

**Minutes of Stated Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church
Charlottesville, Virginia
May 22, 2023**

Attendees:

Associate Pastor and Moderator: Aram Feinberg

Pastor/Head of Staff: David Forney E

Covenant Pastor: Rachel Sutphin E

Interim Covenant Pastor: Fred Holbrook

Ruling Elders:	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>
	Judy Blair	Charlie Chadwick E	Anita Brockette E
	Robert Brewbaker	John Dillery E	Jan Garnett
	Victoria Kean	Linda Hitt	Jim Gillespie E
	Rich Lutz	Jocelyn Kelley E	Jean Hudson E
	David Maloney E	Jolene Kidd	Elaine Knight
	Carolyn Pettit E	Vasant Kumar A	Marty Mason
	Reid Thompson	Trip Walker	Rick Welborn

Clerk of Session: Judy Blair

Prospective New Members: John and Sue Ellyn Haas

[E denotes excused absence; A is for unexcused absence]

Joint meeting of Session and the Diaconate held in Agape Classroom

- Moderator Aram Feinberg called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and noted that the opening prayer would be incorporated in the small group activity following the devotion.
- After leading the recitation of the Vision and Mission Statement, Aram began the devotion with readings from *In the Name of Jesus* by Henri Nouwen.
- With a focus on Christian leadership, small groups of deacons and ruling elders addressed the meaning of mystical, the role of contemplative prayer from them personally, and praying for each other, and the moderator concluded the activity with prayer.
- Aram reported that the pastors had synthesized the ideas from April on how to best use the joint meeting time and that the themes were connection, engagement, and proximity, which will be used to structure future meeting activities.
- The following announcements about church activities were made:
 - Pentecost Parade at 10 am on May 28
 - Preschool Summer Camp May 30 - June 2 and June 5 - 8
 - Summer cookouts on June 14 and July 26
 - VBS June 19 -23
 - Annual congregational meeting on August 27 at 10 am
 - Holy Shift conference at Montreat October 9 - 12
- Aram also announced that the church received a very generous gift of \$250,000 from the estate of Betsy Critzer.
- With no additional business for the joint meeting, officers went to their separate meeting rooms.

Session Meeting held in Room 216

Opening items:

[Devotion and opening prayer during joint meeting]

- With a quorum present, Moderator Aram Feinberg started the Session meeting at 7:42 pm.
- Two items were added to the draft agenda: contractor selection for the Memorial Garden renovation and the bequest from the Critzer estate.

New Member Examination:

- John and Sue Ellyn Haas, who had attended the recent New Members class, were introduced, and they shared information about themselves.
- After affirmatively answering the membership questions, John and Sue Ellyn were joyfully welcomed as First Pres members.
- Fred Holbrook closed the examination with prayer.

Consent Agenda: The following items were approved unanimously:

- Approve the minutes of the Stated Session Meeting on April 24, 2023
- Approve the minutes of the Special Called Session Meeting on May 7, 2023
- Receive April 2023 financial reports (attached to the F&A May meeting minutes)
- Approve the baptism of Avery Hintz, daughter of Kate Ellwood and Luke Hintz, at the 11 am service on June 4, 2023, to be officiated by Aram Feinberg
- Call the annual Congregational and Corporation meetings for August 27, 2023, to be held in the Sanctuary between worship services

Old Business:

- Faith Grows Here (FGH) finances
 - Interest payment
 - On behalf of the Finance & Administration Committee, Rick Welborn made the following motion, noting the Endowment Committee's assessment that this expenditure is consistent with the *Articles of Endowment*.
Approve the use of \$13,452.05 from the Building Endowment's accumulated income fund for the interest expense on the FGH loan from the Building Endowment due June 30, 2023
 - The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.
 - Interest rate increase
 - On behalf of the Finance & Administration and Endowment committees, Rick made a motion to increase the interest rate on the FGH loan from the Building Endowment.
 - After a brief discussion, the following motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.
Approve increasing the interest rate on the FGH loan from the Building Endowment to 4% per annum, beginning July 1, 2023
- Memorial Garden renovation
 - Funding
 - On behalf of the Finance & Administration Committee, Rick Welborn made a motion to borrow from the Operating Reserve the necessary funding for the renovation of the Memorial Garden.
 - After Rick explained the gap between when expenses will be incurred and when we are likely to receive contributions for renovation, the following motion was approved unanimously.
Approve borrowing from the Operating Reserve up to \$175,000 for the renovation of the Memorial Garden and paying interest on the borrowing at 4% per annum
 - Contractor selection
 - Rich Lutz reported that we received bids for the Memorial Garden renovation from four companies: two bidders had turnkey bids and the other two submitted a combined bid.

- After reviewing the submissions, Rich, Bill Carswell, and Michael Joyce recommend Watson and Company Inc, a company considered to be one of the top landscape contractors in our area.
- Rich made the following motion, which was seconded.
 - Approve Watson and Company Inc as the contractor for renovation of the Memorial Garden
- After Rich explained that a few contract details are being worked on this week, the motion was approved unanimously.
- Rich confirmed that the price was within budget expectations and that the work could begin as planned, and he noted that the oak tree planting along Park Street is likely to occur next Spring because oaks are late in going dormant.

Reports from Committees and Work Groups:

- Draft minutes and reports from the following were submitted in advance of the meeting along with the meeting agenda: Adult Ministries, Children & Family Ministries, Christian Outreach, Finance & Administration, Personnel, Preschool, Stewardship, and Youth Ministry committees, Board of Deacons, and Clerk.
- On behalf of the Youth Ministry Committee, Trip Walker highlighted the outcomes of the recent youth dinner discussion on Youth Ministry goals.

New Business:

- Report on POJ called meeting
 - Judy Blair, Jean Hudson, and Deb Rexrode served as commissioners for the April 20 meeting called for voting on amendments to the *Book of Order*.
 - The results of the voting were distributed in advance as an attachment to the clerk's report in the Session meeting packet.
 - Judy noted that POJ had organized the amendments for discussion and voting; however, that information was not communicated in time to support commissioners' preparation, which led to some process confusion.
- Bequest from Betsy Critzer's estate
 - The moderator explained that the generous \$250,000 Critzer estate gift announced during the joint meeting with the diaconate had been designated for the Endowment.
 - Our *Articles of Endowment* specify that, unless otherwise allocated by Session, 50% of the gift would go to the Building Endowment and 50% to the Mission & Benevolence Endowment.
 - The Critzer family recommends that 50% go to the special endowment for the Memorial Garden, 25% to the Mission & Benevolence Endowment, and 25% to the special endowment for Discipleship Ministry.
 - The following motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously after discussion. Receive with deep appreciation and then allocate Betsy Critzer's designated bequest of \$250,000 for the Endowment following the family's recommendation of 50% to the Memorial Garden Endowment, 25% to the Mission & Benevolence Endowment, and 25% to the Discipleship Ministry Endowment.

Announcements

- POJ meeting on June 20, 2023: Commissioners are Jan Garnett, Jim Gillespie, Jean Hudson, and Carolyn Pettit with Marty Mason as a backup.
- Next Stated Session meeting on June 26, 2023, with devotion by Elaine Knight

Thanksgivings and Commendations:

- Fred Holbrook for the smooth transition in serving as our interim covenant pastor
- Recent church picnic on the patio
- Critzer family for their generosity in supporting the church

The moderator adjourned the meeting with a benediction at 8:35 pm

Minutes recorded by Clerk of Session Judy Blair

Approved 6.26.23