

**STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
May 16, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Rebekah LeMon

The stated Session meeting for Trinity Presbyterian Church on May 16, 2023, was called to order in Williams Hall at 6:15 PM by the moderator, Rebekah LeMon. The clerk, David Carr, confirmed the presence of a quorum, and Rebekah welcomed new members to the meeting and invited them to join session members for dinner and conversation. Following the dinner, Laura Bynum made the following motion which was seconded by Velma Tilley.

MOTION: Accept the following individuals as new members at Trinity Presbyterian Church:

*Terry Banta - Letter of Transfer & Reactivation of membership
Robert Banta - Letter of Transfer & Reactivation of membership
Julie Balloun – Letter of Transfer
Lauren Blankenship - Reaffirmation of Faith
Martha DeLuca - Reactivation of membership
Judy Hamilton – Reactivation of Membership
Margaret Hill – Letter of Transfer
Christine Love – Reaffirmation of Faith
Sally Beamer Silverman –Reaffirmation of Faith*

There was no discussion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

DEVOTION

Martha Craft

Martha Craft shared moving reflections on how she has often felt the Holy Spirit move in her life in the midst of crisis. She shared personal experiences and challenges that required reflection, prayer, and discernment, and she encouraged session members to be still and quiet in a noisy world so as to feel the Spirit guiding us.

OMNIBUS MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Rebekah LeMon

Rebekah LeMon directed Session members to the omnibus motion in the meeting packet. She noted two amendments. First, she acknowledged the upcoming baptism of Genevieve Love on June 11, 2023. Second, she explained that two versions of the minutes from the May session meeting were disseminated (one in the electronic session packet and one in the printed session packet). The version being voted on tonight are the minutes in the printed session packet. No additional discussion took place, and the motion to approve the consent agenda with the stated amendments carried without any opposition.

WELCOME NEW TPC STAFF MEMBER

Rebekah LeMon

Rebekah LeMon introduced and welcomed Heather Edmiston who recently began her new role as Trinity's Director of Finance and Administration. Heather has been working on a part-time basis since April, but she will soon assume a full-time role in June.

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Rebekah LeMon

Rebekah LeMon shared gratitude for the efforts of several elders and Trinity members who have done great work behind the scenes since the session convened in April.

She gave thanks for all the new members who will be joining the church on Sunday as well as for Lucy who spends so much time and energy shepherding visitors and prospective members as they prepare to join our congregation at Trinity.

Rebekah also thanked Velma Tilley and Ginny Hobbs for their tireless efforts working with the Georgia Justice Project. Because of Velma, Ginny, and others from the church, Trinity was just recognized with a 2023 Grass Roots Justice Award for being the “Sheandra Clark Volunteer of the Year.”

Next, Rebekah gave thanks to Norman Mackenzie, Scott Morris, Phyllis Sommer, and Nelda Greene along with all the choir members who made choir Sunday such a joyful experience.

Thanks were also given to Bess George, Mary Elizabeth Jackson, Olivia Wall, and Katherine Kraft for making Trinity’s 1st Annual Swing and Stroll art show a success. The congregation delighted in seeing the gifts of others and thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship.

Lastly, Rebekah thanked Jean Lapitan for organizing a wonderful ‘launch night’ experience for upcoming 6th and 9th graders and for building such a strong middle school program that Trinity’s youth are excited to join.

On an operations note, Rebekah listed the following committee assignments for new elders:

John Balch (Congregational Care)
Karen Bain (YFM)
Dean Cleaveland (CFM + TPP Board)
Rebekah Groover (Worship and Music)
Jay Harris (Property)
Paige Keller (Mission)
Nick Leet (Adult Education)
Jon McRae (Finance)
Mary Kelly Speed (Membership)
Catherine Quillian and Helen Slawson (YFM)
Catherine Warren (Communications)

Rebekah also reminded session members of the upcoming elder retreat on Saturday, May 20th. The retreat will include a follow-up on the priorities work that took place in the fall of 2022 and will also provide an opportunity to examine and review the faith statements of the incoming elder class. The new elder class will be ordained and installed on Sunday, May 21.

In closing, Rebekah also noted that Trinity’s commitment season would start earlier in the year in 2023.

CLERK’S REPORT

David Carr

David Carr began by thanking all session members who served communion this month and all those who attended the presbytery meeting on behalf of session. He also commended Rebekah for officiating the celebration of life service for Amy St. Pierre who tragically lost her life two weeks ago in the shooting that took place in Midtown Atlanta.

Next, David reminded session members of the May 21st elder retreat as well as the June 20th stated session meeting, and he pointed session members to the positive data reflected on p. 10 of the session packet (worship attendance) and on p. 18 (statistical report).

Lastly, David offered reflections on his tenure as clerk and thanked all those who had supported his work on session as well as in the role of clerk. He offered moving reflections on how far the church has come in the three short years he’s served on session, and he encouraged elders to continue working together and supporting our pastors in the years ahead.

SPECIAL ORDERS & REPORTS:

Welcome Emily Avant

Rebekah LeMon

Rebekah presented Emily Avant to Session with a formal request that members endorse her in the role of Inquirer. Emily offered comments on the critical role the Church has played in her life and in her spiritual development and growth. She reflected on the personal and professional journey that has contributed to the discernment of her calling to ministry in the Presbyterian church.

Laura Bynum brought forth a motion for Emily's endorsement which was seconded by Dale Lewis and approved unanimously.

Confirmand Mentor Plan

Rebekah LeMon

On behalf of the clergy, Rebekah announced the intention to re-institute a confirmand mentor system. That process will begin in late summer. More information is forthcoming.

Presbytery Meeting Report

David Carr

David requested that commissioners share reflections from the recent Presbytery Meeting. Cindy Stancil highlighted a discussion that took place around congregational engagement in light of the Surgeon General's recent declaration of "the epidemic of loneliness." Dale Lewis shared his appreciation for the diverse voices in our Presbytery and the gratitude they expressed for being able to come together to worship and learn from each other. Adair White recalled the sermon's focus on the marks of caring relationships and the necessity of reciprocity in caring and kindness. Lastly, Kenny Kraft remarked on the poignancy of the pastor's message and on the small group discussions that focused on encouraging the 'marks of a Christian' in ourselves and in others.

Finance

Richard O'Donnell

Richard O'Donnell presented the April 2023 financial statement summary and presented the following motion on behalf of the finance committee.

Motion: Approve Walt Gillikin as Trinity's incoming church treasurer (2-year term).

There was no discussion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

Ginny Hobbs thanked elders for making congregational calls. The "phone-a-thon" has been a success and has served as positive outreach to all members.

David Carr highlighted Trinity's presbytery giving as outlined in the session packet. Trinity gives per capita (x2), and Trinity remains the largest contributor to the presbytery.

OUTGOING ELDER RECOGNITION

Rebecca LeMon

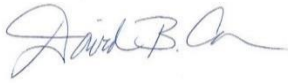
Rebekah gave moving remarks about each of the outgoing session members and thanked the outgoing elder class for their dedicated service to the church, to the session, and to God.

CLOSING PRAYER AND DEPARTING BLESSINGS

Rebecca LeMon

A motion was made and affirmed to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 pm. Rebekah closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



David Carr
Clerk



Bonnie Holliday
Assistant Clerk

Trinity Presbyterian Church Session In-person Attendance (In Bold), May 16, 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	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		Emily Avant
Elizabeth Davis		
Andrew Esqueda		
Tom Farmer		
Lucy Strong		