Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting

Faith Presbyterian Church

Tallahassee, Florida

February 27, 2022

1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Devotion and 2. Joys & Concerns

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 Laura Ketcham at 11:47 a.m. Joys and concerns were shared and the Moderator offered an opening prayer.

The Ruling Elders (14) present were Bob Apgar, Courtney Atkins, Ruth Bedell, Pat Farrell, Andee Harrison, Laura Ketcham, Karen Linville, Lee Marsh, Wayne McDaniel, Linda Shelley, Matt Sirmans, 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 (6) absent were Aggie Bell, Amanda Bevis, Leon Corbett, Neal Evans, Mary Keyt and Robert Volpe.

Barney Ray (Clerk of Session), Randy Zepp (Church Administrator) and Katherine Peters (Diaconate Representative) were also 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 **January 23 2022 Stated Session Meeting, February 6 2022 Congregational Meeting and February 20 2022 Called Session Meeting.** **Linda Shelley moved approval of all minutes as submitted and Jason Welty seconded the motion. All minutes were unanimously approved.**
2. Communications from Allen and Jen McConnaughhay requesting change to the church mandatory mask policy to optional. Roy Youngblood asked if the Clerk would return a communication thanking the McConnaughhay’s for their letter. The Clerk agreed.to do so.

4. Pastor’s Report

1. Examination of new officer Carter Wilson – Carter Wilson read his faith statement and answered questions from the Session. **A motion was made and seconded to successfully sustain his examination as a new ruling elder**. The Moderator said that he would attempt to schedule a meeting to examine Candy Woodward at a future date. He also mentioned that new officer installation was scheduled for Sunday, March 6th during worship.
2. Session Study “Naked Spirituality” by Brian D. McLaren – Discussion of Part III of the book.
3. Request from Elders Laura Ketcham and Karen Linville concerning mask policy – **Laura Ketcham made a motion to terminate Faith’s indoor mask mandate and adopt a mask-optional policy. Karen Linville seconded the motion**. Discussion included elders sharing their views and opinions about whether to continue requiring masks or not. The Moderator shared that he had asked the pandemic task force members from the health care field their opinions about requiring masks and he said that they were divided two and two on this issue. **Courtney Atkins made a motion to table the motion for next month in order to give more time to consider and evaluate changes to local positivity rates and hospitalizations. Her motion received a second. The motion to table was voted down by a majority vote**. Discussion of the original motion continued with statements both for and against the motion. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote of the motion by show of hands. **The motion was approved ten (10) for and four (4) against.**
4. Faith Statement from M.J. Ray – The Moderator read aloud the faith statement from new youth deacon who was examined last Sunday but forgot to bring her faith statement to that meeting.
5. Faith Worship by the Numbers – Numbers of in-person and virtually viewing of services were included in the Session packet.

5. Financial Report – Karen Linville reported that receipts were a little behind budgeted but that the overall financial condition was good. She mentioned that a meeting was scheduled this week to discuss another option for investing endowment funds. The Moderator said that we are expecting another endowment pledge and would report on it once it is received.

6. Diaconate Report – Katherine Peters reported that Diaconate was working with the International Red Cross (IRC) to support two refugee families in the community with basic needs. Susan McLeod and Associate Pastor Whitley were coordinating this effort. This would require twenty (20) members to complete background checks in order to assist. She further reported that Shellie Camp would continue as the Manna on Meridian coordinator for Faith even though she is rotating off the Diaconate. She reported that 275 families were served at the February Manna distribution.

7. Consent Agenda – The Moderator asked if anyone wanted to pull anything from the consent agenda for discussion. Hearing none, the Moderator then asked if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda. **Jason Welty moved approval of the consent agenda and Roy Youngblood seconded the motion**. **The consent agenda was unanimously approved.**

1. **Worship & Music Committee** requested the baptism request for Pepper Josephine Strauss daughter of members Theo and Melissa Strauss on March 27 and Maggie Hunter, daughter of members John and Liz Morales Hunter on April 24.
2. **Ministry Information Form** (MIF) advertisement of an ordained position as the Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults.
3. **Membership Report** requested that the Session approve the membership report which included the following changes to the church rolls:
* Baptism of Eilana Jolee Zimmermann.

8. Action Agenda

a. **Witness Committee** requested approval to have a Mission luncheon on April 3, 2022 using the protocols that were approved for Youth Sunday meals at last month’s Session meeting.

After discussion of the motion, **Linda Shelley made a motion to amend the motion to permit food preparation in the kitchen, food service inside and both indoor and outdoor seating options without masks. Lee Marsh seconded the motion.**

**A vote of the amendment to the motion was unanimously approved.**

**The newly amended motion was then unanimously approved.**

9. Items Not In Agenda – The Moderator asked if there were any items anyone wanted have considered t0 add by a two-third’s (2/3’s) vote. Jason Welty requested discussion of change to pandemic restrictions on all meal preparations and food service. The Session voted to consider this item with one vote against adding it to the agenda.

In light of the previously approved change to the mandatory mask policy to an option policy, **Jason Welty made a motion to extend the changes approved in the action agenda item for the Mission Luncheon to all meals served at the church. Wayne McDaniel seconded the motion.** After discussion, **the motion was unanimously approved**.

10. Information items – Roy Youngblood provided a report on the Presbytery Meeting held at Faith on February 22nd. Wayne McDaniel said that a church workday is planned for Saturday, March 12th. The Moderator reminded everyone of the officer retreat planned for March 25-26 and the next Stated Session Meeting afterward on March 26th.

Since the meeting was the last scheduled meeting for the Class of 2022 elders (Bob Apgar, Amanda Bevis, Neal Evans, Pat Farrell, Andee Harrison, Lee Marsh and Linda Shelley), the Moderator expressed his gratitude for their had work and contributions to continuing the work of the church and the many accomplishments of the last three (3) years during difficult times of the pandemic which began in March 2020 after they began their term on the Session.

The Moderator closed with prayer to conclude the meeting at 1:16 p.m.

**Summary of Motions Approved by the Session**

* **Approved change to the church Covid-19 policy from a mask required policy to a mask optional policy at Faith Presbyterian Church.**
* **Approved of change to the church Covid-19 policy to permit food preparation in the church kitchen and food service indoors with seating options for both indoors and outdoors without masks.**
* **Approved Ministry Information Form for ordained Director of Youth and Young Adults.**
* **Conducted the examination of Carter Wilson for the office of elder.**
* **Approved the baptism request for Pepper Josephine Strauss daughter of members Theo and Melissa Strauss on March 27, 2022 and Maggie Hunter, daughter of members John and Liz Morales Hunter on April 24.**
* **Approved Mission Luncheon on April 3, 2022.**
* **Approved of the minutes from the Stated Meeting of January 23, 2021, Called Meeting for Examination of New Officers on February 20, 2022 and the Congregational Meeting of February 6 2022.**
* **Approved the membership report and changes to the church rolls.**

**Actions of Session Approved by Email between January 23 2022 & February 27, 2022:** 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