Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting

Faith Presbyterian Church

Tallahassee, Florida

April 25, 2021

1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Devotion

The Stated Session Meeting of Faith Presbyterian Church was called to order via teleconferencing and opened with a prayer by the Moderator, Senior Pastor Brad Clayton, at 11:45 a.m.

The Ruling Elders (13) present. Present via teleconferencing with Zoom were Bob Apgar, Aggie Bell, Ruth Bedell, Skip Cook, Leon Corbett, Neal Evans, Pat Farrell, Mary Keyt, Laura Ketcham, Karen Linville, Lee Marsh, Wayne McDaniel, and Jason Welty. **A quorum of at least one-third of the members of the Session was present.**

The Ruling Elders (9) absent were Courtney Atkins, Sophie Beckham, Amanda Bevis, Andee Harrison, Matt Sirmans, Linda Shelley, Robert Volpe, Frank Walker III and Roy Youngblood.

Associate Pastor Trinity Whitley (Teaching Elder), Barney Ray (Clerk of Session), Shellie Camp (Deacon) and Randy Zepp (Church Administrator) were also present.

The devotion was provided by Bob Apgar.

2. Sharing of Joys and Concerns – The Moderator asked if anyone had any joys or concerns to share.

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 **March 28, 2021 Stated Session Meeting.** Hearing none, **the minutes were approved by acclamation.**
2. Presbytery Meeting - The Spring Presbytery Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18, 2021. **Wayne McDaniel and Jason Welty volunteered to serve as the two commissioners from Faith. Pat Farrell will serve as an alternate**.
3. Communications – No other communications to report.

4. Pastor’s Report

1. Faith Worship by the Numbers – Information was available in the Session packet.
2. Reopening Worship

Food – The Moderator shared some options under consideration for restarting food provided at the church for various events. He mentioned the upcoming Presbyterian Women event and Vacation Bible School (VBS) as two such events where meals were planned. He described single service of food as wrapped sandwiches or boxed lunches rather than covered dish self-service meals. Aggie Bell shared that the plan for VBS is for wrapped, sealed bags or boxed food delivery to each room where capacity is limited to 7 children. The Moderated asked if someone would be willing to make a motion regarding the authorization of single service of food.

**Laura Ketcham made a motion to approve single service food offerings for church events and Mary Keyt seconded the motion**. Hearing no further discussion, the **motion was approved**.

Splash Party – Mary is trying to schedule a splash party for children in June. Wearing masks would not be practical due to playing in water. How many children and parents? About 60 individuals. Leon Corbett asked if Trousdale pool is open then okay but if it isn’t why would we replicate this on the church campus. Neal and Lee spoke against holding the event or at least being cautious with monitoring public health data. Laura Ketcham said she thought that children would not be in close proximity for 15 minutes due to the nature of the activity. Aggie Bell agreed with following the city in regards to opening their pools. The Moderator said that we will advise Children & Families committee that Session did not approve holding this event on campus unless the city pool were opened.

Worship Attendance – Under the current phase of re-opening for in-person worship, we have allowed up to 34 families to sign up for worship with 6 feet distancing in the sanctuary. The advisory group did not recommend reducing the distancing to 3 feet as the updated Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance allows. We do believe we can add a few more spaces to maintain 6 feet distancing. Discussion included the desire to increase worship attendance capacity tied to the return of in-person Sunday School. Leon Corbett and Wayne McDaniel said they would like to see the Fellowship Hall set up for viewing worship to provide a way to increase capacity on campus. The Moderator said that he would meet with the staff to look into this possibility.

1. Reminder of Called Session Meeting to receive new members on May 16th at 10am. Skip Cook, Pat Farrell, Mary Keyt and Ruth Bedell volunteered that they would attend in person so that we can have a quorum for a Called Meeting to receive new members. The requirement is for minimum of two elders for this purpose to establish a quorum.
2. Anti-racism Initiative – Leon Corbett shared that he has received communication for some members of the church who have expressed concerns about the anti-racism initiative in the church. They are unclear about the motives and scope. As an example, he said that some were either were in law enforcement or had relatives or friends in law enforcement. They wonder if the church is supporting protests against law enforcement such as defunding the police. He said he has tried to let them know that the church is just trying to learn about systemic racism and create ways for us all to communicate about the issues. Mary Keyt recommended that members attend one of the anti-racism committees meetings to learn more about what is discussed. Wayne McDaniel asked who authored the anti-racism statement. Trinity Whitley explained that it was created by both teaching and ruling elders of the Presbytery. She said that she was the moderator of that committee. Wayne asked how and why the term “original sin” in regard to slavery in this country was used in this statement. The Moderator said it was used to express that while people today were not responsible for slavery that this was inherited from our ancestors. The Moderator said that with our country including our church is divided on the issues of systemic racism and protests, the church should create a safe space for all of our members in order to allow for a discussion and expression of thoughts so that we all learn more from each other. He encouraged us to develop relationships with other people as a part of this initiative.

5. Financial Report – Randy Zepp reported that as of today, receipts exceed expenses by $51,000. Of the $600,000 cash in the bank, about $323,000 is unrestricted. The counseling center will be moving out of the Delta Court property soon. Wayne McDaniel asked why our land is only valued at $27,000 on the financial statements. Our current insurance policy is $10 million to cover the buildings and contents. Annual reviews help the Management Committee to keep the insurance coverage up to date. It was recommended that the church have their buildings and land evaluated periodically such as every five years as this would could be used for future loans from banks.

6. Diaconate Report – Shellie Camp reported that 24 Easter lilies were delivered to homes. Fall Jubilee is set for September 19. Faith is the lead for Manna on Meridian for May. She expressed appreciation to Buildings & Grounds for the renovation to Delta Court. The backpack is current serving 3 families. Teacher appreciation week is the first week in June. Diaconate will publicize so that membership can donate for the teachers at Sealey Elementary.

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. Bob Apgar moved approval and Neal Evans seconded the motion. **The consent agenda was unanimously approved.**

1. **Worship & Music Committee requested** the Session approve the baptism of **Madeline Feiock**, daughter of Ruth Storm (new member joining on May 16th), **Michael Dobson** (new member joining on May 16th), **Blake Tinsley Scott**, daughter of Carter and Callaway Scott and Jack **Antonio Ptachick,** son of Cody and Annamarie Ptachick**.**
2. **Adults & Families Committee requested** the Session **approve a book study by Austin Channing Brown titled “I’m Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness”**. The study to be led by Angela Madden on Sunday afternoons in June.

8. Action Agenda – No items on the action agenda.

9. Items Not In Agenda – The Moderator asked if there were any items anyone wanted have considered adding 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. No items were mentioned.

11. Closing prayer - to conclude the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

**Summary of Motions Approved by the Session**

* Approval of the minutes from Stated Meeting on March 28, 2021.
* Approval to serve single service food at church events.
* Approval of baptisms for Madeline Feiock, Michael Dobson, Blake Tinsley Scott and Antonio Ptachick.
* Approval of a book study by Austin Channing Brown titled “I’m Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness”. The study to be led by Angela Madden on Sunday afternoons in June.
* Approval of Wayne McDaniel and Jason Welty as commissioners for the May 18th Presbytery Meeting with Pat Farrell serving as an alternate.

**Actions of Session Approved by Email between March 28, 2021 & April 25, 2021**

On April 6, 2021, an email was sent at the direction of the Moderator to the Session requesting an electronic vote on a baptism request on April 25, 2021 for Charlotte James Van Hise who is the daughter of members John Van Hise III and Meghann Van Hise. The Pastor and Worship & Music Committee had already approved the request. **The Session approved the request for baptism by email vote.**

Respectfully submitted by

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Barney Ray, Clerk of Session

Approved by Moderator

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Brad Clayton, Senior Pastor