

**STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Rebekah LeMon

The stated Session meeting for Trinity Presbyterian Church on February 21, 2023, was called to order in Old Fellowship Hall at 7:25 PM by the moderator, Rebekah LeMon. The clerk, David Carr, confirmed the presence of a quorum.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Lucy Strong

Session members enjoyed introducing the following individuals as candidates for membership at Trinity Presbyterian Church: Cindy Neal, Peyton Warley, Tricia and Gregg Addicks, Lisa Allen and Alyssa Cohen (contingent on baptism), Libby and John Baum, Samuel Jackson "Deacon" Buchanan, Sarah Helwig, Sam and Lane Henderson, Paul Speigl, and Allison and Bill Spicer (and their daughter Lucy).

The following motion was provided by Drew Timmons, seconded by Roxanna Erwin, and unanimously approved by session:

MOTION to approve these requests for membership into the congregation of Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Lastly, Lucy Strong noted that four additional new members will be joining at a called session meeting on March 5. These individuals are Betsy and Louis Oliver and Cal and George Jennison.

DEVOTION

Ginny Hobbs

Ginny Hobbs offered reflections on loving our enemies. She referenced Arthur Brooks' book Love Your Enemies which provides insights on respecting, listening to, and praying for those who disagree with us. She also highlighted the advice of Howard Thurmond in his book Meditations of the Heart. Thurmond encourages us to make room in our hearts for everyone and to "reject the sharp barb" we often feel to lash out, to argue, and to make our point at the expense of hearing others out.

OMNIBUS MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Rebekah LeMon

Rebekah LeMon directed Session members to the omnibus motion in the meeting packet. David Carr offered a few minor edits to two items in the consent agenda: 1) he amended the agenda to include a mission report, and 2) he corrected the list of attendees who were present at the December 4 2022 called meeting to approve a new member.

The motion to approve the consent agenda as amended was unanimously approved.

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Rebekah LeMon

Rebekah LeMon began her report with a note of gratitude to Elizabeth Davis and all those who helped to make Children's Sunday a success, and she also thanked Mary Elizabeth Jackson for coordinating a wonderful church-wide talent show.

She also reminded session that the mission trip to Cuba takes place this week (the team is leaving on February 22), she thanked David Carr for his work to correct previous issues with TPC's statistical report, she expressed appreciation for Amy Krause updating the personnel handbook, and she also reminded session members to conduct their outreach calls to members of the congregation. Rebekah also noted that the session retreat will be held in May 2023.

Next, Rebekah also announced the recent hiring of several new staffers. MacKenzie Atkinson came onboard as the Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor, Emily Beaver as Ministry Coordinator for Communications, and Dariel Parades as the Digital Media Specialist.

Lastly, she gave an infrastructure update noting that almost all work is planned to conclude by Easter.

CLERK'S REPORT

David Carr

David Carr thanked all the Trinity representatives who attended the recent Presbytery meeting, and he announced the next stated session meeting is scheduled for March 21.

Next, David gave an update on the statistical report. After a recent audit (prompted by some questionable report numbers), David determined that some inaccurate reporting had taken place in 2022; most of which occurred as an unfortunate and unintended consequence of significant staff reductions and transitions. In short: as staff were reduced in alignment with the recommendations of the budget work group, new staff (or existing staff that took on additional responsibilities) were not always aware of or trained on specific report formatting, and this led to inaccuracies in reporting over a period of several months. That stated, the errors have now been corrected to the greatest possible extent, an accurate statistical report is currently available for review (p. 14 of the session packet), and this updated report has been filed with the Presbytery.

Next, Rebekah asked for a motion to approve the new statistical report. The following motion was given by Laura Bynum, seconded by Velma Tilley, and unanimously approved.

MOTION to approve the new statistical report which supersedes and replaces previous statistical reports.

David also circulated the nomination form for the next Assistant Clerk and asked for members to submit nominations tonight or as soon as possible, and he requested a motion to call a congregational meeting to approve the new elder slate.

Allen Moseley provided the following motion, Allen Spetnagel seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

MOTION to call a congregational meeting on March 26, 2023, to receive elder slate from Nominating committee, receive 2022 annual report, and approve terms of call for pastors.

Lastly, David highlighted the changes that had recently been made to the employee handbook (p. 47 of the session packet).

SPECIAL ORDERS & REPORTS:

Commitment

Dave Higgins

The commitment campaign officially concluded yesterday. The congregation exceeded the giving goal, and there was a total of 435 pledges. For the first time in several years, the church will transition from a scarcity mentality to a hopeful mindset that promotes alignment between our programming and our purpose.

February Presbytery Recap

Allen Spetnagel

Allen Spetnagel attended the recent Presbytery meeting, and he gave an update on the proposed amendments to the Book of Order (28 of which were up for a vote, and all were approved).

Allen then noted the diversity of our Presbytery membership and the unique aspects of worship associated with each of our respective congregations.

Finance

Neal Williams

Neal Williams presented the results of a recent external review (conducted by Carr, Riggs, and Ingram) of our financial processes and procedures. Neal noted that the review highlighted many positive aspects of our practices and also recommended a few improvements that can/should be made going forward.

Next, Neal provided a brief summary of Trinity's pledged income, non-pledged income, and 'other' income—all of which came in above the budgeted amounts for 2022. He also noted that all committees had underspent last year which is something to watch and communicate with committees about going forward.

OPEN FORUM

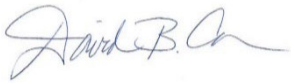
Lucy Strong asked session to allow the group traveling to Cuba to take communion on location. Velma Tilley made a motion which was seconded by many and unanimously approved.

CLOSING PRAYER AND DEPARTING BLESSINGS

Lucy Strong

A motion was made and affirmed to adjourn the meeting. Lucy Strong closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



David Carr
Clerk



Bonnie Holliday
Assistant Clerk

Trinity Presbyterian Church Session In-person Attendance (In Bold), January 17, 2023:

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