Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting

Faith Presbyterian Church

Tallahassee, Florida

October 27, 2019

1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Devotion

After determining that everyone expected was present, 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 12:15 p.m. Neal Evans provided the devotion.

The Ruling Elders (13) present were Bob Apgar, Lee Andre, Linda Antwi, Kevin Askew, Randy Beach, Ginny Dailey, Neal Evans, Andee Harrison, Cory Hill, Mike Metz, Linda Shelley, Jason Taylor and Malikah Woody. **A quorum of at least one-third of the members of the Session was present.**

The Ruling Elders absent with prior notice were Amanda Bevis, Becky Miller, Charles Ranson and Frank Walper. Additional elders absent were Syauchen Baker, Bill Holliman, Lee Marsh and Molly Novin. Associate Pastor Trinity Whitley (Teaching Elder) was absent attending the funeral for her grandmother in Charlotte, North Carolina.

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

2. Sharing of Joys and Concerns –

Joys were shared for: For the Truck or Treat event Friday which brought at least 1,000 people from the community to our church campus.

Concerns were shared for: Trinity’s family (death of her grandmother), Sheer family and their daughter, Adrianna, Karen McGhee family (her passing), Renee Prescott (Malikah’s cousin by marriage on the death of her son), Sheryl Ranson (upcoming surgery), Bill McCully (upcoming surgery), Barney Ray’s mother (upcoming surgery) and Bill Norwood (upcoming hip replacement).

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 September 29, 2019 Stated Session Meeting. Linda Shelley made a motion **to approve minutes as submitted. Mike Metz seconded the motion. The Moderator called for a vote of the motion. The motion was approved.**
2. Presbytery Meeting at Fellowship Presbytery on Tuesday, October 29th – Linda Shelley and Neal Evans attending as commissioners.

4. Pastor’s Report –

1. Focus 2019 Update – Andee Harrison reported that the ***Lest We Forget*** music concert on October 11th raised about $3,000 for hurricane relief. All shows for Godspell were packed. For Witness Committee, Ginny Daily reported that they are requesting volunteers (on sign up Genius) for day trips to local communities in November and December. Neal Evans said he and Brad visited Shaun York’s office to see a demonstration of video conferencing application. He said Shaun said the church already has the service so it wouldn’t add any additional cost. This would open up opportunities for people to participate in meetings when they are unable to attend in person. Linda Antwi said that she participated in salt shaker event and said she made a couple of new friends. Neal Evans said he also participated and it was a great experience.
2. Long Term Strategic Plan (LTSP) Update – The Moderator said that they did not meet in October but plan to meet in first week in November. Chad Van Iddekinge will present the results from the surveys at the meeting.
3. Stewardship Thank You Notes – The list of members and addresses were placed in each elder’s box. The Moderator sent an email with some suggested scripts. He said it is not too late to send the notes as many people were not present today to turn in their pledges.

5. Finance Report – Randy Beach said that non-pledged contributions continue to lag by $50,000 this year and we have reserves to cover this year however this will need to be considered for next year’s budget. Valarie Marlow has been doing some research on on-line giving apps and Finance Committee will meet to review this information. There are 15-16 different apps. The church does have on-line giving option but it requires the donor to enter their credit card information and it doesn’t retain that information for future giving. We may need to narrow this list down to 2 or 3. Ginny Dailey suggested that just to get started we pick one whether it’s the most secure, the lowest fee or the most popular with our youth. Cory Hill recommended we reach out to some larger churches to find out what they’ve used and why so that we can learn some dos and don’ts. The Moderator asked if we need to be cutting back on expenses between now and the end of the year. Randy Zepp said he would recommend each Moderator make their own determinations of what is necessary and what could wait. The issue isn’t with the current year but the planning for 2020. Barney Ray mentioned that pledged giving is equal or slightly above budgeted and that expenses are very close to the same level as total receipts year to date.

6. Committee Reports – Malikah Woody (A&F) reported the movie *Blind Side* will be shown outdoors on Nov 8th at 6pm and the Salt Shakers initiative is going well. She said that Advent season home study groups will be starting soon. Mike Metz said that he would be hosting one in the Buck Lake Road area. She said the Yoga Class went well. When asked, attendees wanted to see more of them even if it requires a fee. Lee Andre (Children & Families) pumpkin patch will be ending this month. Trunk or Treat went well. She said that there will be a 3rd grade bible workshop Nov 3rd. Jason Taylor (Personnel) said they considering renaming Parish Associate position. He said they are discussing the feedback on the Volunteer coordinator position which would cost an estimated $15,000-$21,000 annually. Andee Harrison (Worship & Music) said that Peter Pursino presented on the budget and that new budget for Taize services would be requested for next year. She said that the Hanging of the Greens would take place on Nov 24th. Linda Antwi (Stewardship) did not request for a budget increase 2020. She said they discussed when to send Thank You notes for 2020 pledges. The Moderator said the February to March time frame is good for this. Neal Evans (Management) said that Bruce Bechard had recruited a new member to the committee to help with insurance advice. Ginny Dailey (Witness) said a summer 2020 trip was approved for Panama City the week of June 26th through Presbytery Disaster Assistance network. She mentioned (Preschool) that thanks to Beverly Sims, one of the three scholarship children was screened to identify developmental delays and is eligible for 100% funding from the state. Lew Shelley and Duff Maki are helping transport two of the scholarship children between their homes and preschool to help the mother who works overnight shifts at a nursing home. Fundraising committee has some events planned to raise funds to fund the scholarships and for a new shaded stage on the preschool playground to dedicate in Beverly Sim’s honor. Linda Shelley (B&G) says they rely heavily on volunteers for maintenance of the building and the grounds. She said the next planned workday is Jan 11th. She said the last workday was well attended by B&G committee but lightly attended by the congregation. Neal Evans reported on Sealey Elementary ministry that we are providing a new printer for Sealey. He said that Nov 18th is scheduled for the teacher appreciation luncheon with soup and salad from Olive Garden.

7. Communications Reports – The reports were in the Session packet. The Moderator reminded everyone to use the on-line form to send in their items and events to publish and communicate. Ginny Dailey asked if this form would now take the place of sending emails to Cheri Harkema to put in the monthly newsletter. The Moderator said that he thought so but would check. He said he thought that as long as you complete the on-line form before the 20th each month it would be in time for the monthly newsletter but might also be communicated by other means.

8. Diaconate Report – No deacon was present but the Moderator encouraged everyone to thank the deacons for their sacrifice in service to the church.

9. Consent Agenda – No items on the consent agenda.

10. Motions in Action Agenda –

Membership Report – the report contained names of people who have not responded to any direct contact attempts by the church over the last few months. The Moderator said this is the last opportunity for members of Session to volunteer to contact specific names within the next week to make one last attempt to contact them. Mike Metz volunteered to contact Paul and Donna Wright this week and their names were removed from the membership report. No other names were mentioned. **A motion was made to approve removing Maxwell M. Alford, Connor Austin, Barbara B. Becker, Fredrick M. Becker, Monna Bryant, Nancy B. Bryant, G. Don Bryant, John Fox, Jackson Glover, J. Robert Goughhour, Elizabeth Annette Green, Adam B. Gunter, M. Lane Webb Gunter, Helen Kirbo, Lillian Kirbo, Arwena McLean, Leslie A. McLean II, I. Ray Phelps, Mary Alice Phelps, Judy Jo Shippen, Sara Beth Shippen, Benjamin S. Shippen, Jr., J. Clint Thornton, Fredrick H. Thurmond, Susan G. Thurmond, Donald J. Weidner, Virginia R. Weidner and Linda S. Winders from the active roll. The motion received a second. The motion was approved without dissent.**

11. Items Not In Agenda –

The Moderator said that new members were joining the church next week but that they need the sacrament of baptism during the service on November 3rd. Stephanie and Dennis Mason are joining the church and they would like **Dennis and their daughter Millie be baptized.** By consensus, **the Session approved adding this request to the agenda. A motion was made and seconded to approve the request. The motion was approved.** No other items of business were brought forth.

12. Other – Ginny Dailey mentioned that the preschool holiday program is Dec 11th at 11am for anyone who would like to come. The Moderator added that the preschool parade of costumes was this week.

# 13. Communion - Holy Communion was observed to conclude the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

**Actions of Session Approved by Email between September 29th & October 27th**

No actions were conducted by email.

The next Stated Session Meeting is on Sunday, December 15, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by

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Barney Ray, Clerk of Session

Approved by Moderator

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Brad Clayton, Senior Pastor