

Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting
Faith Presbyterian Church
Tallahassee, Florida
May 21, 2017

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 Room 110 of Faith Presbyterian Church by the Moderator, Senior Pastor Brad Clayton, at 12:30 p.m.

The Ruling Elders (20) present were Linda Antwi, Leigh Ansley, Randy Beach, Sue Colombo, Jill David, Alison Denny, Charles Dodson, Janet Evans, Dennis Ferguson, Skip Forsyth, Michaela Fredrickson, Chip Jennings, Pam Leslie, Caitlin Ray, Lewis Shelley, Frank Walper, Vicki Weber, Thomas Whitley, Shaun York and Elaine Youngblood. **A quorum of at least one-third of the members of the Session was present.**

The Ruling Elders (2) absent with prior notice were Becky Miller and Charles Ranson.

Also present (5) were: Barney Ray (Clerk of Session), Randy Zepp (Church Administrator), Ed Hood (the Diaconate Representative), Clay Ketchum (church member) and Peter Pursino c. Peter was present only for the item related to use of the sanctuary for Capital Chordsmen.

2. Devotion Linda Antwi provided the devotion.

3. Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Joys were shared for another new member class led by Sheldon Steen, the great job by the youth in leading worship this morning, a church softball season without injury, Women's Luncheon this month and planning for next program year and Manna numbers were down this month which may be a good sign that there is less of a demand for food. She also mentioned that Manna is still in need of financial donations.

A request for prayers were shared two members (one is Lewis Shelley's son) of our church participating in high altitude climbs this summer and Caitlin Ray visiting South Korea next month.

4. Clerk's Report

- a. Communications - A letter addressed to the members of Session was received from First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach dated May 8th. The letter was signed by Senior Pastor Dr. W. Douglas Hood, Jr and reported that their congregation had prayed for our congregation during the celebration of The Lord's Supper which they do for three churches throughout the nation and the world each month. He expressed gratitude for our shared ministry during challenging times.
- b. Approval of the Minutes –The Moderator asked if there were any discussion or recommended revisions to the minutes from the **April 23, 2017 Stated**

Session Meeting or the Called Session Meetings of April 16th, May 1st or May 2nd.

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.

c. May 16 Presbytery Commissioners' Report

Lewis Shelley and Frank Walper provided a verbal report of the Presbytery Meeting in Panama City on May 16th. They mentioned that a vote on the child protection policy was postponed and that approval was given to search for a full time Presbytery Executive. Our Senior Pastor Brad Clayton is on the search committee. The Moderator mentioned that it was a good meeting with no controversial items.

5. Pastor's Report –

a. Officer Nominating Committee - Two volunteers from the Session are needed to serve on the Officer Nominating Committee (as Chair and Vice Chair) which is asked to serve for a full year. Janet Evans and Linda Antwi volunteered. The Moderator will work with Janet and Linda to bring back the list of names for the Session as the Nominating Committee. This committee serves as an ad hoc committee of the Session which may include recruitment of search committees such as the Associate Pastor Search Committee that was needed this year.

b. Spring for Faith – The Moderator thanked the Stewardship Committee for planning and putting on the event. We did get a lot of people to sign up for jobs and activities. In his discussion with staff, he would like to split the recruitment from the volunteer appreciation events. The staff would be responsible for the volunteer appreciation event. Sue Colombo said that it was successful for her committee where they had two men sign up and attend her committee that has few men (Adults & Families). Skip Forsyth said another measure of success is that the Management Committee got two (2) volunteers. Frank Walper said that all of the names were put in the church system (Shelby). He will work with Randy Zepp to provide permissions for moderators to see the volunteers for their activities. Jill David said that she thought it was a great event because it allowed for dialogue to answer potential volunteer questions. The Moderator said that the new Associate Pastor will have it as part of their position description to connect new members to volunteer opportunities. Lewis Shelley said he would like to work with Sue Colombo and her committee to restart the monthly Men's breakfast in September. Sue stated her willing to do so though a meal at a different time of day may be more successful. Ed Hood mentioned that at First Church in Quincy they had a midweek dinner for men.

6. Youth Elder Report – Michaela Fredrickson reported that youth are preparing for mission madness, vacation bible school (VBS) as well as trips to Montreat and Thornwell. The Moderator expressed his appreciation for the work of Shannon Guse (Director of Christian Education for Youth and Young Adults) and the youth for their participation during Youth Sunday in the worship service this morning.

7. Finance Report – Lewis Shelley reported that we are entering the time of year when receipts lag and expenses increase over the summer. He asked everyone help

encourage all members to keep up with their giving over the summer. Frank asked if we should track on-line giving by the use of personal devices. Randy Zepp and Shaun York said it is tracked but not specifically identified in the Financial Report. The Moderator said that maybe Management Committee could include the information in their monthly minutes. Lewis suggested that Finance, Stewardship and Management Committees could get together and come up with a way to communicate the results of the various means of giving. Shaun said that they have recently recruited a church member to their committee who has worked with St John's on this topic. Chip suggested that we do more promoting of giving by bank drafts (ACH). Older members are more likely to trust this method.

8. Diaconate Report – Ed Hood reported that Deacons are relatively quiet over the summer as they take a hiatus from the monthly luncheon. There is still a need for volunteers for Meals on Wheels on Memorial Day. The monthly Shelter meals still continue as well.

9. Consent Agenda – The Moderator asked if anyone wanted to discuss any of the items on the consent agenda. Vicki Weber asked to discuss the Child/Youth Protection Policy.

- a. Management Committee requested approval of revised Child/Youth Protection Policy. **(Moved from Consent Agenda to Action Agenda by request)**
- b. Personnel Committee requested approval of Brad Clayton's doctoral practicum topic.
- c. Rolls Review from Stewardship Committee
 - **New members** received: Sloan **Alley, Max Callahan Bussey, Lucy Rebecca Kile, Joshua Stephen Linville, Patrick Davis Long, Carol Chambers Miller, Elizabeth Shipp Sauer, Emma Stanton, Mirabella Trammell and Tyler Bayne Twilley on May 7th.**
 - **Members dropped from the active rolls: Abigail Sirmans Benedict** per her request as she has joined St. Peters Anglican Church on December 5, 2016.
 - **Deceased members: Middleton T. Mustian on May 3rd and Ann Adams on May 8th.**
 - **Baptisms: Britton Blair Boyd and Joshua Stephen Linville on May 7th.**
- d. Witness Committee requested approval of distribution of Pentecost Offering

The Moderator called for a vote of the remaining three items on the consent agenda. **The Consent Agenda was approved.**

10. Motions in Action Agenda

a. Old Business – No old business on the agenda.

b. New Business –

Management Committee requested approval of revised Child/Youth Protection Policy.

Discussion: Vicki was concerned about recruiting volunteers that would require a background check for relatively simple events such as unloading pumpkins and that maybe this requirement was too broad. The term "In the

company of youth and children...” was specifically mentioned. Since they participated in the drafting process of the updated policy, Thomas Whitley and Jill David provided answers to questions during discussion. Pam Leslie asked if this was an update to an existing policy why there was not a strike through copy provided and also whether this draft might conflict with the Presbytery policy that is currently under consideration. Thomas said that the current policy was adopted ten to twelve years ago and is very out of date. The Moderator said the policy under consideration by Presbytery was for Presbytery sponsored activities and could be used by churches that did not have a policy.

Lewis Shelley made a motion to approve the revised policy with authority for the Management Committee to make minor revisions to include specific examples of exclusions from background check requirements to clarify and also for them to review it against the Presbytery policy. Janet Evans provided a second to the motion.

Pam said that she was uncomfortable with approving something that is going to change. The Moderator said he has seen the term “supervision of” instead of “in the company of”. The Moderator called for a vote of the motion.

Motion was approved with one dissent.

11. Items Not In Agenda – The Moderator stated that he had received two requests to add items to the agenda.

The first request was from **Children and Families Committee collect food and donations for VBS. The Session unanimously approved to add this to the agenda.** Alison Denny stated that they normally seek money and supply donations each summer for the VBS program. They would like **permission to add seeking monetary contributions for the Red Panda at the Smithsonian.** The Red Panda is an endangered species and is the lead character for the VBS program. **The motion received a second. The motion was approved.**

The second request was from the Worship & Music Committee regarding use of the sanctuary and permission to accept donations by a Barbershop group. **The Session unanimously approved to add this to the agenda.** Peter Pursino (Director of Worship Arts) said that the Capital Chordsmen requested use of the Sanctuary for a musical concert on Sunday, August 13th. He said that they don’t sell tickets to their concert but that they asked if they can put out baskets for donations for scholarships to benefit students. **Caitlin Ray (Moderator of Worship and Music) made a motion to approve the use of the Sanctuary and allow donations. A second was made by Janet Evans.** Skip Forsyth stated the performance is worth the donation. **The motion approved was unanimously approved.**

Michaela Fredrickson requested adding to the agenda an action from Shannon Guse and Youth and Families Committee for approval of a book for the summer book club for grades 4th through 8th. **The Session unanimously approved to add this to the agenda.** The book Mockingbird which is about a girl with a disability who lost her brother is an award winning book. The book covers very sensitive subjects. **A motion**

was made to approve. The motion received a second. The motion was unanimously approved.

12. Informational Items – Dennis Ferguson thanked all of the members of the Mission team and Linda and Lewis Shelley for the luncheon after worship. Charles Dodson reported that Associate Pastor Search Committee has narrowed search to four candidates. They have interviewed three so far with one more interview in the coming week.

13. Communion - Holy Communion was observed to conclude the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Actions of Session Approved by Email between April 26th and May 21st

No actions were conducted via email.

The next Stated Session Meeting is July 23, 2017.

Respectfully submitted by

Barney Ray, Clerk of Session

Approved by Moderator

Brad Clayton, Senior Pastor