

**First Presbyterian Church
Session Meeting
June 13, 2022**

A session meeting of First Presbyterian Church (Greensboro) convened virtually via Zoom on Monday, June 13, 2022, starting at 5:30 pm. Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield, Senior pastor, served as meeting moderator. Of the 49 attendees, in addition to Rev. Newton Cowan, Rev. Deborah Conner, and Batts Resident Rev. Rachel Fitch, guests included Ann Alexander, elder-elect Ross Harris, Erwin Fuller, and Lisa Witherspoon.

Welcome and Consent Agenda

Upon calling the meeting to order, Jill opened with prayer (Prayer for a Meeting of the Elders) and shared a passage from Psalms 28:6-8. The consent agenda (as attached in session packet) was adopted without objection.

What's Going Well

Acknowledgement of the presence of the Spirit in the work and mission of FPC included reference to the recent service project in Fisher Park undertaken by new elders, as well as the new elder retreat; the appointment of Will Edwards as Associate Director of Music Ministry for Rejoice and the contributions already displayed during worship; the commitment of FPC volunteers in assisting Afghan refugees locally; and the joy of recent wedding ceremonies and celebrations.

Congregational Meeting

Upon motion of the Nominating Committee, and Jill's invitation, the session voted to call a congregational meeting via Zoom for Wednesday, June 29, 2022, for the purpose of electing an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee for the position of Associate Pastor for Outreach. The members who would serve upon election, as initially designated and forwarded by the Transition Team, are Nancy Abrams, Gerard Davidson, Emily Faucher, Joey Fields, Alex Harrill, Walt Howell, Tessa Kirkpatrick, John Whisnant, and Jackie Wilson. The meeting was called without objection.

Finance

Chair Chuck Norman reported and summarized the statements and materials submitted in the session packet (attached). He observed that all categories of revenue continue to reflect amounts and levels better than anticipated and that while a capital campaign will likely be needed to address physical plant and related issues, FPC is in a "very sound, very healthy" financial situation at present and that strong positive trends continue. Chuck further related that as of the meeting, 491 families have pledged approximately \$2,490,000., or \$110,000. below final pledge goals. The Finance Committee reported that FPC had also received a clean audit for FY 2021.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Newton Cowan composed and led the prayers of the people.

Scripture Reading

John Veraar shared with session 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.

Faith Sharing

Elder Griffin Jones shared a moving and meaningful statement of faith with attendees assembled.

Communications Committee

Chair (and Elder-Elect) Ross Harris, along with communications director Ann Alexander, provided session with a presentation regarding a “positioning project” to focus both internally with staff and our congregation as well as externally throughout our community to examine through inquiry

*What is FPC’s “truth”?

*What do we as a community of faith stand for?

*What statement(s) can be discerned and articulated that are credible, differentiating, consistent, sustainable, and unique?

Ross noted that in the wake of COVID and as we approach our 200th anniversary as a congregation, FPC has a circumstantial opportunity to examine who we are and what we do, and what God wants and expects us to do. There will be focus groups from within the congregation, staff, and others. The results will likely include a final outline document as well as themes to assist in the formulation of an updated mission statement, any forthcoming capital campaign, and the commemoration of FPC’s bicentennial.

COVID Task Force

Wells Brabham reported for (new) chair Doug Shaw that the Task Force had met the previous week, that Guilford County continues to experience a “medium” community infection rate, that notwithstanding an increase in light of variants of the Omicron COVID virus, hospitalization rates remain low, FPC’s plan remains unchanged, with encouragement as needed for making and other self-monitoring.

Outreach

On behalf of commissioned attendees, Karen Rinehart reported on the Salem Presbytery meeting convened on Tuesday, May 17th, via a Zoom “cluster” format facilitated with First Presbyterian Church, High Point. Among agenda items included were the commissioning of elders to the General Assembly meeting to take place later this summer.

New Business

Jill brought several items of new business to session, each of which was approved without objection, including (1) from the HR Committee, (a) contracts through Salem Presbytery for Rev. Doug McElroy and Rev. Maria Hamlin and (b) resolutions of appreciation for Matt Logan and Maggie Turner; and (2) notice of a service of examination of new elders to take place Sunday, August 21 at 7:00 pm. Jill closed the meeting with a concluding prayer at 6:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Robinson Hassell
Clerk of Session