

**STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
September 20, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Rebekah LeMon

The stated Session meeting for Trinity Presbyterian Church on September 20, 2022, was called to order in Williams Hall at 7:03 PM by the moderator, Rebekah LeMon. The clerk, David Carr, confirmed the presence of a quorum, and Rebekah invited Velma Tilley to the podium for the night's devotion.

DEVOTION

Velma Tilley

Velma Tilley shared reflections on "staying in the pain" when seasons of discomfort arise in our lives. She discussed the blessing of having a "posse" of friends, family, and loved ones to stand in the gap for us when we are hurting. In a world of "big hurts and little hurts," she prayed that all of us would be willing to hold people close when they are in pain and to keep them close until they make it through to the other side.

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 offered thanks to all of those who have planned and helped with the many 'kick off' activities that have taken place this fall. He also issued a call to all Session members to lean into the role of "active elder" to grow the positive momentum at Trinity right now. There are many complicating factors that compete with church, and it is up to Session to help with ongoing projects and encourage attendance and engagement as often as possible (for us and for others). He noted the upcoming Presbytery meeting in November, and he passed around sign-up sheets for both Session devotions and communion servers. Bonnie Holliday, Assistant Clerk, asked all Session members to sign up to serve communion at least three times between now and August 2023.

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Rebekah LeMon

Rebekah LeMon (moderator) noted that we have fifteen new members set to join the church in the coming weeks. She mentioned an invitation to the College of Elders dinner scheduled for October 27th and encouraged all Session members to attend. She will be discussing our work on defining church priorities at that dinner event.

Rebekah also announced that we will be convening in January for an Elder Retreat where we can discuss the theological underpinnings of our work and talk specifically about the authority of Trinity's Session as well as our committee structure. She also encouraged all Session members to follow Trinity on social media.

At the October session meeting, Margaret Reiser will speak to Session about the structure and status of all Trinity's trust funds, and elders will process a request on how to utilize the Love Fund. Additionally, as we enter budget season, Session will begin discussions around how to shift from capacity-based budgeting to need-based budgeting. A budget template will go out to committee chairs within the next three weeks, and chairs will be asked to note previously unbudgeted need where it exists. Rebekah announced that the new commitment chairs--Dave Higgins and Caroline Brown--will speak to Session in October about the 2022 campaign. Elders should pledge before the annual commitment campaign officially kicks off on October 31st.

In personnel news, Rebekah announced that Cindy Semmes will be leaving at the end of September. A search for her replacement will be launched this week with the goal of hiring someone new as quickly as possible. Mary-Kate Sykes will also be leaving to move back to North Carolina and to take an ordainable position. She will be leaving after the Kittrell lecture.

SPECIAL ORDERS & REPORTS:

August Presbytery Meeting Recap

Roxanna Erwin

Roxanna Erwin gave an update on the August Presbytery meeting which was convened virtually. She provided Session members with a handout containing information on all the groups that form our Presbytery partnerships,

and she summarized key actions occurring at the meeting including new minimum compensation thresholds for installed pastors. She also noted that the offering given at the meeting went to support CRIS180.

Infrastructure Project

David Merritt

David Merritt gave an update on the ongoing infrastructure project. He noted that October will be a busy month. He described the ongoing installation of new security equipment and signage, the upgraded AV capabilities, the connection of all our major worship spaces, and an improved WIFI network that will be up and running soon. Lastly, he noted the Infrastructure Committee's continual focus on balancing priorities, project scope and available funds, and he provided a list of additional infrastructure needs that are pending additional funding support.

He announced that congregational tours will take place in October, an Open House is scheduled for November 10th, and the entire infrastructure project will be complete by the end of the calendar year. He also noted that we are awaiting the installation of pews, carpet, and marble flooring in the sanctuary. The goal is to have the sanctuary completed in time for the Kittrell lecture in November.

David also mentioned the Trinity gym repair which was not part of the original infrastructure campaign. He noted that insurance claims have all been filed, and the goal is to have the renovation complete before the Trinity basketball league kicks off in late November.

Finance

Neal Williams

Neal Williams presented the August 2022 financial statement summary and a summary analysis of operations. He noted that we are in a favorable position in terms of our budget.

Priorities Exercise

Rebekah LeMon

As a continuation of the work Session members completed over the summer related to defining and refining church priorities, Rebekah reviewed several recurring themes that emerged from those previous work sessions and requested feedback from Session on specific goals. After some discussion, Session members were asked to submit additional thoughts and questions to Rebekah before the next meeting.

OPEN FORUM

No comments were given during open forum.

CLOSING PRAYER AND DEPARTING BLESSINGS

Andrew Esqueda

A motion was made and affirmed to adjourn the meeting. Andrew Esqueda closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 9:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



David Carr
Clerk



Bonnie Holliday
Assistant Clerk

Trinity Presbyterian Church Session In-person Attendance (In Bold), September 20, 2022:

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	John Shepard
Hope, Julie	Lane Rhoden	Martha Craft
Jackson, Mary Elizabeth	Allen Spetnagel	Drew Timmons
Lewis, Dale	Cindy Stancil	Tanner Adams (youth)
Shepherd, John	Adair White	Duskin Balch (youth)
Tilley, Velma	Neal Williams	Meredith Daniel
		Allen Moseley
		Chris Suh
Staff Attendees:	Other Attendees:	Guests
Rebekah LeMon-Moderator		David Merritt (via Zoom)
Elizabeth Davis		
Andrew Esqueda		
Lucy Strong		