

STATED SESSION MEETING (RETREAT) MINUTES
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
January 22, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Kim Clayton

The stated Session meeting/retreat for Trinity Presbyterian Church on January 22, 2022, was called to order at 8:31AM by the moderator, Kim Clayton. The Clerk, Amy Krause, confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Kim acknowledged guests (see attendance log) and introduced Bill Guerry as the giver of the day's devotion.

DEVOTION

Bill Guerry

Reflecting on select verses from the Books of Mark and Matthew, Bill Guerry talked about the thankless job that we do as Session members and volunteers at Trinity. While we try to be servants to the church and our greater community, Bill reminded us that Jesus honors, and is pleased, by our choice to serve.

MODERATOR'S COMMENTS

Kim Clayton

After prayer, Kim Clayton shared goals for the day: complete regular Session business, logo presentation/review, and small group discussions about important (and hard) interim work questions. Kim also commented about the book given to Session members, *Love Mercy* by Samuel Wells, as a strategic interim exercise during Lent.

CLERK'S REPORT

Amy Krause

Amy Krause thanked the dedicated pastors and staff for their recent efforts navigating weather closures and Covid protocol. She also thanked Jim Blitch and the PNC committee for the recent email update to the congregation. Amy shared that the most recent statistical report will be available next month and directed attention to the important dates noted on pg. 3 and 46 of the session packet. In the coming days, Amy shared that an email will be sent to elders regarding training on Trinity's Child Protection Policy. Amy reminded assigned commissioners that the February 12th Presbytery Meeting is approaching. Finally, Amy introduced procedure edits and committee writeups for review. Next month Session will examine and vote on these administrative items.

Amy brought the following motion to the group:

MOTION: The Session moves to hold a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, March 20, 2022, following the 11:00 a.m. worship for the election of the Ruling Elders to serve on Session and to receive the Annual Report.

The motion was seconded. There was no discussion. The motion carried without opposition.

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 from the omnibus motion: Agenda, Stated Session Meeting Minutes, November 16, 2021, and Congregational Meeting Minutes, December 12, 2021.

There was no discussion. The motion carried without any opposition.

SPECIAL ORDERS & REPORTS

UPCOMING LENTEN BOOK STUDY: LOVE MERCY

Richard Floyd

Richard Floyd introduced the plan for the Lenten book study. Richard asked Session to consider three ways to support this strategic initiative: 1) Read the book and participate in a small group discussion 2) Sign-up to host a small group (10 or less in size) and coordinate a meeting place 3) Sign-up to moderate a small group using a study guide provided by pastoral staff.

YFM

Andrew Esqueda & Lane Rhoden

Lane Rhoden and Andrew Esqueda shared the details of a new intern program with benefits for both the student and the church. Pending approval, the search for candidates from local seminaries/schools will

begin immediately. Funding will come from a Trinity trust fund and not from the operating budget. *Note: both the Trustees and Personnel Committee have already reviewed and blessed this initiative and funding request.*

MOTION: The Trustees join the YFM and Personnel Committees in recommending the creation of a YFM Intern Program to be financially supported by the Trinity Fellows Fund for an initial period of two years, up to \$18,000 per year. A lay committee will be formed to develop the program and ensure that the objectives for specific training and experiences for the Intern are met.

Coming from a committee, a second is not required. There was discussion about the funding model, length of the internship term, and other details. After healthy discussion, the motion carried without any opposition.

MISSION COUNCIL

Velma Tilley & Craig Pendergrast

Velma Tilley and Craig Pendergrast shared an overview of the topic and walked the group through provided materials and resources from Mission Council.

MOTION: The Mission Council moves for Session to endorse Trinity's support for the Accountability in Corrections Act which will come before the Georgia legislature. This bill will ensure that the Department of Corrections, including its penal institutions, are subject to the Administrative Procedures Act and thus the same oversight as other State entities. The request from the Faith in Action subcommittee was unanimously approved by the Mission Council.

Coming from a committee, a second is not required. There was lengthy discussion about the anticipated bill, how we might share this information/decision with the Trinity congregation, which congregations are supporting the Act in addition to Trinity, Trinity's historical leadership with topics of concern/injustice, and other details. After robust and healthy discussion, an amendment was made to the motion by Allen Spetnagel to allow time for Session to study the topic and vote by email at a later date. The amendment to the motion was seconded. However, the amendment to the motion did not pass by vote. Then, the original motion carried without any opposition with two (2) abstentions.

COMMITMENT

Bonnie Holiday

Bonnie Holliday shared an update on the commitment campaign. As a reminder, the 2021 campaign's goal is \$3.4M with a secondary goal of increasing participation in the 30–50-year-old member demographic. To date, Trinity is 91% to the goal with \$3.1M in pledges (383 collected pledges). The active campaign ends in February.

FINANCE

Doug Benn

Doug Benn presented a year-end financial statement summary and a summary analysis of operations. Doug highlighted that the year-end results were strong with good expense management. Doug also shared that a surplus is expected in 2021 due largely to the PPP loan forgiveness (\$436,000). Doug answered questions about the financial performance and the projected surplus.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mary Kelly Speed & Elizabeth Borland

Mary Kelly Speed and Elizabeth Borland shared details of a proposal from Green Gate Marketing to provide a marketing strategy and implementation plan for Trinity. The arrangement outlined is a 1-year retainer to provide a comprehensive marketing strategy and implementation plan, weekly meetings, copywriting, editing, website and social media assistance. Funding for this 2022 endeavor will come from an anonymous \$50,000 gift and the Infrastructure Project Campaign. Mary Kelly and Elizabeth shared comments about the process that identified Green Gate as the preferred vendor of choice and why Trinity needs this assistance. Mary Kelly and Elizabeth also answered questions. After discussion, a motion was formally made from the Communications Committee to endorse and approve the Green Gate Marketing Retainer Agreement.

MOTION: The Communications Committee moves for Session to endorse and approve the Green Gate Marketing Retainer Agreement.

Coming from a committee, a second is not required. There was no further discussion. The motion passed with excitement and without objection.

LOGO PRESENTATION

Kim Clayton

Kim Clayton shared a timeline brochure, logo materials packet, and compelling video introducing the new mark. Kim walked the group through the entire logo development process to-date and answered many questions. It was not planned to vote on the new mark today, however, after a plethora of positive reactions, a motion was made by Velma Tilley to approve and accept the new logo for Trinity Presbyterian Church as presented.

MOTION: Velma Tilley moved for Session to approve and accept the new logo for Trinity Presbyterian Church as presented.

The motion was seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed with excitement and without objection.

INTERIM OBSERVATIONS AND SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Kim Clayton

Kim Clayton facilitated small group discussions of prepared questions shared via handout. Five groups discussed important and hard questions about the interim work that is ongoing at Trinity. The groups were tasked with fostering robust discussion and capturing their comments to share via email with the Clerk. The Clerk plans to gather the written feedback and answers for presentation and further discussion at future Session meetings.

OPEN FORUM

PRAYER AND DEPARTING BLESSINGS

Richard Floyd

The meeting ventured outdoors to gather around the magnolia tree for a group photo. The meeting was then adjourned at 12:20pm by the moderator.

Respectfully submitted,



David Carr
Assistant Clerk



Amy Krause
Clerk

Trinity Presbyterian Church Session In-person Attendance (In Bold), January 22, 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	Mary Kelly Speed – Communications Comm.	
Elizabeth Davis	Elizabeth Borland - Communications Comm.	
Andrew Esqueda	Jim Blitch – PNC	
Molly Faircloth	Cindy Ferguson – PNC	
Tom Farmer	Jon McRae– PNC	

Richard Floyd	Reid Willingham - PNC	
Norman Mackenzie		
Lucy Strong		
Cindy Semmes		