

**First Presbyterian Church
Session Meeting
March 21, 2022 5:30 pm (via Zoom)**

A session meeting of First Presbyterian Church (Greensboro) was held via Zoom virtual/remote communication on Monday, March 21, 2022, starting at 5:30 pm. Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor, served as meeting moderator. Of the 69 attendees, in addition to Rev. Newton Cowan and Batts Resident Rev. Rachel Fitch, guests included Donna Chase, Debby Foster, Anne Albert, Christine Ciaccio, Matt Logan, Lisa Witherspoon, Erwin Fuller, Penne Prigge, and prospective members Leslie Carter, Lori Craft, and Susan Nash.

Welcome and Consent Agenda

Upon calling the meeting to order, Jill opened with prayer taken from the Oxford Book of Prayer and shared a passage from Psalms 19. The consent agenda (as attached in session packet) was adopted, which included membership and committee reports and individual memorial tributes to recently deceased church officers.

What's Going Well

Attendees provided one-word responses in the virtual "chat" box to inquiry descriptive of our congregation and members, and Jill elicited recitation of FPC's Mission Statement, most recently adapted and adopted by session in the early 2000's, that we are "a church of and for growing disciples," which by response, reflected opportunities and encouragement for growth of familiarity among attendees.

New members

Upon introduction by Matt Logan and propounding of questions by Moderator Jill Duffield, the session received the following new members into congregational fellowship at First Presbyterian Church: Leslie Carter, Lori Craft, and Susan Nash.

Finance

Chair Chuck Norman reported and summarized the statements and materials submitted in the session packet (attached). He noted the continuing strong and positive financial position currently experienced by FPC in light of increased revenues (of as much as \$239,000. in excess of expected budget levels to date) as a result in part of prepaid pledges, non-pledge gifts, and overall reduced expenses, notwithstanding increases in landscaping and natural gas, and unbudgeted expense of \$1500.00 incurred to date with the recently-filed litigation related to allegations involving representatives of the Boy Scouts of America (as disclosed at the previous session meeting)– at which time, FPC corporate officers Karen Schaede and Robby Hassell provided further briefing in response to inquiry as to the status of the relevant bankruptcy proceedings in Delaware, factual anomalies noted in the

pleadings of the existing complaint filed against the BSA Old North State Council and FPC (wherein Robby and Karen reiterated that no direct allegations of misconduct or impropriety have been made against current or former FPC staff or members), and recent news accounts referencing many of the lawsuits filed against other entities locally and nationally.

Pastoral Transition Team

Penne Prigge, a member of the Team, and immediate Past Chair of the Human Resources Committee, shared that Neil's Meals was to resume and would be scheduled later this spring, and that to date, the Neil Dunnivant Hunger Ministry fund had reached over \$88,000.00 in contributions. She further reported that a candidate has been chosen, subject to final examination by the Commission on Ministry of Salem Presbytery later in the week. Rev. Deborah Conner of Charlotte Presbytery, longtime affiliated with Myers Park Presbyterian Church, and a resident of Davidson, NC, has agreed to serve as Interim Associate Pastor for Outreach commencing March 28. Penne, on behalf of the committee, moved for pre-approval of the contract with its negotiated terms, which was adopted without objection.

Prayers of the People

Newton Cowan composed and led the prayers of the people.

Scripture Reading

Robby Hassell read to session John 7:53-8:11.

Faith Sharing

Joe Vartanian's statement and sharing of faith was deferred until a later meeting.

COVID Task Force

Co-Chair Dr. Wells Brabham provided an update as to community trends and evolving protocols regarding the status and developments in the ongoing COVID pandemic. He noted that given the dissolution earlier this month of statewide mask and other restrictions and recent local statistical data which reflected pronounced reductions in hospital admissions, positivity rates, and community experience, a decision to eliminate the requirement for masks and to fully re-open the church is recommended (including resumption of consumption of food and drink), with the understanding that staff, members, and families may still choose to do so; his motion on behalf of the Task Force was approved by session without objection.

Discipleship

Chair Lisa Cook extended continuing thanks to volunteers for participating in welcoming new and prospective members and provided a link for signup for opportunities through Memorial Day weekend. She reminded session of the new member celebration and reception scheduled for Sunday May 1.

New Business and Closing Prayer

Jill reported information regarding a violent altercation between two attendees to Hot Dish and Hope which occurred outside on Greene Street 03/17; she noted that emergency responders were timely, and that the victim, a regular guest, was seen at a local hospital and released later that evening, and further that Jill had spoken with him over the weekend and was informed he was recovering and fully intended to resume attending tomorrow night. Jill also praised the commitment and swift action of the HD&H volunteers led by Camille Townsend as well as the continuing success and meaningful ministry of the program in the last 14 years.

Jill reminded session of the called meeting 04/03 for purposes of examination and acceptance of 2022 Confirmands. She also noted the upcoming Holy Week schedule to be observed April 10-17. Finally, she announced that next month's session meeting, scheduled for 04/25, would be IN PERSON, at a location at FPC to be determined. As she closed with prayer, the meeting was concluded at 6:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Robinson Hassell
Clerk of Session

**First Presbyterian Church
Session Meeting
April 3, 2022**

A called session meeting of First Presbyterian Church (Greensboro) was held in person in the Mullin Life Center on Sunday, April 3, 2022, starting at 10:00 a.m., for the purpose of examination and acceptance of youth confirmands into membership. Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor, served as meeting moderator and determined a quorum to be present. In addition to Rev. Duffield and Kevin Murray (Director of Youth Ministry), attendees included Donna Chase, assembled elders, confirmands (as identified herein), youth advisors, confirmand mentors, and supportive family members.

Call to Order/Introductions and Opening Prayer

The meeting was called to order by Kevin Murray, who made brief introductions before recognizing Rev. Duffield, who formally opened with prayer.

Faith Statements and Inquiry by Session

The meeting was divided into table groupings consisting of confirmands, mentors, and elders, at which time discussion and inquiry ensued and statements of faith by confirmands were received.

Questions Presented and Session Action

Pursuant to motion by Kelly Seymour as seconded by Anne Brown, admission upon sustaining successful examination subject to public inquiry and acknowledgement was adopted without objection. Rev. Duffield then propounded the prescribed questions of faith to the following confirmands, who answered affirmatively (and confirmed in later open inquiry at the 11:00 sanctuary worship service):

**Elizabeth E. Albert
Emma Grace Ballenger
Sarah L. Cochran
John A. Craven
Savannah Mei Doyle
Catherine Ann Faircloth
Emma Forbes Fields
John R. Gansman, Jr.
Evelyn E. Hare
Samantha G. Harron
Lane E. Heinzelman
Henry C. Johnson**

**Eleanor R. Johnson
Reaves Hodges King
Campbell L. Kirkland
Victoria S. Mann
Adelaide Fortune McIntosh
Benton R. Medley
Lauren C. Showers
Finley M. Tisdale
William D. Wakefield
Isabel C. Walker
Alexandra E. Woods
Robert N. Young, Jr.**

Presentation and Closing Prayer

The confirmands, as FPC's newest members, were presented individually to those in attendance, and Kevin thereafter concluded the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

A. Robinson Hassell
Clerk of Session