Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting

Faith Presbyterian Church

Tallahassee, Florida

December 5, 2021

1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Devotion

The Stated Session Meeting of Faith Presbyterian Church was called to order in the Fellowship Hall by the Moderator Dr. Brad Clayton and opened with a devotion by Matt Sirmans at 11:50 a.m. Joys and concerns were shared and the Moderator offered an opening prayer.

The Ruling Elders (16) present were Bob Apgar, Aggie Bell,, Courtney Atkins, Neal Evans, Pat Farrell, Andee Harrison, Mary Keyt, Lee Marsh, Wayne McDaniel, Linda Shelley, Matt Sirmans, Robert Volpe, Frank Walker III, Jason Welty and Roy Youngblood. Teaching Elder Trinity Whitley (Associate Pastor) was also present. **A quorum of at least one-third of the members of the Session was present.**

The Ruling Elders (5) absent were Amanda Bevis, Ruth Bedell, Leon Corbett, Laura Ketcham and Karen Linville.

Barney Ray (Clerk of Session), Randy Zepp (Church Administrator) and Susan McLeod (Diaconate Representative) were present.

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 **October 24, 2021 Stated Session Meeting and November 14, 2021 Congregational Meeting.** One correction identified. With that correction, the Moderator asked if the minutes could be approved by acclamation. **The minutes as corrected were approved by acclamation.**
2. Order of the Day – On behalf of the Presbytery of Florida, Roy Youngblood expressed appreciation to Faith Presbyterian for their support of the Presbytery of Florida. He noted that the 2022 budget was included in the Session packet and offered to answer any questions. Hearing none, he asked that everyone prayfully consider volunteering to serve on one or more of the Presbytery of Florida committees.
3. The Moderator said that he had received a request from Presbytery asking Faith to host the Winter Presbytery Meeting on Tuesday, February 22nd. He said that is also the meeting for the installation of Associate Pastor Trinity Whitley as the Moderator of Presbytery. Wayne McDaniel moved to host the meeting and Linda Shelley seconded the motion. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

4. Pastor’s Report

1. Faith Worship by the Numbers – Numbers of in-person and virtually viewing of services were included in the Session packet.
2. Session Study “Naked Spirituality” by Brian D. McLaren – Discussion of Part I of the book.
3. Request from Faith Preschool for Christmas Program – The preschool director requested that the children be allowed to remove their mask while performing for the Christmas program in the next week. **Linda Shelley moved approval of this request and Frank Walker seconded the motion**. Under discussion, Wayne McDaniel spoke against the motion. Lee Marsh noted low local positive rates and spoke in favor of the motion. Frank Walker reported no positive cases from the preschool since October 24th. Some discussion about whether this should come through the preschool board first. The Moderator said that the Preschool Board meets after this Session meeting and the program is this coming week. Also based upon prior actions of the Session in adopting, amending and approving exceptions to the COVID policy, the Moderator stated that only the Session is able to approve or deny exceptions to the policy. **The motion was approved by a majority voice vote.**

5. Financial Report – Robert Volpe reported about a $55,000 budgeted surplus in expenses. Update on the Tree of Life Endowment, the Committee met with the Presbytery Foundation on their program and information about their programs and investment options.

6. Diaconate Report – Susan McLeod reported they hadn’t submitted a budget for 2022 yet. They are planning for another church luncheon in the spring. She mentioned that there have been some Sunday’s when a finance committee wasn’t present to help take the offering to the office with the deacon. Robert Volpe will remind his committee to make sure that someone is present each Sunday. Neal Evans said that the budget line for Wednesday night dinners will be moved from Management Committee to the Diaconate in 2022.

7. Consent Agenda – The Moderator asked if anyone wanted to pull anything from the consent agenda for discussion. The Moderator asked if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda. Bob Apgar asked to discuss the item from Adults & Families Committee about hosting a dinner honoring Trinity United Presbyterian Church. **Jason Welty moved approval of the remaining items and Neil Evans seconded the motion**. **The consent agenda was unanimously approved.**

1. **Adults & Families Committee** requested that the Session approve of trip to Alabama to tour civil rights movement sites.

8. Action Agenda

1. **Membership Report**  requested that the Session approve the membership report which included the following changes to the church rolls:

Request for Transfer by Letter from Active Roll (10): Jason Taylor, Winifred Taylor, Hollyn Taylor, Tyler Twilley, Hazel Taylor, Huel Wheeler, Kay Wheeler, Carl Ferrell, Sr, Carl Ferrell, Jr and Jacqueline Ferrell.

Deceased (4): Dean Sims, Nell Long, Tip Dyrenforth and Jim Dincalci.

Baptism (1): Helen Rose Brinson.

Request to Purge from Roll (xx)

The Moderator read aloud the names from the purge lists and asked if any elders wished to remove any name so that they could attempt direct communication to so indicate.

No responses received to attempted communications (26): Jasper Brey, Alan Cummings, Beth Dimon, Sean Dimon, Stockton Fields, Graham Glover, Jennifer Glover, Holton Graham, Macey Humphrey, Phoebe Knapp, Ruby Knapp, Mark North, Rosemary Rausch, Matt Rhody, Wyatt Sexton, Wyatt Sexton, Bob Smith, Montgomery Smith, Lauren Thurston, Mike Tschirret, John Paul Walters, Karen Webb, Donald Weidner, Jill Weidner, Linda Winders, Henry Winders and Lynne Witherspoon.

Moved out of town and no contact (20): Ben Aliff, Ben Bakas, Melissa Bakas, Denise Bell, Grayson Cooper, Mac Hagan, Jim Bob Heller, Keli Langley, Jacob Lollar, Sarah Lollar, Dennis Mason, Stephanie Mason, Brian Metz, Savannah Nation, Leigh Ramsey, Debbie Rhody, Samantha Rhody, Sam Rhody, Grayson Ruhl and Sheffield Timm.

Samuel Croghan was on both purge lists and was pulled from both until it could be determined which list he should be included on.

Courtney Atkins requested to remove Heidi and Steve Copeland from the purge list so that she could attempt communication.

**With adjustments indicated above, the membership report including the purge lists were approved.**

The total membership updated to 748 members.

1. **Children & Families Committee** requested that the Session approve children wearing masks come forward for Young Disciples beginning December 12th and requests Children’s Worship resume on January 9th.

**The** **motion was approved.**

1. **Adults & Families Committee** requested that the Session approve an event on January 28, 2022 honoring Trinity United Presbyterian Church as part of their Founder’s Day Weekend. Depending upon on COVID restrictions, a dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall followed by showing of a film about the founding of Trinity UPC and other activities organized by the Antiracism Committee.

Under discussion, Bob Apgar said that he was asked by Ruth Reynolds to ask the Session whether there was a possibility that the current COVID restrictions would be changed before this event to allow for a catered dinner inside the Fellowship Hall. The Moderator noted that the next scheduled Session meeting is Sunday, January 24th which would not allow enough time to plan for a catered dinner for January 28th.

After requesting a voice vote of the motion, the Moderator requested a vote by raising hands to ensure a correct recording of the vote and determination of the motion. **The motion was not approved by an 8 to 5 vote** **against the motion**.

9. Items Not In Agenda – The Moderator asked if there were any items anyone wanted have considered adding by a 2/3’s vote.

Jason Welty said that the management committee discussed boxed meals for Wednesday nights in January and requested a 2/3’s vote to add to the agenda. **The Session approved adding this item for discussion with one vote against**.

Jason said that not having meals provided on Wednesday nights creates a burden on parents and their children and so they are not coming to Wednesday night programs. The Moderator said that numbers for these programs are down. **Jason Welty made a motion to an option for members to order boxed meals for adults, youth and children for eating outside. Linda Shelley seconded the motion.**  Trinity Whitley asked what the expectation was for financing the meals. The question asked was would parents cover all costs or would the church subsidized the meals. Jason said Management Committee has $5,000 in their budget for meals that haven’t be touched however they are requesting this line item move to the Diaconate budget in 2022. Pat Farrell said that none of other committees such as Children & Families, Youth & Families and Adult & Families have been consulted about this. It was suggested to take reservations but order a few extra meals. The amount of each box priced at $3 per child, $5 per adult and $15 per family. Wayne McDaniel asked if this could be a pilot for January and evaluate based upon that pilot project. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

10. Information items –

Communion was observed with a closing prayer to conclude the meeting at 1:13 p.m.

**Summary of Motions Approved by the Session**

* **Approval of the minutes from the Stated Meeting of October 24, 2021 and the Congregational Meeting of November 14, 2021.**
* **Approval to host the Presbytery of Florida meeting on February 22. 2022.**
* **Approval for preschool children to remove masks while performing the Christmas program the week of December 13th.**
* **Approval of trip to Alabama to tour historical civil rights movement sites.**
* **Approval of the membership report and purge request.**
* **No approval of a catered dinner on January 28, 2022.**
* **Approval for ordering boxed meals to eat outside on Wednesday nights in January.**

**Actions of Session Approved by Email between October 24, 2021 & December 5, 2021:** No actions were requested by email.

Respectfully submitted by

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Barney Ray, Clerk of Session

Approved by Moderator

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Dr. Brad Clayton, Senior Pastor