

**STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**June 21, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

Rebekah LeMon

The stated Session meeting for Trinity Presbyterian Church on June 21, 2022, was called to order in The Loft at 7:09 PM by the moderator, Rebekah LeMon. The clerk, David Carr, confirmed the presence of a quorum, and Rebekah invited Tom Adams, Jr. to the podium for the night's devotion.

**DEVOTION**

Tom Adams, Jr.

Tom Adams shared moving reflections on heaven—as a concept, a place, a state of being. He noted that although his ideas of heaven have evolved and changed over the course of his life, a constant theme always emerged: glimpses of heaven are all around us when we open our eyes and hearts to others.

**OMNIBUS MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

Rebekah LeMon

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

**CLERK'S REPORT**

David Carr

David Carr (clerk) brought forth a motion to remove two individuals from the church member roll.

MOTION: Based on the recommendation of church staff, remove Kevin and Edra Matthew from Trinity's church member roll.

The motion was seconded by Laura Bynum. There was no discussion. The motion carried without opposition.

David directed session members to the meeting packet for relevant reports and additional details, and he reminded members that assignments for devotions, communion, and Presbytery meeting coverage will be emailed within a week's time. He also noted that each Session meeting will continue to highlight two committee reports, and he directed members to review the full schedule of planned session meetings for the entirety of the church calendar year. Lastly, David announced that there is no scheduled Session meeting in July 2022, and he reminded members that Sunday worship will take place in Williams Hall starting in late July.

**MODERATOR'S REPORT**

Rebekah LeMon

Rebekah LeMon (moderator) shared additional details about the impact of renovation-related closures on Sunday worship. Notably, she reminded Session members that the Sanctuary balcony will be closed for three weeks beginning on June 25. She also announced a plan to schedule 6-8 meet-and-greet opportunities over the next 3-4 months. These events will allow congregants a chance to talk with Rebekah and her family in more intimate and informal settings. She intends to have a coffee on the church campus in early fall, but she anticipates most of these gatherings will be hosted offsite at members' homes.

Rebekah also offered thanks to many groups within the church for the good work they are leading. Specifically, she thanked staff for their willingness to engage in open conversations and for their consideration of new ideas and ways of doing things. She also thanked Elizabeth Davis for making Vacation Bible School such a great event and Cindy Semmes for always providing Session members with treats during meetings. Lastly, she commended groups like the Holy Smokers for ensuring the success of the recent church barbeque event. Rebekah also reminded Session to hold Trinity youth in prayer as they travel to Northern Ireland, and she highlighted the reflection and spiritual growth that took place during their recent trip to Montreat.

**SPECIAL ORDERS & REPORTS:**

***Candidate for Ministry Endorsement***

Velma Tilley & Kevin Lacson

Velma Tilley presented Kevin Lacson to Session with a formal request that members endorse his candidacy for ministry. She reviewed his educational credentials as well as his impressive track record as a Trinity staff member and church member. Kevin offered comments on the critical role the Church and the reformed

tradition has played in his spiritual development and growth. Velma then brought forth a motion for Kevin's formal endorsement. With this vote he moves from Inquirer toward formal candidacy.

MOTION: Based on the recommendation of a Session member, Session offers its enthusiastic endorsement of Kevin Lacson as a candidate for ministry.

The motion was made by Velma Tilley and seconded by Neal Williams. There was no discussion. The motion carried without opposition.

### ***Worship & Music***

Roxanna Erwin & Martha Craft

On behalf of Worship and Music, Roxanna Erwin gave a report on the committee's work over the last year. She reminded Session that Worship and Music encompasses several important sub-committees including the Fine Arts Committee, the Wedding Committee, the Memorial Garden Committee, the Memorial Garden Committee, and the Chancel Committee. Roxanna noted the return to "normal" memorial services, in-person choral performances, and music events—namely Faure's Requiem—earlier this year. She also noted that communion has finally shifted back to a quasi-intinction format (and away from the single-serve communion packets). Additionally, Patti Heinz retirement and all the associated celebrations was also mentioned.

### ***9:00 AM Service Review***

Roxanna Erwin & Bill Borland

Bill Borland (chair) gave an update on the work and findings of the Informal Worship Review Task Force. He noted the review process included many components including, but not limited to, watching and/or attending the contemporary worship services of other "peer" churches in Atlanta and across the country. The task force also had discussions with staff, reviewed attendance data, and analyzed survey results from worshippers at the 9:00 AM service. Bill noted that the task force did not set out to render a verdict about the value of informal worship. Instead, the goal was to ensure that all Trinity worship services—including informal worship—are designed with intentionality to engage as many stakeholders as possible. Bill highlighted the need to further refine the overall identity of the 9:00 AM service and noted that while the service draws a diverse group of attendees, the attendees often express divergent preferences for various elements of the worship service. Lastly, Rebekah LeMon noted that the 9:00 AM service had "good bones", and she charged Session members and congregants to continue the conversation around informal worship. Session members were directed to the meeting packet for a full report of task force recommendations and findings.

### ***Infrastructure Task Force***

David Merritt & David Caldwell

David Merritt gave an update on the Infrastructure Task Force's ongoing work on the Sanctuary screen design. In keeping with the goal of making the screens as unobtrusive as possible, the task force—in consultation with the architect and design firm—determined that encasing the screens within existing crown molding was not the best, most aesthetically pleasing option. As a more appropriate alternative, the task force proposes the installation of retractable screens suspended by cables.

MOTION: On behalf of the AV Project Team, the Infrastructure Task Force sub-committee moves that the Session proceed with the Sanctuary retractable acoustically transparent screens per the new design based on feasibility, cost, and overall aesthetics of the Sanctuary space. The screen casings will be suspended and angled with the projectors mounted inside the opposite aisle arches.

The motion was offered by the sub-committee, and Velma Tilley seconded the motion. There was significant discussion around the size and dimensions of the screens as well as the cost of labor and installation. The motion carried without opposition.

David Caldwell also gave a brief update on the ongoing renovations occurring throughout the building. He noted that painting continues on the first floor, but all painting and carpeting in Williams Hall has been completed. Carpeting throughout the remainder of the first floor will commence soon; although, there are ongoing discussions about carpeting for the sanctuary. All work on the second floor is essentially complete. Work is trending on budget.

### ***Trustees***

Margaret Reiser

Margaret Reiser brought forth a motion on behalf of the Trustees to transfer a specific amount of undesignated funds into the Carson Fund.

MOTION: The Trustees move to transfer \$3,420 from the Undesignated Fund, which represents gifts given during 2021 in memory of Jim Carson, into the Carson Fund. This follows a request from Anne Carson.

The motion was made by Trustees and seconded by Laura Bynum. There was no discussion. The motion carried without opposition.

Margaret also proposed closing the Building and Grounds Fund and transferring the balance to the Infrastructure Fund. For context, the B&G Fund was set up through the G2G campaign in 2002 and can be spent down. There have been no distributions since 2014, as Property needs have been funded through the Property operating reserve. The Carson Major Maintenance Fund was set up in 2020, which as it grows will help provide for our long-term major maintenance and repair (MMR) needs. The Trustees believes that the B&G fund should be spent in full towards the current Infrastructure needs, and that we now focus on building up the Carson Fund to provide for future MMR needs.

MOTION: The Trustees move to close the Buildings & Grounds Fund and move balance of (\$562,416) into the Infrastructure Fund in the church's operating accounts, as part of the \$800,000 approved by Session and the Trustees to come from the trust funds.

The motion was made by Trustees and seconded by Allen Moseley. There was no discussion. The motion carried without opposition.

Lastly, Margaret brought forth a third motion to support the Agape's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary campaign.

MOTION: On motion made and seconded and after discussion, it was unanimously RESOLVED that, subject to Session approval, the Trinity Trust Fund will commit \$50,000 to the Agape Campaign (in addition to the \$50,000 previously committed by the Trinity Mission Council). The funds will come from the Lucinda Gibson Estate Gift of approximately \$250,000 which Dr. Gibson Earmarked for mission and education purposes. The \$50,000 amount will first be deposited to the Mission Fund of the Trinity Trust Fund and then remitted in satisfaction of the gift.

The motion was provided by Trustees and seconded by Laura Bynum. There was no discussion. The motion carried without opposition.

### **Finance**

Neal Williams

Neal Williams presented the May 2022 financial statement summary and a summary analysis of operations.

### **SESSION PRIORITY EXERCISE**

Rebekah LeMon

Rebekah asked Session members to complete an exercise on church priorities. This activity will also be completed by staff and a few other stakeholder groups within the church. By September, Session should be able to discern and review recurring themes that can be converted into specific calls, refined priorities, and actionable steps in our journey forward.

### **PERSONNEL**

Rebekah LeMon

Rebekah announced that Richard Floyd has accepted a call to serve as the Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Hickory, North Carolina. She thanked Richard for his dedicated service to Trinity and highlighted opportunities for the congregation to hear Richard preach during the month of July before his departure. Lastly, she reminded Session of its responsibility to dissolve his existing call at Trinity to allow him to accept his new call.

MOTION: Session calls a congregational meeting on July 31<sup>st</sup> to dissolve Richard Floyd's call at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Velma Tilley moved, and Laura Bynum provided a second. There was no discussion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Rebekah also announced that Molly Faircloth has accepted a new position at First Presbyterian Church in Atlanta and will be leaving Trinity after 10 years on staff. Rebekah thanked Molly for a decade of hard work and stewardship, and she reminded Session that celebrations for both Molly and Richard will be planned during the month of July.

Brian Williams (chair) provided a brief update on behalf of the Personnel Committee with regard to long-term personnel planning. He highlighted the need to give Rebekah some additional time to discern God's

call for our congregation and to determine how best to fulfill that call through staffing and organizational structure. As a result, those conversations will begin in July 2022.

**CLOSING PRAYER AND DEPARTING BLESSINGS**

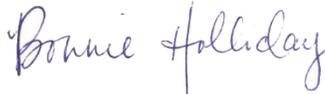
Rebekah LeMon

A motion was made and affirmed to adjourn the meeting. Rebekah closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



David Carr  
Clerk



Bonnie Holliday  
Assistant Clerk

Trinity Presbyterian Church Session In-person Attendance (In Bold), June 21, 2022:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>Adams Jr., Tom</b>	<b>Roxanna Erwin</b>	Reid Willingham
<b>Bynum, Laura</b>	<b>Ginny Hobbs</b>	Kenny Kraft
<b>Carr, David – Clerk</b>	<b>Bonnie Holiday – Asst. Clerk</b>	Kristin Hunter
<b>George, Bess</b>	<b>Richard O’Donnell</b>	Tom Owens
<b>Guerry, Bill</b>	<b>Trey Reese</b>	John Shepard
<b>Hope, Julie</b>	<b>Lane Rhoden</b>	Martha Craft
Jackson, Mary Elizabeth	<b>Allen Spetnagel</b>	Drew Timmons
<b>Lewis, Dale</b>	<b>Cindy Stancil</b>	Tanner Adams (youth)
<b>Shepherd, John</b>	<b>Adair White</b>	Duskin Balch (youth)
<b>Tilley, Velma</b>	<b>Neal Williams</b>	<b>Meredith Daniel</b>
		<b>Allen Moseley</b>
<b>Staff Attendees:</b>	<b>Other Attendees:</b>	<b>Guests</b>
<b>Rebekah LeMon-Moderator</b>	<b>David Beasley - Treasurer</b>	<b>Margaret Reiser</b>
Elizabeth Davis		<b>David Merritt</b>
Andrew Esqueda		<b>David Caldwell</b>
<b>Molly Faircloth</b>		<b>Brian Williams</b>
Tom Farmer		<b>Bill Borland</b>
<b>Richard Floyd</b>		<b>Kevin Lacson</b>
<b>Norman Mackenzie</b>		
<b>Lucy Strong</b>		
Cindy Semmes		