**STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**June 20, 2023**

**7:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER & DECLARATION OF QUORUM**             **Rebekah LeMon**

The stated Session meeting for Trinity Presbyterian Church on **June 20, 2023**, was called to order in Old Fellowship Hall at 7:05 PM by the moderator, Rebekah LeMon. The clerk, Bonnie Holliday, confirmed the presence of a quorum.

**DEVOTION         Allen Spetnagel**

Unfortunately, Allen was feeling sick and could not make the meeting. Rebekah graciously spared the remaining session members from a spontaneous devotion. We look forward to hearing Allen’s devotion in a future meeting.

**OMNIBUS MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

Rebekah LeMon directed session members to the omnibus motion in the meeting packet which included the meeting agenda, the minutes from the Stated Session Meeting on May 16, 2023, the minutes from the Called Session Meeting (Elder Examinations and Session Retreat) on May 20, 2023, the financial report, and the statistical report for May 2023. The motion to approve the consent agenda as amended was unanimously approved.

**MODERATOR’S REPORT          RebekahLeMon**

Rebekah LeMon began by expressing her excitement for the many new members welcomed recently into the Trinity congregation. She reminded us how much the church is growing with members of all ages and how meaningful this is for our mission moving forward.

Next, Rebekah discussed the session mini retreat/workshop which took place on Saturday, May 20, 2023 and was organized to help explore our goals for the new year and transition between the outgoing and incoming elders. She noted that there was interesting and good feedback from those who attended, and she intends to categorize the points of emphasis and distribute to the session.

Rebekah then gave a special thanks to all the holy smokers for their wonderful efforts to feed the congregation with what she referred to as the “best BBQ around.” She noted that it was a joyful occasion, especially since it came directly after the receipt of many new members into the church, and the ordination and installation of the new elder class. She also thanked all who took photographs of the events to assist Trinity in spreading word to our community of our fellowship events.

In media news, Rebekah also mentioned that we should celebrate the development and launch of the official Trinity YouTube channel/page, which will allow for recording and replay of sermons and other live events.

In personnel news, Rebekah announced the hiring of Phil Hawkins as the new digital media specialist for Trinity. She also thanked the session for its warm welcome of Heather Edmiston and urged the members to continue to help her feel at home in her new position as Director of Finance and Administration. She also noted the hiring of a new director to the preschool in Erin Carey.

Rebekah gave thanks to all those who volunteered their time to assist with Vacation Bible School in June – it was a “smash hit” and required a large contingency of the congregation to operate smoothly. Along the same lines, Rebekah expressed her excitement for the energy and efficiency of Emily Beaver and Jean Lapitan in their efforts with Trinity’s children’s ministries.

Rebekah also gave thanks for those who were involved in the “Speaking of Faith” program for adult education, which was very meaningful for those who were able to attend one or more of the summer classes.

Rebekah and Lucy reminded the session of the ongoing call-a-thon to Trinity members to update contact information and ensure all members are being contacted and engaged.

Rebekah made mention of the need for ideas and proposals for distribution of the Love fund. She noted that the fund provides significant money and is intended for a broad range of activities, and encouraged thoughts as to how best to utilize it for the coming year.

Finally, Rebekah announced the appointment of Melissa Mosely and Stan Tilley as the co-chairs for Trinity’s annual giving campaign for 2023.

**CLERK’S REPORT** **Bonnie Holliday**

Bonnie began by congratulating Trinity on a hugely successful Vacation Bible School program in June, and expressing her gratitude for the 45 adult volunteers and 38 youth volunteers from Trinity who helped entertain and watch over the 80-90 kids every day. She also noted that nearly half of the children were from non-member families, which is exciting and emphasizes what a great program it was. She noted that there was a great deal of interest in the Church from non-members who attended the events. She gave a special “shout out” to the middle school boys for their joke sessions and the middle school girls for their dance moves.

Next, Bonnie directed session members to the key upcoming dates listed in the session packet, including the upcoming Presbytery meeting on August 15th, the need for session members to sign up to assist with Communion at least 3 Sundays each year, and sign-ups for devotions for upcoming session meetings. She also reminded the new session members of the schedule for our session meetings, which are held the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

***SPECIAL ORDERS & REPORTS:***

**TRUSTEES RebekahLeMon**

Rebekah informed the session that the Trustees unanimously resolved to approve a distribution of $26,764 from the Kittrell Memorial Lectureship Fund to the Trinity Church operating account for Kittrell Lectureship expenses for 2023, subject to session approval. This was approved unanimously on motion.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS Rebekah LeMon**

Rebekah reminded the attendees that although we had already selected specific officers for the current session, the session is required to elect them by name. Upon a motion, Bonnie Holliday was unanimously approved as President, and Drew Timmons was unanimously approved as Secretary. Walt Gilliam was approved at a prior meeting as Treasurer.

**PRESBYTERY UPDATES Rebekah LeMon**

Rebekah provided the session with an overview of updates to the Book of Order, which included the required adoption of polices around sexual misconduct, child sexual abuse, child and youth protection, and racism. These required policies include boundaries training for everyone who serves in office and everyone who volunteers with children, an anti-racism policy (Trinity does not have one currently, but we are working on one), and an additional layer to ministry safe training. Additional approved required policies include 12 weeks of paid family medical leave on terms of call for all pastors, and adoption of rules of order and standard rules to govern electronic meetings. Finally, the Rules of Discipline has new section entitled church discipline to clarify and address wrongdoing in the life of the church.

**COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHTS**

**• WORSHIP AND MUSIC Roxanna Erwin**

Roxanna Erwin provided an update on and overview of the Worship and Music Committee. She explained that the committee is there to support Sunday worship services, including with usher and greeter teams, volunteers for communion table, arrangements with the flower guild, coordinating the choir and handbell choir programs. Roxanna highlighted the various subcommittees enveloped in this committee, including those for weddings, memorial services, the memorial garden, and fine arts and special events. This committee focuses on vision and new ideas for worship and music, including ways to integrate the strengths of our 9 am and 11 am services.

Roxanna also gave an update on worship attendance, noting that on “average” Sundays, we typically have around 320 people in person and 80 online, i.e., 400+ on any given Sunday.

She reminded the session of upcoming events in worship and engagement, including the August 6th hymn sing worship service, and the upcoming engagement fair taking place on Sunday August 27th.

Roxanna closed by reminding the session of Trinity’s stated value to “worship creatively.”

**• PROPERTY Allen Moseley**

Allen Moseley, chairman of the property committee, updated the session as to recent activities and events pertaining to the Property of the church. He noted that we are on budget for the year and also have some reserves available which the session will need to determine how to use. As to current projects, he mentioned the maintenance and replacement of HVAC units throughout the property, the installation of a new security system, the potential uses for our new audio/visual equipment, and the recent replacement of elevators for the Trinity Early Learning Center. Allen also brought up the recent construction and clear cutting of trees on the property next door which has impacted the views and privacy of the Memorial Garden. The Property committee is working to plant holly bushes to return some of the privacy to the area.

Allen indicated that the committee is currently laying out long term capital needs so we can plan for where our future capital will come from. Martha Craft inquired as the timeline for installation of pew racks for hymnals and books in the chancel choir loft, as well as the need for foundation work on the pews on the lectern side.

**• FINANCE**       **Richard O’Donnell**

Richard O’Donnell began his update with a year-to-date summary. Year-to-date we have total income of 2 million and we are favorable relative to budget for the year through May. As of May, our expenses are under budget for the year. Richard highlighted the positive revenue for May.  He also recounted the Committee’s review of Trinity’s good and strong financial position. Richard also spoke on the need to decide how best to use our excess budget at the end of the year. Rebekah noted that the past practice has been to split any surplus between mission and property. However, this year, we intend to look at any available surplus and determine the areas of greatest need, without making any commitment on how to distribute.

**OPEN FORUM**

Lucy Strong spoke on the upcoming record restriction summit for the Mission of Faith in Action which will take place on September 23rd between 9 -3. It will also include a job and resource fair, and voter registration. Session members were encouraged to participate if available, especially those with a professional background in law. There is also a Faith in Action Sunday School program taking place on August 20th at 9 am which is an intergenerational learning opportunity to find out more about this mission partner.

Jay Harris invited perspective on the recent action taken by Southern Baptist Convention to expel congregations that have women in any pastoral role. Rebekah provided a rather moving explanation as to women’s role in speaking the gospel and proclaiming the Word of the Lord, and Lucy also made additional comments as to the necessary role of women in worship.

**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 8:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Holliday Drew Timmons

Clerk                                                         Assistant Clerk

Trinity Presbyterian Church Session In-person Attendance (In Bold), June 20, 2023:

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| **Name** | **Name** | **Name** |
| **Roxanna Erwin** | **Reid Willingham** | **Karen Bain** |
| **Ginny Hobbs** | **Kenny Kraft** | **Jon Balch** |
| **Bonnie Holiday –Clerk** | Kristin Hunter | Dean Cleaveland |
| **Richard O’Donnell** | **Tom Owens** | **Rebekah Groover** |
| **Trey Reese** | **Martha Craft** | **Jay Harris** |
| Lane Rhoden | **Drew Timmons -Asst. Clerk** | **Paige Keller** |
| Allen Spetnagel | **Meredith Daniel** | Nick Leet |
| Cindy Stancil | **Allen Moseley** | **Jon McRae** |
| **Adair White** | Chris Suh | **Mary Kelly Speed** |
| Neal Williams | **Lindsey Greene** | **Catherine Warren** |
|  |  | **Catherine Quillian (youth)** |
|  |  | **Helen Slawson (youth)** |
| **Staff Attendees:** | **Other Attendees**: | **Guests** |
| **Rebekah LeMon-Moderator** |  |  |
| Elizabeth Davis |  |  |
| Andrew Esqueda |  |  |
| **Lucy Strong** |  |  |
| **Heather Edmiston** |  |  |

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| **UPCOMING DATES** | | | |
| Communion | July 3, 2023, August 6, 2023 |
| Session Meeting | August 15, 2023 |
| PresbyteryMeeting | August 15, 2023 |
| Baptisms | September 10 **•** Benjamin Ellis Lukens, son of Catherine and Davis Lukens **•** Abigail Lucille Hughes, daughter of Patrick and  Lauren Stair Hughes **•** Oliver Owens Szyperski, son of Heather and Bobby Szyperski |

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