

**STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**August 16, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

Rebekah LeMon

After a dinner in the old sanctuary celebrating new members, the stated Session meeting for Trinity Presbyterian Church on August 16, 2022, was called to order in Williams Hall at 6:55 PM by the moderator, Rebekah LeMon. The clerk, David Carr, confirmed the presence of a quorum, and Rebekah invited David Carr to the podium for the night's devotion.

**DEVOTION**

David Carr

David Carr shared humorous and poignant reflections on the similarities between turf grass maintenance and our work within the church. He reflected on the ways that tending the turf of Trinity Presbyterian is similar to the reflective, deliberate, adaptive and—perhaps most importantly—ongoing work he does in his own backyard.

**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.

**MODERATOR'S REPORT**

Rebekah LeMon

Rebekah LeMon (moderator) shared an update on the status of the gym repair. She noted the quick thinking and actions of staff on the day of the lightning strike—with special thanks given to Andrew Esqueda and TreVarious Worthy who were immediately on hand to assist when the incident occurred. Within minutes of the event, the entire church campus was evacuated, the fire department was contacted, and emergency plans were enacted. Damage from the lightning strike was primarily limited to the roof and the gym floor (which sustained extensive water damage), and all repairs will be covered by insurance.

Additionally, Rebekah noted that in the weeks leading up to the Brian Stevenson lecture, she will teach a series from the book of Micah that focuses on acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly. She also noted that the 2022 Commitment chairs have been identified (Dave Higgins and Caroline Brown), and the theme of this year's campaign will be "A New Season."

In other updates, Rebekah highlighted updated data on in-person and remote worship. Of special note were the number of remote viewers (often in the hundreds) attending virtually on a weekly basis. As part of our continued outreach to remote viewers, Rebekah and church staff recently produced new video content that welcomes remote viewers into worship, invites them to join the in-person service in the building, and provides information on other church offerings.

Rebekah also provided a brief infrastructure update. She noted that the first-floor paint and carpet will soon be completed. The Williams Hall renovation turned out extremely well—both in appearance and function. Special thanks were given to those who helped outfit that space to meet the congregation's needs. The sanctuary is currently being renovated (paint, sound loops, flooring, and more). The library has been moved to a new location near the Old Fellowship Hall, and the old library is now called "The Commons" which will serve as a beautiful space that can be used for gatherings going forward.

In personnel news, Rebekah highlighted that since Session met in June, Trinity lost Richard Floyd, Molly Faircloth, and Esther Patrick. As a result of these departures, current staff are carrying some additional responsibilities, so Session members were encouraged to show both grace and gratitude for the next two to three months.

Lastly, Rebekah discussed opportunities this fall for intergenerational churchwide gatherings which will provide valuable opportunities for the entire congregation to fellowship together, strengthen relationships, and renew our support of and commitment to one another and to God. Upcoming events include: the Family Ministries kick off on August 28<sup>th</sup> and the Fall Churchwide Kickoff and Barbeque on September 11<sup>th</sup>. There will only be

one church service at 11am on September 11<sup>th</sup>, and congregants are invited to stay afterward to enjoy BBQ prepared by the Holy Smokers and bluegrass music from the Hot Dill Pickers.

## **CLERK'S REPORT**

David Carr

David Carr highlighted several upcoming events listed in the Session packet. The Fall Churchwide Kickoff & BBQ will be held on September 1, the Engagement Fair will take place on September 18 & 25, and the next Session Meeting is slated for October 18, 2022.

Additionally, David noted that the statistical report is abbreviated this month; more robust information will be available next month. He directed Session's attention to the number of member deaths this month, and he asked members to pray for those who we have lost. He also reminded Session members to sign up for Session devotions and remarked on the wonderful opportunity devotions provide for Session members to learn from each other and strengthen their relationships. Lastly, David discussed recent correspondence from Thornwell and the Covenant Network from Presbyterians, and he thanked all those who create and assemble the Session packet each month.

## **SPECIAL ORDERS & REPORTS:**

### ***Supervised Ministry Internship***

Paul King

Paul King gave an overview of the types of work and supports in which he has been actively involved over the last few months. He noted that when he arrived, Trinity had just begun streaming services and needed to make many adaptations very quickly to improve remote access for members. He was able to support various improvements in both graphics and technology that enabled remote viewers to follow the service from home. He worked to procure Zoom Room carts that can be used for Adult Ed. On the list of things still left to do, he outlined the need to replace the sound mixer in the Loft, get the Zoom Room up and running in Williams Hall (waiting on more robust internet service in there), and organizing the overall inventory of equipment.

Additionally, Paul suggested Session consider the following recommendations going forward:

- Continue engaging remote church viewers. When we livestream, we are creating two doors into TPC (one where interested people can get a peak at what we do here, and one where devoted members can receive church services outside of the physical building.)
- Identify a way for the digital content team to receive constructive feedback going forward. Which committees should be involved in this work? How should end users be involved?
- Identify gaps in current policies. (For example: implied permission to utilize someone's likeness in a video)
- Resourcing our online presence and offerings. How will we continue to support this ministry?

To conclude this discussion, John Shepherd offered sincere gratitude to Paul King for his service to the Friday Men's group and to the overall Sound Team.

### ***Engagement Committee***

Ginny Hobbs and Shirley Davis

Shirley Davis discussed the upcoming TPC Engagement Fair which builds on the legacy of the Volunteer Parade that used to take place each year. The goal of the Engagement Fair is to engage more of the congregation in the life and the work of the church. In preparation for the event, the Engagement Committee inventoried all committees and groups at Trinity, gathered information from leaders and chairs, and recruited volunteers to attend the Engagement Fair and provide information to attendees. Congregational Life will be providing food, and we anticipate an atmosphere of fun and fellowship. The Engagement Fair will take place September 18th and 25th.

Ginny noted the event's print and media information (posters and QR codes) that can provide information to interested attendees as well as those who aren't able to attend in person. She also charged volunteers to get creative with tables and fliers and to create materials that clarify what it means to volunteer for each respective group and committee.

Session members expressed broad support for the Engagement Fair and inquired about how to promote the event to those who attend Trinity worship remotely.

**Finance**

Mark Stancil

Mark Stancil presented the July 2022 financial statement summary and a summary analysis of operations. He also provided a brief update on the infrastructure budget. Approximately 81% of the infrastructure campaign pledges have been fulfilled to date. He noted that with Molly's absence, Session members are welcome to reach out to Mark Stancil or David Beasley with finance or budget questions.

**Priorities Exercise**

Rebekah LeMon

In June, Rebekah asked Session members to complete an exercise on church priorities. This activity was also completed by staff and a few other stakeholder groups within the church. As a second step to this exercise, Rebekah asked Session members to now begin reflecting in small groups on recurring themes that can be converted into specific calls, refined priorities, and actionable steps in our journey forward. After some discussion amongst groups, Rebekah agreed to email Session members the Priority Exercise data summary, and Session Members agreed to add comments and return the summary document to Rebekah by the end of August.

**PERSONNEL**

Brian Williams and Rebekah LeMon

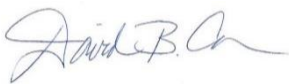
Brian Williams spoke about Trinity's "season of transition" in terms of personnel. He characterized recent staff departures as "not unexpected" and noted that in many ways they are a natural extension of the work conducted by the Church and Budget Work Group, the end of our interim pastor's tenure, and the welcoming of our new senior pastor earlier this year. He noted that change brings tremendous opportunity for the church to level set and deliberate on how to best meet the church's current and future needs. Brian also reviewed current staff structure and open positions.

**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 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



David Carr  
Clerk



Bonnie Holliday  
Assistant Clerk

Trinity Presbyterian Church Session In-person Attendance (In Bold), August 16, 2022:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Name</b>
Adams Jr., Tom	<b>Roxanna Erwin</b>	<b>Reid Willingham</b>
<b>Bynum, Laura</b>	<b>Ginny Hobbs</b>	<b>Kenny Kraft</b>
<b>Carr, David – Clerk</b>	<b>Bonnie Holiday – Asst. Clerk</b>	<b>Kristin Hunter</b>
<b>George, Bess</b>	Richard O'Donnell	<b>Tom Owens</b>
Guerry, Bill	<b>Trey Reese</b>	<b>John Shepard</b>
<b>Hope, Julie</b>	<b>Lane Rhoden</b>	<b>Martha Craft</b>
<b>Jackson, Mary Elizabeth</b>	<b>Allen Spetnagel</b>	<b>Drew Timmons</b>
<b>Lewis, Dale</b>	<b>Cindy Stancil</b>	<b>Tanner Adams (youth)</b>
<b>Shepherd, John</b>	<b>Adair White</b>	<b>Duskin Balch (youth)</b>
<b>Tilley, Velma</b>	Neal Williams	<b>Meredith Daniel</b>
		<b>Allen Moseley</b>
		<b>Chris Suh</b>
<b>Staff Attendees:</b>	<b>Other Attendees:</b>	<b>Guests</b>
<b>Rebekah LeMon-Moderator</b>		Shirley Davis
<b>Elizabeth Davis</b>		Paul King
<b>Andrew Esqueda</b>		Mark Stancil
<b>Lucy Strong</b>		Brian Williams