

Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting
Faith Presbyterian Church
Tallahassee, Florida
July 28, 2019

1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Devotion

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 11:49 a.m. Bob Apgar provided the devotion.

The Ruling Elders (16) present were Lee Andre, Linda Antwi, Bob Apgar, Kevin Askew, Syauchen Baker, Randy Beach, Amanda Bevis, Ginny Dailey, Andee Harrison, Cory Hill, Mike Metz, Becky Miller, Molly Novin, Linda Shelley, Frank Walper and Malukah Woody. **A quorum of at least one-third of the members of the Session was present.**

The Ruling Elders (5) absent were Neal Evans, Bill Hollimon, Lee Marsh, Charles Ranson and Jason Taylor. Associate Pastor Trinity Whitley (Teaching Elder) was excused to be with her family following this morning's baptism of her son.

The Church Administrator Randy Zepp and Barney Ray (Clerk of Session) were also present.

2. Sharing of Joys and Concerns –

Joys were shared for:

- completion of this summer's Vacation Bible School, Mission Trip and Middle-School and High-School Montreat Youth Retreats.
- Malukah Woody serving as Clerk of Session at the June Stated Meeting
- Caitlin Ray's summer return to Tallahassee and return flight to Seoul.
- Becky Miller's expected eighth (8th) grandchild though concerns for her family's health.

Concerns were shared for:

- the health of church members Leah Ansley, Jerry Chesnutt and Charles Ranson (hip surgery).
- Molly Novin's friend Ethan who lost his grandfather who had just turned 100 years old.

3. Clerk's Report

a. Approval of the Minutes - The Moderator asked if there were any discussion or recommended revisions to the minutes from the **following meetings:**

- May 19, 2019 Stated Session Meeting
- June 6, 2019 Called Session Meeting for New Members

Barney Ray mentioned one correction to the attendance for the Stated Session Meeting that had Jason Taylor incorrectly identified as absent from the meeting and one minor grammatical correction to make. A motion was made **to approve all minutes as revised. The motion received a second. The Moderator called for a vote of the motion. The motion was approved.**

4. Pastor's Report –

a. Focus 2019 Update – Strengthening Connectedness in the Church and with the Community – Ginny Dailey shared her observations of the Guatemala Mission

- Trip with a total of twenty-five (25) people. She expected teenagers would have their lives transformed and parents were along to keep them safe however it was transformational for the parents to see their children doing good without parent's prodding. It was a good team building experience for everyone. They met two (2) of our church's missionaries there. The missionaries said that they were not used to meeting their churches but had met 3 different churches on missions this year. Linda Antwi mentioned that her son, Christian, was at Montreat at the same time as our group. He is the youth director at 4th Presbyterian (Greenville,SC). Christian grew up in the youth programs at Faith. The Moderator said that Sealey Elementary moved from a C to a B school this year. Lee Andre mentioned the great VBS program in June that included children from the community. She met youth volunteers who were not members that volunteered at VBS because they attended VBS as children.
- b. Long Term Strategic Plan (LTSP) Update – The Moderator said that the committee had met a couple of times over the summer but not in July. He said the main focus has been on putting together a congregational survey to send out after Labor Day. The focus is to ask members what are their priorities as members and what they believe should be the priority of the church. He will provide guidance to elders on how to help increase participation from membership. Frank Walper asked if the communications committee was integrated into this as well initiative as well. The Moderator said that they would.
 - c. November/December Session Meeting Date – The Moderator said that traditionally the Session meets only once in the months of November/December which is normally the first Sunday of December. However because of the calendar, December 1st is the Thanksgiving weekend. He asked for feedback from the Session on the possibility of moving the meeting to either the Sunday before Thanksgiving, December 8th or 15th. The prevailing opinion was that December 15th appeared to be more favorable.
 - d. Officer Nominating Committee – The Moderator requested two volunteers from the Session to serve on the nominating committee as moderator and vice-moderator. At-large members approved at the Congregational Meeting in December are Charles Dodson, Elaine Youngblood and Allison Van Iddekinge. Linda Shelley and Kevin Askew volunteered to serve and were approved by the Session by affirmation.
 - e. Gift in Memory of Wanda McBride – The Moderator said that the group that helped support Wanda McBride has **offered a gift for improvements or updates to the Kitchen and/or Fellowship Hall and for a plaque remembering her.** Linda Shelley mentioned that the Buildings & Grounds (B&G) Committee has updating the Fellowship Hall as a priority this year. The Moderator said that because the gift comes with stipulations that the Session must approve acceptance of the gift with the stated stipulations. **A motion to approve acceptance of the gift with its stipulations was made. The motion received a second.** After no further discussion the **motion was approved.** August 21st is the first Wednesday night program of the year. The plaque will go inside the Fellowship Hall by the Kitchen. **Ginny Dailey asked to make a motion to notify church members of an opportunity to contribute to the designate funds account set up by the gift.** The Moderator asked the Session

if they wanted to entertain the motion since it was not on the agenda under consent or action agenda. **Session voted unanimously to add this motion for consideration. The motion was made and received a second. The motion was approved.**

- f. Membership Review – The Moderator discussed the list of members identified as not actively participating in the church. He wanted to give elders the opportunity for them to personally contact anyone identified. He said that they should be pastoral with them by asking them how they are doing and that you haven't seen them in a while. He said that these should be a caring phone call and it is not about money or about getting some kind of commitment from them. They should mention that a letter would be coming in August asking them about whether they still want to be kept on the active rolls of the church or removed. He asked elders to call them by August 11th and let him know about the call by then. The letter will go out mid-August and then will be on agenda at a future Session meeting. Becky Miller said she would contact Jen Singleton. Cory Hill will contact the Shippen and Kirbo families. Andee Harrison will contact the Phelps. Amanda Bevis will contact Charlene Reese. Ginny Daily will contact Paul Holton.

5. Finance Report – Randy Beach said receipts are behind budgeted but that is fairly typical during the summer. The Moderator said that if receipts don't catch up in the fall we may need to discuss if any further action is needed although it isn't too concerning at this point. Non-pledge contributions are far behind budgeted even though we lowered it from the previous year. Randy Zepp said that in December we normally get 20-30% of receipts in that month. Frank Walper asked about the effect of on-line giving. The Moderator said Valerie (Church Financial Manager) said it is under performing to expectations. There is a two-and-half percent or higher fee for on-line giving. ACH would be a better option since no fee is involved. Ginny mentioned that some organizations have a check box for donors to indicate they will pay the fee for the organization. Frank mentioned that the Wanda McBride solicitation would be a good method to donate via on-line giving whereas pledged gifts would be better via ACH. Malukah Woody mentioned that some generations do not carry cash or checkbooks and they might be willing to give with apps like PayPal, apple pay, etc. Mollie mentioned that the Montreat Youth in church this morning may have been willing to give if this type of option were available to them. The Moderator said that Management and Finance Committees should take a look into this.

6. Committee Reports – Mollie Novin reported that High School Montreat returned last night. Youth have served breakfast at Kearney Center four times this summer. Malukah Woody said that A&F is discussing narrowing Faith Formation options and introducing a yoga class option. They are exploring how we can serve senior adults better as well. They are thinking of a survey. Mike Metz mentioned plans for a movie night on Nov 8th and once a month dinners for people who are interested. Malukah said Thank you notes were sent to people who taught this past year. Ginny Dailey said that Witness Committee will begin planning for next summer's mission trip which will be likely a Hurricane Michael focus. She said that Preschool is creating an alumni group and setting up a reunion weekend celebrating sixty years of the preschool in the fall. In April, they plan to celebrate Beverly Sim's 35 years of service. The strategic planning subcommittee for Preschool is setting up two listening sessions for preschool parents and church members. They are sending out a survey to parents the 2nd week of

preschool. Amanda Bevis asked about scholarships. Ginny said we are now raising money for two children and we are close, about \$5,000 short. She said they are looking into school readiness funds from the state for these children received at their prior preschool. Linda Shelley asked how much tuition is for children. Ginny said tuition is about \$8,600 per child. For Evangelism, Frank Walper reported that August 18th is open house. He said that they are looking at our policies and procedures in 2019 and focusing on visitors and new members and identifying what things we do that support those policies and procedures. For Stewardship, Linda Antwi said they completed procedures and sent to Neal Evans on Management Committee for inclusion to church policies and procedures. For B&G, Linda Shelley reported that they are seeking 3 bids for flooring of Fellowship Hall to be done this fall. Part of the Delta Court property is in need of flooring but will have to wait until are funds available.

7. Communications Reports – Amanda Bevis highlighted some specific survey results from the communications survey of elders and deacons. She covered the recommendations of the committee including:

- 1) optimizing email newsletters,
- 2) consolidate information from multiple sources,
- 3) call elders and deacons to action by submitting information, features and volunteer sign ups to members of the Communications Committee and assign a liaison within each Session committee to be responsible for information Communications of activities and features,
- 4) consider podcast platform for weekly sermon and
- 5) consider dedicating budget for communications and measure impact.

The survey mentioned using text messaging for communications however Amanda said that this has strengths and weaknesses including over whelming member with texts and the cost to send texts. Molly Novin said that Shannon Guse uses a free service to communicate via text messaging with youth. Amanda said she would explore this option.

8. Diaconate Report – They did not meet this summer and no deacon was present.

9. Consent Agenda –

- a. The Adults & Families Committee requested Session approval for Faith Formations topics and speakers for the Fall program as follows:
 - **Creation Care/Stewardship of Creation - 2 Weeks - Cara Fleischer of Tallahassee Green Faith Alliance; Members of Faith who serve or have served on the board of Sustainable Tallahassee**
One week the presentation/discussion will engage the "why" of creation care using scripture, the second week will engage the "now what" of ways we can be responsive to the call of scripture in caring for the earth.
 - **Suicide and Mental Health - 2 weeks - National Alliance on Mental Illness**
The 223 General Assembly of the PCUSA recommended congregations engage in the work of suicide prevention (<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/suicide-prevention/>). September is Suicide Prevention Month and NAMI observes Mental Health Awareness week the first week of October. We plan the last week in September and the First week in October to engage in these two topics of ways we can

be healthy ourselves and help care for others. If we are to love others like we love ourselves, we need to work towards mental health.

- **Fostering and Guardian Ad Litem - 4 weeks - Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection, 2nd Judicial Circuit Guardian Ad Litem, Personal Testimony from Foster/Adoptive parents and adults who grew up in Foster Care**
Topics include - the state of Foster Care in FL, ACE training (Adverse Childhood Experiences), What is GAL and how can we support them, personal experience Panel
- **Additionally, on Friday, November 8 we would like to show *The Blind Side* as an outdoor movie supporting our Fostering/GAL theme. This will be a family-friendly event.**

b. The Worship & Music Committee requested Session approval for a program entitled "Lest We Forget", on October 10th at 7 pm in our sanctuary. This is a concert that we have hosted previously and is put on by Music with a Mission. It will be held on the anniversary of Hurricane Michael and all monies raised will go to FLAPDAN , the Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network. They will need to set up at 5:30 pm on the 10th and will need to rehearse on October 5th or 6th. They also request help with the sound system and lights as well as offering (ushers and counters)

c. Membership Report –

- New members received: Troy Atkinson, Emilie Beck, Donald Bourassa, Eileen Bourassa and Lynn Lovejoy.
- Members Dropped from Active Roll Per Their Request: Jack Thomas Auger, Cindy Lea Mitchell and Barbara Doolittle Ray
- Deceased: Connie M. Alford, John S. Neely Jr and Ann M. Curry.
- Baptisms: Davis E. Whitley

The Moderator asked if there was additional discussion needed. A **motion was made to approve. The motion received a second and was approved.**

10. Motions in Action Agenda – No motions were on the Action Agenda.

11. Items Not In Agenda –

Lee Andre stated that **the Children & Families Committee** would like add an agenda item for curriculum approval. C&F did not meet in time to get this item on the agenda. The Session approved adding to the agenda. Lee Andre explained the proposed Wednesday Night Alive circular (30 minute program) is an illustrated curriculum. C&F recommends Session approval. **The motion received a second and was approved.**

12. Other – No other business discussed.

13. Communion - Holy Communion was observed to conclude the meeting at 1:29 p.m.

Actions of Session Approved by Email between May 19th & July 28th

On June 11, 2019, an email request was sent to members of the Session requesting approval the **baptism of Davis Whitley, son of Trinity & Thomas Whitley and Claire Zimmerman, daughter of Clain & Kimberly Zimmerman.** The Worship & Music Committee had previously approved. **The requested was approved by email vote.**

The next Stated Session Meeting is on Sunday, August 25, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by

Barney Ray, Clerk of Session

Approved by Moderator

Brad Clayton, Senior Pastor