

**Minutes of Stated Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church
Charlottesville, Virginia
September 25, 2023**

Attendees:

Pastor/Head of Staff and Moderator: David Forney

Associate Pastor Aram Feinberg

Covenant Pastor: Rachel Sutphin

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

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

- Moderator David Forney called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm, and Anita Brockette led the devotion and opening prayer.
- After the group recitation of the Vision and Mission Statement, Rachel initiated small group discussions.
 - Each group focused on questions about connections to FPC and other groups and opportunities for further connection.
 - Discussion ended with a debriefing about the ideas generated by the small groups.
- The following announcements were made:
 - 2024 Budget requests due to Jen Snook by September 30
 - Combined worship service on October 1 at 10 am, followed by Fall picnic
 - Blessing of the Animals on October 8 at 2:30 pm
 - Quilt sale on October 22
 - End of Life: Our Last Acts of Love workshop on October 29 at 5 pm
 - Joint meeting schedule:
 - October 23 with devotion and prayer by Maggie Kleinot
 - November 27 with devotion and prayer by Marty Mason
 - January 22
 - Officer (and guest) Christmas party on Dec. 14 at the Pettit's home
 - Christmas Eve services at 11 am, 4 pm, and 8 pm
 - Combined worship and officer installation on January 7 at 10 am ,followed by Winter brunch
 - Officer retreat on January 26 - 27
 - Officers were asked to send cards to members who are home-bound or attend infrequently.
- With no additional business for the joint meeting, the joint meeting ended at 7:35 pm and 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 David Forney started the Session meeting at 7:40 pm.
- The agenda was approved with additions to the consent agenda list of at-large committee members and to new business.

Consent Agenda: the following items were approved unanimously:

- Approve the minutes of the annual Congregational Meeting on August 27, 2023
- Approve the minutes of the annual meeting of FPC, Inc., on August 27, 2023
- Approve the minutes of the Stated Session Meeting on August 28, 2023
- Receive August 2023 financial reports (attached to the F&A September meeting minutes)
- Approve the following as at-large committee members:
 - Allen Bailey - Welcome & Worship Committee
 - David Pettit - Personnel Committee
 - Beth Horton - Children & Family Ministry Committee
 - Kate Ellwood - Children & Family Ministry Committee
 - Kevin Dean - Property Management Committee
- Approve the following use of monies from the Accumulated Income Fund of the Mission & Benevolence Endowment (COC with the Endowment Committee's assessment that these expenditures are consistent with the Articles of Endowment)
 - \$4,138 to Yellow Door Foundation for furnishing an apartment in honor of a long-term pediatric cancer patient
 - \$3,100 to Georgia's Friends for a privacy fence replacement
 - \$20,000 to Abundant Life Ministries for a program to introduce youth to vocational and skill trades
 - \$10,000 to Massanetta Springs Camp & Conference Center for its building upgrades capital campaign
- Approve allocation of a \$10,000 undesignated gift in memory of Bob Snoddy to the Memorial Garden Renovation project
- Receive a \$24,500 bequest from the estate of Alice Brower and allocate 50% to the Mission & Benevolence Endowment fund and 50% to the Memorial Garden Renovation project.
- Approve Vasant Kumar's resignation from Session (correspondence included in Clerk's report)
- Approve the baptism of Parker Van Niekerk, child of Whitney Neuhauser and Ulrika Van Niekerk, at the 10 am service on October 1, 2023, to be administered by Rev. Kendall Cooke

Old Business: None

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, and Stewardship committees, Board of Deacons, and Clerk.

New Business:

- Report by Jim Gillespie and Judy Blair on the August 29 POJ special meeting
 - Charles Grant was elected temporary Stated Clerk.
 - An amendment to POJ's Manual of Operations that provides a mechanism for the Mission Council to elect a temporary stated clerk when an unexpected vacancy occurs was approved.
 - A report from the Nominating Committee was received and the proposed nominations were approved.
- Proposal for Giving Boxes
 - The Children & Family Ministry, Christian Outreach, and Property Management committees made a motion to approve a proposal for giving boxes (proposal attached).
 - Discussion highlights:

- The detailed processes for proposing, assessing, communicating, and collecting donations are being worked on.
- Types of donation requests that require review and approval should be delineated.
- Session will make the approvals.
- Following discussion, the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Announcements

- Special Called Session meeting to examine and receive new members on October 1, 2023, at 9:15 am in the Chapel
- POJ called meeting on October 21, 2023; John Dillery, Jocelyn Kelley, and Elaine Knight will be commissioners from Session and David will ask a retired session member to serve as our 4th commissioner.
- State meeting schedule
 - October 23, 2023
 - November 27, 2023, includes examination of officers-elect
 - January 22, 2024

Thanksgivings and Commendations:

- David Pettit for the class on gun violence
- Jim and Jill Campbell for launching Supper Club

The moderator adjourned the meeting with a benediction at 8:12 pm

Minutes recorded by Clerk of Session Judy Blair

Approved 10.2.23