

STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
April 19, 2022

CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Kim Clayton

The stated Session meeting for Trinity Presbyterian Church on April 19, 2022, was called to order at 7:00PM by the moderator, Kim Clayton. The clerk, Amy Krause, confirmed the presence of a quorum, and the moderator acknowledged guests at the meeting from the Elder Class of 2025, Trustees and Infrastructure Task Force.

Kim invited Dale Lewis to the podium for the night's devotion.

DEVOTION

Dale Lewis

Dale Lewis spoke on the topic of how everybody needs a little help. Dale told moving, personal stories about actor Kenan Thompson, baseball icon Hank Aaron, and a student named Thomas at Georgia State University and how their lives were positively impacted by help from others.

Kim added a prayer to open the meeting.

OMNIBUS MOTION to approve Consent Agenda

Kim Clayton

Kim Clayton directed Session members to the omnibus motion in the meeting packet. Kim asked if any items needed to be pulled. There was no discussion. The motion carried without any opposition.

CLERK'S REPORT

Amy Krause

Amy Krause welcomed members of the elder class of 2025 in attendance and directed all Session members to the statistical report and membership minutes in the packet. Amy also highlighted Trinity's 2021 Presbytery Giving Statement included in the packet. Amy gave a reminder to the commissioners assigned to the May 3 meeting of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. Amy reminded the group that the senior class of elders will finish their term on Session with the May meeting. Amy reminded the group of coming celebrations and a town hall meeting on the church calendar and read a draft of an email invitation planned to be sent to all church members. Lastly, Amy praised Kim Clayton for her energy, leadership, and ministry to Trinity during the interim process and led a robust round of applause for Kim.

SPECIAL ORDERS & REPORTS

TRUSTEE REPORT

Margaret Reiser

Margaret Reiser summarized two recommendations coming from the Trustees.

First, a name change and updated statement of intent is recommended for the Trust Fund for Major Maintenance of Property of Trinity Presbyterian Church.

MOTION: Following the recommendation of the Trustees, the Session moves to update the statement of intent and change the name of the Trust Fund for Major Maintenance of Property of Trinity Presbyterian Church to be known and referred to as The Anne H. and James B. Carson, Jr. Trust Fund for Major Maintenance of Trinity Presbyterian Church.

The motion was moved by Tom Adams, Jr. and was seconded. There was little discussion. The motion carried without opposition.

Second, a name change and updated statement of intent is recommended for the J. Erskine Love, Jr. Memorial Fund.

MOTION: Following the recommendation of the Trustees, the Session moves to update the statement of intent and change the name of the J. Erskine Love, Jr. Memorial Fund to be known and referred to as The Love Ministry Impact Fund.

The motion was moved by Velma Tilley and was seconded. There was little discussion. The motion carried without opposition and with excitement.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS UPDATE

Margaret Reiser & David Caldwell

Margaret Reiser shared news with the group that the budget for the total scope of projects has increased due to cost of goods and the current labor market. The good news is that the new financial need has been met with additional gifts.

David Caldwell shared with the group that carpet and paint projects on the second floor are going well. David mentioned planning continues for Sanctuary carpet selection and that the infrastructure team is working through some HVAC project details. David also informed Session that Williams Hall will shut down for renovations on May 2 through June 10. The plan is to close the Sanctuary for renovations on July 18 through late October (Halloween).

COMMITTEE UPDATE: CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Adair White

Adair White shared an overview of the congregational care committee and its areas of focus: Pastor's Aid, Visitation, Stephen Ministry, and Counseling & Enrichment.

FINANCE

Neal Williams

Neal Williams presented a March 2022 financial statement summary and a summary analysis of operations and answered questions from the group.

PRESBYTERY MEETING REPORT

Trey Reese & Richard Powers

Trey Reese and Richard Powers reported on the called meeting of Presbytery on April 5, 2022, to consider dissolving Atlanta Korean Presbyterian Church (AKPC). The Presbytery voted to dissolve AKPC.

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Kim Clayton

Kim Clayton shared her vision for Paul King (Ministry Intern) and David Carr (Assistant Clerk) to lead worship on May 8 – the Sunday after her final sermon at Trinity. Kim reminded the group that Session approves worship leaders outside of the staff clergy.

MOTION: The Session moves to invite Paul King and David Carr to present their experiences to the congregation as part of the sermon during worship on May 8, 2022.

The motion was moved by Velma Tilley and was seconded. There was little discussion. The motion carried without opposition.

Recognition of Outgoing Elders

Kim Clayton shared the following warm comments about Trinity's devoted servant leaders:

Cate Thompson and Miranda Borland. I still remember how faithful you both were in attending elder training last Spring, even with all of your other responsibilities of school and extra curriculars. You have attended Session meetings with admirable regularity. When we were going through the hard and painful Church and Budget work of restructuring, you spoke up, expressed your valued opinions, and asked good questions. You have contributed to our life through youth group, music, and your leadership as elders. I hope you feel you have learned more about how the church works (and sometimes doesn't work) and have grown in your faith. I also hope you remember that you have been given a life sentence! You are now an elder for life. Though you may not always be serving actively on a Session in that role, your ordination remains a part of who you are and at our best, all of us, it is a factor in how we decide our priorities, how we choose our words, and how we act in and outside of the church toward family, friends, and strangers who are our neighbors. I look forward to seeing how you will be God's partners in helping the church, this church or some other church, become what God intends it to be in a time of seismic change. We have needed you this year. The church needs you going forward.

Jim Balloun—When I think of the influence of Jim Balloun, I think of that investment commercial some years ago... "When E. F. Hutton speaks, people listen." When Jim Balloun speaks, people listen. I listened. Jim has served as the Chair of the Personnel Committee. A man of few words but big impact, Jim has taught me/us on Personnel to trim down our words and our processes so that we can be clearer and more helpful. His experiences from his work at McKinsey and his life experiences, too, make him a wise

counselor, an encourager, and an insightful institutional guide. He thinks deeply about Scripture and current issues. Jim, I can still be intimidated around you, but your wonderful smile and kind blue eyes convey the warmth and humor that is deep within you. I am grateful for our monthly breakfasts and conversations and for all that you have taught me.

Doug Benn—Doug, what would I or any of us have done this past two years without you? You have brought your great CEO and financial acumen to your work on the Session as part of the Church and Budget Work Group process and as Chair of the Finance Committee. You, along with the entire Finance Committee, David Beasley and Molly Faircloth, have gotten Trinity on the right track financially and it has been a joy to work alongside of you. Your calm manor and sense of humor and attention to detail have been essential gifts to me and to our shared work. In addition, you come as a boxed set...with Mickey! The two of you have put in countless hours over and above any reasonable expectation in Finance, Personnel, and the Trustees. And not only that, but your circle of friends welcomed me and Melanie, offering some great meals and a safe place for conversation and laughter. I am grateful to have gotten to know you.

Shirley Davis—Shirley and I go way back. When she and I were both much younger...her hair looks the same, mine is considerably grayer!...we met when she served on the Search Committee that called me as an Associate Pastor for Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. Central's loss has been your gain, Trinity. She and Michael love the church and work hard to help us all be our very best selves. Shirley's standards are high and that makes all of us want to do and be our best. They also do good things out in the world. Shirley has served as Chair of the BCM Board, doing important mission work in our community. And I was blown away last year to read of Michael's work, pro bono, to help a woman who had been incarcerated get her record corrected so that she can have a robust and full life without being marked forever. Shirley cares about Mission and she cares, too, about this membership and increasing engagement of our members. Thank you, Shirley, for the privilege I've had to work with you twice in ministry. What a gift.

Lasley Gober—enthusiastic and committed chair of Adult Education, lover of poetry, and lover of trees, and lover of poetry in the trees—as in reading Mary Oliver poems within the canopy of our beautiful and immense Magnolia tree here. Lasley is an author herself and a brave person who dared to take on the task of interviewing the interviewer-par-excellence, Krista Tippett, during our inaugural Kittrell lecture festivities. She was awesome, asked thoughtful questions, and conveyed her usual warmth through her smile and welcoming, yet understated manner. Thank you, Lasley, for helping us figure out how to do adult education in a pandemic and to lead us through such a challenging time. I am grateful to have seen you at work and to see how your persistence and creativity have helped to advance such an essential and important part of the church's life.

Steve Karasick—Steve, you are larger than life in your enthusiasm and in your commitment to Trinity and its many programs and ministries—and especially in your love for youth ministry here. Steve was on the Interim Search Committee and brought his dedication and energy to that search process. At the dinner interview I had, Steve's questions always were asked with passion and energy and high expectations. I am grateful you gave me a chance to come to Trinity, Steve. Even though we had to do some hard work in this interim time, some of which you did not agree with, your dedication to Trinity never wavered and for that I am grateful. Your Session devotion from a few months ago has stayed with me. I am grateful for your willingness to speak up and to voice dissent, and to come back after a pause. Thank you for being willing to have heartfelt and honest conversations with me when we didn't see things the same way.

Craig Pendergrast—Craig, you always have interesting and thoughtful perspectives and are willing to speak up, asking good questions and suggesting interesting new directions and important initiatives about which you are passionate. Keep it up. You stand for good and important causes of the common good and you want Trinity to do its best to be a force for good in this community. I hope that you and others, along with your new Senior Pastor, can indeed host a community forum where Atlanta's new Mayor can come and talk with the community about how collectively all of you can help Buckhead and all of Atlanta work together for justice, compassion, safety, health, and well-being in a world that runs too short in all of those areas. Be the good encourager you are and also sometimes the fly in the ointment—we need both!

Richard Powers—Richard, as I understand it, you didn't even have a committee assignment your first year on Session. Shame on us! But we have been making up for it. You are a delight and an energetic and knowledgeable member who has helped to advance our fledgling beginnings into better communications. You are a great listener and your suggestions and counsel have been so helpful as we have gotten started in this important area. Your eyes flash with light and your smile and kind manner help others feel comfortable venturing into new and unknown territory. It was you, Richard, who helped me see the bookends that will mark your time on the Session. This is the elder class, Richard told me, whose first meeting was the one where Pam announced her resignation. And now your last Session meeting in May will be the one that welcomes your new Senior Pastor, Rebekah LeMon. In between, I have had the privilege of getting to work with you more closely, but not until later than I now wish. Thank you for stepping in to help revive the Communications Committee and for delving into the world of Church Data Base management. Thank you for helping me see the need to address the question of that pastoral resignation in a more organized fashion so I could address it more head-on in January and February. Thank you for being the elder who kept coming to meetings even when we had not adequately made a place for you to sink in as early as we should have.

Esther Stokes—What can I say? My partner-in-crime...my co-conspirator...my friend, my buddy, one of the wise people on whom I have counted. I have loved watching you chair the Property Committee and guiding us through untold huge things. Like getting the Property Committee to rotate its members more intentionally, welcoming new members to serve. You have walked forthrightly through signage and logo—without changing your address to a P. O. Box or unlisting your phone number! You are fearless, and you are blessed with a great sense of humor, and you have been one of 'wise people' when I've needed insights and counsel. Not only that, but now you are seeing us through an Infrastructure implementation plan with others, and I am so, so grateful that you trimmed the trees and underbrush...so that Trinity can be seen again as the community beacon it is. Thank you for loving one of our most precious gifts and assets—these grounds, which are home to birds of many kinds, a host of squirrels and chipmunks, and at least one little fox...and a needed wetlands, which are disappearing all too rapidly in the environment today. Anyone who is crazy enough to go birdwatching at dawn in Minnesota in the winter at 40 below is exactly the kind of intrepid elder this church needs!

Sarah Shoup—Sarah was on the Interim Search Committee that called me here along with Steve and others. She is one of Trinity's young adults who has gifts and a needed voice to share and shape us. Sarah emailed recently to let me know she is moving to NYC. I am grateful to Sarah for allowing me to come to serve Trinity as your Interim Senior Pastor. Sarah has not attended Session meetings in my two years here and her absence is a loss for us as a church, but I also feel it is a loss for Sarah's life. She could have been a helpful member of this body as we navigated some pretty steep hills. We had to climb them without her. Her energy would have been a gift to our efforts. Taking on the responsibility and privilege of serving as an elder is an awesome call in life. If ever we find it is not life-giving or not the right season in our lives, it is healthy to recognize that, share that news, so that together we can all move into the future with clarity, good will, and prayers for one another's well-being and happiness. This is my prayer for Sarah as she settles into what is next for her in her journey through life and faith. Like all of you, she has been given gifts to share and I hope she will find places to share them with joy.

Amy Krause—Well, I have saved the Clerk for last. I cannot overstate the time and effort and thoughtful leadership Amy has given to us all in serving as the Clerk of Session this past year. Amy is the most organized person I know...paying attention to process, timelines and deadlines, emails and reports and good order. I'm not sure anyone but the person who overhauled systems for the Cobb County School System could have managed Trinity's overhaul of our Operating Manual. She, and others working with her, read minutiae and made sense of it. They checked and cross-checked to make sure a change in one section didn't conflict with what was stated in another section. She is a whiz at spell check, track changes, yellow highlighter, and comment bubbles. She kept us on track as we worked to update that important effort that Juanita, for one, wanted taken care of in the interim period! She nicely, but firmly, insisted we all make our committees rotate its memberships so that more people have an opportunity serve the church, and other long-timers get to discover new committees or ways to offer their gifts.

Amy writes scripts for congregational meetings, keeps on top of details while keeping the big picture in mind. She follows up and follows through. She does all of this and never stops smiling that wonderful smile she has...never gets flustered or impatient, but always approaches my missteps and those of others with grace and goodwill. She has also offered me much encouragement and I have sat at some tables of good conversation, laughter, and yes, wine, with Amy and friends.

I don't know if it is related to her tenure as Clerk of the Session for Trinity Presbyterian Church, but Amy has taken up tap dancing. I suspect that is what being a Clerk of Session here drives one to do! So, Amy, to thank you for tap dancing us through the pandemic and pastoral change and making it look easy—for you have done what Fred Astaire did so well, but you did it backwards and in heels! So, here is a gift from all of us to you with our heartfelt admiration, thanksgiving and praise...something that will help you have an extra excuse to dance and sing. You make the world a harmonious place.

Kim Clayton presented a well-deserved gift to Amy on behalf of the staff and Session...a Bluetooth enabled speaker and charger for music.

OPEN FORUM

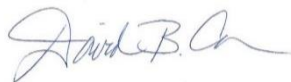
Kim Clayton offered the opportunity to discuss other business of the church. David Carr shared with the group that on 4/3/22 at the congregational meeting after 11:00AM worship there were over 400 members in person and over 100 joining via Zoom. David also extended thanks for the good work of Paul King who orchestrated the successful hybrid congregational meeting for Trinity.

CLOSING PRAYER AND DEPARTING BLESSINGS

Andrew Esqueda & Kim Clayton

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and Andrew Esqueda closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,



David Carr
Assistant Clerk



Amy Krause
Clerk

Trinity Presbyterian Church Session In-person Attendance (In Bold), April 19, 2022:

Name	Name	Name
Balloun, Jim	Adams Jr., Tom	Roxanna Erwin
Benn, Doug	Bynum, Laura	Ginny Hobbs
Davis, Shirley	Carr, David – Asst. CLERK	Bonnie Holiday
Gober, Lasley	George, Bess	Richard O'Donnell
Karasick, Steve	Guerry, Bill	Trey Reese
Krause, Amy - CLERK	Hope, Julie	Lane Rhoden
Pendergrast, Craig	Jackson, Mary Elizabeth	Allen Spetnagel
Powers, Richard	Lewis, Dale	Cindy Stancil
Shoup, Sarah	Portik, Courtney	Adair White
Stokes, Esther	Tilley, Velma	Neal Williams
		Miranda Borland (Youth)
		Cate Thompson (Youth)
Staff Attendees:	Other Attendees Names:	
Kim Clayton - Moderator	Margaret Reiser - Trustee	
Elizabeth Davis	David Caldwell - Infrastructure	
Andrew Esqueda	Meredith Daniel – '25 Elder	
Molly Faircloth	Kenny Kraft – '25 Elder	
Tom Farmer	Tom Owens – '25 Elder	
Richard Floyd		
Norman Mackenzie		

