood’s employee discount. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

9. 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.

10. Informational Items/Committee Reports –

The Moderator asked if there was anything to share from the committees as informational items. Ginny Daily shared that the preschool just completed eleven weeks since the start of the fall semester. She said that eighty-two (82) children are currently attending under a lower limited capacity. She thanked the Buildings & Grounds Committee for the washer and dryer so that the cloth masks could be washed daily. She said that eight (8) children were attending on scholarship but that they are losing one of the children due to relocation to another city and will look for another child to use for the scholarship. She said that the Shelley’s have continued to serve as mentors to the children on scholarship. She said the Board is planning to increase the number of children to twelve (12) per classroom in January to reach a total capacity of ninety-five (95). She said that the preschool will have a financial shortfall of \$30,000 to \$60,000 if they do not increase the number of students attending. She said that fundraising is still planned to try and meet the financial need but may need some additional assistance. She mentioned that they are planning an advent nativity drive through behind the church one long weekend as a fundraiser. She said the plan was to find sponsors to fund ten exhibits at \$2,000 per exhibit to raise \$20,000. The expect expenses of \$5,000 so that they would net \$15,000 from the event. Mary Keyt asked if they were charging admission. Ginny said no but they were planning to use the pumpkin patch drop box for anyone wishing to make a donation.

Malikah Woody said that Adults & Families Committee was preparing for the advent season. They are looking for people to host small group meetings on their driveways. She said that the curriculum titled Holy Disunity previously approved by the Session has received a lot of positive feedback from participants. She said they are looking at another concept of brief bible study followed by a run or walk.

Robert Volpe said on behalf of the Stewardship Committee he wanted to express appreciation to the Moderator and church staff for their hard work in preparing and implementing the Stewardship financial plan in October. Since there is no scheduled Session Meeting in November, he asked that elders consider helping with the calling of

members to follow up on people who have not turned in a pledge that have done so in the past.

Barney Ray said that we need to plan for the calling of a congregational meeting whenever we are prepared to elect new officers and for how to ensure a quorum of ten percent (10%) of the membership is present to approve them. This would require a total between eighty (80) to ninety (90) members must be present. The current limitation on how many people can attend in person makes it unlikely that number would be present. The Moderator asked the Session if they would be okay with an email vote for calling a meeting since it will likely need to be called the first or second week of December. Elders expressed their approval for voting by email without dissent. The Moderator said that he would check with some other churches that have already had to call congregational meetings during the pandemic to see how they were able to accomplish this.

11. Closing prayer - to conclude the meeting at 1:32 p.m.

The next Stated Session Meeting is on Sunday, December 6, 2020.

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

**Approved Linda Shelley and Roy Youngblood as commissioners for the Fall Presbytery Meeting on October 27, 2020.**

**Approved the Adults & Families Committee request of use of *Light of the World: A Beginners Guide to Advent* by Amy-Jill Levine and published by Cokesbury in 2020 for use in adult small groups during the Advent season.**

**Approved the Worship & Music Committee request for baptism of youth students Carson DaSilva and Maggie Linville.**

**Approved Buildings & Grounds request to add \$15,690 to its 2020 budget for the purchase and installation of an "i wave" air purification system for all areas of the church**

Respectfully submitted by

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Barney Ray, Clerk of Session

Approved by Moderator

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Brad Clayton, Senior Pastor