

Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting  
Faith Presbyterian Church  
Tallahassee, Florida  
December 4, 2016

1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer

The Stated Session Meeting of Faith Presbyterian Church was called to order and opened with a prayer in the Parlor Room of Faith Presbyterian Church by the Moderator, Senior Pastor Brad Clayton, at 12:22 p.m.

The Ruling Elders present (18) were Mary Carroll, Sue Colombo, Alison Denny, Charles Dodson, Janet Evans, Skip Forsyth, Morgan Guse, Melanie Hill, Kelly Hutchinson, Chip Jennings, Pam Leslie, Mike Metz, John Obrzut, Lewis Shelley, Vicki Weber, Artie White, Shaun York and Elaine Youngblood. **A quorum of at least one-third of the members of the Session was present.**

The Ruling Elders absent (3) were Leigh Ansley, Jill David, and Teresa Sarbeck,

Also present (3) were: Barney Ray (Clerk of Session), Rob McNeely (the Diaconate Representative) and Shannon Guse (Director of Christian Education for Youth and Young Adults).

2. Devotion Shaun York provided the devotion.

3. Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Concerns were shared for Jill David (injury), Pam Leslie (upcoming surgery) and Shaun York's son who broke his arm recently. Joys were shared for Melanie Hill's brother Jerry who is responding well to treatment for cancer, Skip Forsyth's daughter Joanna who was elected to serve a deacon earlier today and Brad Clayton's brother and sister-in-law who are expecting their first child in the spring.

4. Clerk's Report

a. Approval of the Minutes –The Moderator asked if there were any discussion or recommended revisions to the minutes from the **October 30, 2016 Stated Session Meeting or the November 20, 2016 Called Session Meeting.** Hearing none, **a motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion received a second.** The Moderator called for a vote of the motion. **The minutes were approved as submitted.**

b. Commissioner's for Presbytery Meeting – **Janet Evans and Mike Metz volunteered to serve as commissioners at the Winter Presbytery Meeting on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at Lafayette Presbyterian in Tallahassee. Shaun York volunteered to serve as an alternate commissioner.**

5. Pastor's Report - The next monthly communion is scheduled for January 1<sup>st</sup>. The Moderator shared concerns that finding enough elders to serve and that smaller attendance is expected that day due to the New Year's Day holiday. He said Worship & Music Committee was to meet next week but he recommended to the Session that communion be rescheduled for the following Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. Alison Denny said that

we have rescheduled more than one communion this year due to holiday weekends and requested that Worship & Music look at this for next year's schedule. Janet Evans said that her committee would do so. **A motion was made to move communion from January 1<sup>st</sup> to January 8<sup>th</sup>. The motion received a second. The motion was approved without dissent.**

6. Youth Elder Report – Morgan Guse reported that not a lot was going on except the normal youth Sunday evening fellowship activities. It was mentioned that there would be caroling on Wednesday night.

7. Finance Report

Lewis (Lew) Shelley reported that the financial reports in the meeting packet were as of October 31<sup>st</sup> so the November reports were not completed yet. He said that receipts were a little behind expenditures which is not unusual for this time of year. He said that he is hoping that the gap will close to less than \$30,000 by year end. It said that historically a greater number of receipts are received in December. He said that 183 pledges totaling \$791,000 had been received for 2017. Both numbers are less than last year's pace at this point in the campaign. He said not to be too optimistic or pessimistic about a green light budget yet. The Moderator said that he hadn't starting making any pastoral calls on those members who pledged in 2016 but had not turned one in for 2017 yet. He said he would start this coming week. Sixty-three (63) names of people who pledged in 2016 had not yet for 2017. Most are people that we know are attending so chances are good that they just haven't turned their pledges in yet. Pam Leslie said that the Stewardship Committee is willing to help make calls. Lew Shelley said that last year, members of the Session came to church one night to help make calls based upon a script prepared to make Elders comfortable with making the calls. Alison Denny asked why we had stopped including the year-to-date (YTD) pledges, receipts and expenditures in the bulletin on Sundays. She said that might help with collections. The Moderator said that he would make sure that this was done.

8. Diaconate Report

The Angel Tree still has about 180 angel tree tags left unclaimed. More volunteers are needed to meet this need. December 16<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to bring in items for Angel Tree. Manna on Meridian had one of its largest turnouts ever distributing more than 250 bags of food in November. Rob McNeely is taking over as lead for Manna. Pam Leslie asked the Moderator if Cheri Harkema could send out a special communication about the need for donations for the Angel Tree and Manna. The Moderator said that he would do so.

9. Consent Agenda

- a. The Adults and Families Committee requested that the Session approve subjects for the Pastor's Series in January as follows:
  - January 11 Fracking - Speakers from ReThinkEnergy
  - January 18 Fracking in Fiction – Donna Meredith
  - January 25 and February 1 Books Left Out of the Bible – Sheldon Steen

The Moderator asked if anyone had a request to remove or discuss of the item from the consent agenda for questions. Hearing no such requests, the Moderator called for a vote of the consent agenda. **The Consent Agenda was approved.**

10. Motions in Action Agenda

- a. Old Business – No old business was presented.
- b. New Business – **The Youth and Families Committee requested permission to offer God’s Gift of Sexuality classes for high school students in the Spring. They are seeking approval of three speakers from the Thagard Health Center, FSU Advocacy Center and Big Bend Cares.** Chip Jennings and Vicki Weber spoke in favor of the motion. Big Bend Cares is a very factually based program. Shannon Guse said that they follow her lead about faith. Artie White said that he hoped that the topic of consent is discussed as well since that is an important topic discussed currently. Janet Evans called the question. The Moderator called for a vote. **The motion was approved without dissent.**

11. Items Not In Agenda – The Moderator asked if there were any other items to consider that were not on the agenda. No other items of business were requested.

12. Informational Items - Kelly Hutchinson said that one of our newer missionaries in Haiti (the Wilson’s) would be visiting Faith on January 15<sup>th</sup> and hope everyone would come and meet them. Vicki Weber asked if we could think about creating moderator training especially for the new elders. Lew Shelley said that he and Randy could do a special training one night on finances. The Moderator thanked everyone who had contributed daily devotions during the Advent season. He stated he could also use some more.

13. Communion - Holy Communion was observed to conclude the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

**Actions of Session Approved by Email between October 30<sup>th</sup> and December 4<sup>th</sup>**

Cheri Harkema sent email on November 2<sup>nd</sup> requesting elders to reply only if they had an objection to either the **baptism on November 27<sup>th</sup> for Evan Rose Taylor, infant daughter of members Jacob and Julie Taylor or on December 18<sup>th</sup> for Henry Dodson, infant son of members Amber and Clay Dodson.** No objections were received.

.Respectfully submitted by

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Barney Ray, Clerk of Session

Approved by Moderator

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Brad Clayton, Senior Pastor