

STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
January 17, 2023

CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Rebekah LeMon

The stated Session meeting for Trinity Presbyterian Church on January 17, 2023, was called to order in Old Fellowship Hall at 7:01 PM by the moderator, Rebekah LeMon. The assistant clerk, Bonnie Holliday, confirmed the presence of a quorum.

DEVOTION

Tanner Adams

Tanner Adams offered reflections on her service trip to Tanzania where she worked alongside local students—across lines of difference—to improve community access to water and other critical resources. She recalled how quickly the superficial differences between teenagers from different continents gave way to make room for meaningful connections and genuine friendships. Tanner spoke earnestly about her realization that opportunity is not distributed equally, but—as children of God—we are called to be in community, to help each other, and to lighten each other’s loads.

OMNIBUS MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Rebekah LeMon

Rebekah LeMon directed Session members to the omnibus motion in the meeting packet. Rebekah pulled the statistical report for further review and discussion, and she asked if any additional items needed to be pulled. No additional items were identified, there was no discussion, and the consent agenda (minus the statistical report) was adopted with no opposition.

CLERK’S REPORT

David Carr

David Carr recapped recent holiday celebrations and other special events—including the long-awaited installment of our new pastor, Rebekah LeMon. David noted receipt of a letter from Joy Fisher (presbytery liaison) who expressed gratitude for being able to walk alongside Trinity throughout the process of Rebekah’s installment and offered thanks for Trinity’s generous financial support of the presbytery and its activities and offerings.

Next, David highlighted an upcoming audit of Trinity’s statistical report because of some recently discovered errors that require remedy. The issues will be addressed in partnership with TPC staff over the next few weeks.

Lastly, David noted that the next Session meeting will take place on February 21st, and the next Presbytery meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2023 at First Presbyterian Church Of Covington.

MODERATOR’S REPORT

Rebekah LeMon

Rebekah LeMon began her report with a note of gratitude to the church community for the support they provided in the months leading up to her installation as well as during her installation ceremony on Sunday.

She also noted that she’ll be asking Session and other members of the congregation about Trinity’s Advent traditions to determine which of those practices are worth keeping and which ones—if any—we might be continuing out of habit rather than joyful reverence. Along those lines, she announced that more than 2000 people worshipped with Trinity on Christmas Eve (hundreds of those attended virtually).

Rebekah offered special thanks to the infrastructure team for all the work they did to ready the sanctuary for the Bryan Stevenson lecture as well as numerous other Advent activities. She also noted that new security systems are being installed around the church this month, but we are still awaiting furniture and screens (which are on backorder for now).

Rebekah also provided a commitment update. As of today, the church has received 392 pledges for a total of \$3,347,081. This represents 95.6% of our commitment goal, and pledges have come in from 62% of our church families. The commitment advisory committee is doing some targeted outreach to those families who pledged last year but not this year, and—in the coming months—the membership and engagement committee

alongside Session members will make a concerted effort to contact each member of the congregation—not to ask for money, but to increase engagement and review membership status for all members.

Continuing the finance discussion, Rebekah announced that a draft budget will be ready for review prior to the February Session meeting with the goal of adopting the budget at the March Session meeting.

In personnel news, Rebekah announced that a new search will soon be launched for a Digital Media Specialist since Will Giannini is leaving his current role. She also reminded Session of the ongoing searches for a Director of Communications and a Head Church Administrator. After several weeks of searching independently, Trinity has now engaged a staffing firm to assist with recruiting.

Next, Rebekah noted a new sermon series focusing on the identifies of Jesus that will take place during Lent. A concurrent book study based on the book *Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Teacher, Lord, Servant, Presence, and Way* will serve as a compliment to the sermons series.

Lastly, Rebekah announced that the nominating committee is meeting soon, and nominations for new elders will open by the end of January. Elders are encouraged to submit nominations.

SPECIAL ORDERS & REPORTS:

Family Ministries

Andrew Esqueda & Lucy Strong

Andrew Esqueda reminded Session Members to complete the Child Sexual Abuse Awareness training. The most recent training link came by way of email from Andrew on January 10th, but Session members also received an emailed training link directly from Ministry Safe in the Fall of 2022. Andrew also invited Session members to attend the Hiding in Plain Site Documentary on mental health awareness in The Loft on January 29th.

Lucy Strong encouraged all Session members to attend the 9am or the 11am service on Children's Sunday (February 5th). This is a special opportunity for our Children to lead all parts of worship and also a unique opportunity for the adults in our church family to support Trinity's youngest congregants in their spiritual growth.

Virtual Attendance

David Carr

David Carr called out the impressive attendance numbers that appear in the Worship Attendance Report on p. 9 of the Session packet. He paid special attention to the uptick in virtual viewers throughout the Advent season—including but not limited to the Christmas Eve services. Rebekah offered additional insight on the growing importance of virtual attendees, and she highlighted the need to delve deeper into our digital media data to discern how best to translate remote participation into real and ongoing engagement with the church.

Mission Counsel

Julie Hope

Julie reminded Session that the Mission Counsel's three priority areas are advocacy, food insecurity, and education, and she expressed the hope that Session will be more involved in discerning priorities going forward.

There was also some discussion about Trinity's continued support of Agape, and what our longstanding partnership might look like in the future.

Finance

Neal Williams

Neal Williams presented a brief summary of Trinity's end-of-year budget position. He noted that we are in a favorable position with pledged income, non-pledged income, and 'other' income all coming in above the budgeted amounts.

OPEN FORUM

Several announcements were made about upcoming church events (Churchwide BINGO on Jan.21st and the Trinity Talent Show on February 5th).


Additionally, many Session members expressed gratitude for all the outreach efforts currently underway to re-engage people within the Trinity community.

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 9:00 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		