

**Minutes of Stated Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church
Charlottesville, Virginia
August 22, 2022**

Attendees:

Pastor and Moderator: David Forney

Associate Pastor and Vice Moderator: Aram Bae

Covenant Pastor: Rachel Sutphin

Ruling Elders:

Class of 2022

Christine Dean

Amy Gillespie

Rich Lutz

Cathy Meaney

Monika Mentzer

Wayne Mullins

David Schmidt

Ada Trowbridge(E)

Class of 2023

Judy Blair

Robert Brewbaker(E)

Victoria Kean

David Maloney

Carolyn Pettit

Reid Thompson

Class of 2024

Charlie Chadwick

John Dillery

Linda Hitt

Jocelyn Kelley(E)

Jolene Kidd

Vasant Kumar

Trip Walker

Clerk of Session: Judy Blair

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

Joint meeting of Session and the Diaconate held in Agape Classroom

- o Moderator David Forney called the meeting to order at 7 pm and Amy Gillespie led the devotional and opening prayer.
- o After recitation of the Vision and Mission Statement, the officers went into separate meetings of Session and the Diaconate.

Session Meeting

Opening items:

- With a quorum present, the Session meeting started at 7:15 pm. Cathy Meaney and Jolene Kidd joined the meeting via Zoom.
- The meeting agenda was approved with an addition to the consent agenda.
- The following motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously: As the Covenant Pastor for Families, Session approves Rachel Sutphin to have voice at all Session meetings and that she can moderate Session upon the request of the Moderator.

Consent Agenda: the items below were approved unanimously:

- Approve the minutes of the Stated Session Meeting on July 25, 2022
- Receive the July 2022 financial reports (attached to F&A meeting minutes)
- Approve the following as teachers for Adult Ministry's Fall classes: Anita Brockett, Jay Swett, Tad Oelstrom, David Forney, Charlies Chadwick, Bill Grosh, and Harriet Grosh.
- Approve Jim Campbell as an at-large member of the Adult Ministry Committee
- Approve Elaine Knight and Hannah Crosby as at-large members of the Children and Family Ministry Committee
- Approve a \$10,000 housing allowance for Rachel Sutphin for September through December 2022

Old Business: Report on Sunday morning schedule

- The Worship Time Workgroup's report was distributed in advance of the meeting and included a summary of findings, synopsis of a survey of young families, and questions that would be best addressed by standing committees.

- The following motion was made by the workgroup and seconded: That Session approves worship service and Sunday morning class times to be 9, 10, and 11 starting September 11, 2022.
 - With survey results making clear that the current 8:30 start time is a significant impediment for young families returning to worship, starting at 9:00 is seen as paramount for attendance improvements.
 - With Sunday classes starting at 10 and retaining the 11 start time for the 2nd worship service, current fellowship and class times are impacted, and creative ideas are needed to ensure a rich experience on Sunday mornings.
- After much discussion about the complexity in making changes, an amendment was proposed and then withdrawn.
- Another amendment was made and seconded, and the following amended motion was approved: That Session approves a 9 am start time for the 1st worship service and a 10 am start time for Sunday morning classes as of September 11, 2022.
- After discussion about the importance of addressing the implications of changed start times, a motion was made, seconded, amended, and approved unanimously: That Session refers the topics identified by the Worship Time Workgroup to standing committees with preliminary reports on possible actions due by the November 2022 Session meeting.

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 Ministry, Children & Family Ministry, Christian Outreach, Finance & Administration, Personnel, Preschool, Property Management, Stewardship, and Welcome & Worship committees and Clerk. Minutes from the Youth Ministry committee were distributed at the meeting.
- David Maloney announced that the Pennock family's bequest of more than \$1.5 million had been received and that the \$500,000 loan from a member had been paid off. Additionally, a \$762,500 principal payment on the Atlantic Union Bank loan had been made, reducing the balance of outstanding loans to \$1.2 million.
- On behalf of the Personnel Committee, Victoria Kean noted that the congregation will be asked to approve the Committee's recommended 3% salary increases for our installed pastors. Session was reminded that the congregation, not Session, approves changes to terms of call.
- In response to questions about lower Preschool enrollments and the consequential revenue shortfall, Judy Blair explained that PreK offerings by the City and County significantly impacted the enrollment in our PreK classes and that the Preschool Committee is focused on addressing enrollment issues as it plans for the next year.
- Report on Memorial Garden plans
 - The donor whose contribution launched planning for Memorial Garden improvements is pleased with the schematic developed by Waterstreet Studio.
 - The plans include extensions that tie the memorial garden to the overall landscape of the area between Maple Street and the new front patio.
 - The projected cost to do everything is \$150k so additional donations will be necessary.
 - A final design should be ready for Session review and approval later this year.

New Business: Facility Use Policy & Fees proposal

- The proposal had been distributed in advance of the meeting.
- On behalf of the Property Management Committee, Rich Lutz provided background information on use of our facility by community groups, the rationale for policy changes, and made a motion that Session approve the revised Policy for Facilities Use by Outside Organizations and the revised fee schedule as proposed.
- After discussion about the changes giving more flexibility in determining fees, the motion was approved unanimously.

Thanksgivings and Commendations:

- Worship Time Workgroup members Charlie Chadwick, David Forney, Linda Hitt, Carolyn Pettit, Carolina Trowbridge, and Trip Walker for their thoughtful deliberations
- Judy Blair for her bookkeeping support this summer

Announcements

- Annual Congregational & Corporation meetings and celebration of FGH project on Sunday, August 28, 2022, at 9:45 am
- Sunday, September 11, 2022, classes for all ages resume
- Next Stated Session Meeting: Monday, September 26, 2022, at 7 pm Devotions: Thom Waite
- POJ Meeting: Saturday, October 15, 2022 Commissioners: Amy Gillespie, Jolene Kidd, Victoria Kean, and Linda Hitt.

The moderator adjourned the meeting with a benediction at 8:40 pm.

Minutes recorded by Clerk of Session Judy Blair

Approved by Session 9.26.22