

**STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**November 14, 2023  
7:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER & DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

Rebekah LeMon

The formal business portion of the stated Session meeting for Trinity Presbyterian Church on **November 14, 2023**, was called to order in Old Fellowship Hall at 7:01 pm by the moderator, Rebekah LeMon. The clerk, Bonnie Holliday, confirmed the presence of a quorum.

**DEVOTION**

Kenny Kraft

Kenny Kraft provided the devotion. He spoke about hearing a sermon or a message in worship that seems to speak directly to you. For Kenny, it came recently during a sermon from Rebekah that touched on the importance of how we treat our neighbors and our methods of conflict resolution. He began thinking about recent frustrations at work – ultimately it was a perfect message for the perfect moment for him. His wife, Katherine, had the same reaction. He closed by reminding us that this is why we have faith and why we come to church, and why we benefit from having the spiritual leaders we have. God finds the time and the place to get you what you need when you need it.

**OMNIBUS MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

Rebekah LeMon

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 October 17, 2023, the financial report, and the statistical report for October 2023.

Before making a motion to approve the agenda, Rebekah indicated to the session that the Music and Worship Committee wished to add a motion to approve the 2024 communion and baptism schedule to the consent agenda. Rebekah inquired as to any concerns from the session regarding this amendment, and there were none. Rebekah amended the agenda without a vote. Following this amendment, Rebekah made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, and it was unanimously approved.

**MODERATOR'S REPORT**

Rebekah LeMon

Rebekah began her report with gratitude as always. She thanked the hospitality and operations team for their wonderful ability to create the necessary space we need for our events; this always happens without a hitch and recent events have sparked life into the church campus.

Rebekah celebrated the All-Saints worship service. After having been at Trinity for a full year and learning the people behind the names, Rebekah emphasized the impression this event made on her, and its importance as a method to demystify death for a moment and let us be in a thin space. She gave thanks to all who participated.

Rebekah also commented on the recent return of our acolytes, and the positive impact of having children participate in worship services. She also spoke of the recent College of Elders dinner, and the importance of reviewing the goals that we set last year and measuring what we accomplished.

As it relates to our commitment campaign, Rebekah informed the session that we are currently at \$2.8 million, which is 77% toward our goal. This includes approximately 350 pledges of the over 700 Trinity sent out. In essence, the campaign is coming along, but not quite where we need to be.

As it relates to personnel, Trinity has hired Hannah Kershner as the programs coordinator, Janet Martin as the finance and operations coordinator and database manager, Kevin Lacson as our part-time audio engineer for Sunday mornings and Tyesha Williams as part of the hospitality team. We are close to hiring someone to assist with communications and graphic designer.

Finally, Rebekah concluded her report by updating the session on the recently created Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. It is launched and working. The members have been trained by the Presbytery and have set benchmarks that they will have to meet. They are currently gathering feedback from the whole congregation regarding our hopes and expectations for the next Associate Pastor.

#### **CLERK'S REPORT**

Bonnie Holliday

Bonnie began her report by speaking about all the upcoming dates of events which are laid out in the session packet, including: the Kittrell Lecture on November 16<sup>th</sup>, the Fall Music Festival on November 19<sup>th</sup>, the Christmas Market and Caroling on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Drive-Thru Christmas Pageant on December 10<sup>th</sup>, the Carol Sing on December 17<sup>th</sup>, and the various Christmas Eve Services on December 24<sup>th</sup>.

Bonnie reminded everyone that there would be no called session meeting in December. The next session meeting will be on January 16, 2024. Drew Timmons will give the devotion at that meeting. The upcoming presbytery meeting is on February 3, 2024.

Bonnie ended her report with gratitude. She made special mention of Chris Suh, Tom Owens, and Karen Bain for their efforts with the children of the church in basketball and Bingo events. She also thanked Rebekah and Lucy for their time and efforts to teach the Presbyterianism 101 Sunday School class.

#### ***SPECIAL ORDERS & REPORTS:***

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE – CLASS OF 2026**

Rebekah LeMon

Rebekah passed out ballots for nominations of members of the session for the January 2024-December 2026 Nominating Committee. Of the members, two must be current members of session. The session completed their ballots during the meeting and returned them after the meeting was concluded.

## **TRUSTEES**

Margaret Reiser

Margaret Reiser presented on behalf of the Trustees. She indicated that the Trustees met this morning and had three motions to present.

### ***Resolution Regarding Love Ministry Impact Fund***

The Trustees are seeking session approval to make a distribution of \$30,000 from the Love Ministry Impact Fund to fund the purchase of sacred furnishings and worship participation items, including communion tables for both worship spaces, liturgical banners and hanging stands, candles and lighters for use by acolytes, children's bibles and worn paraments.

Rebekah presented the motion from the Trustees. A second was not required. The motion was approved unanimously.

### ***Resolution Regarding Brumley-Love-Morrell Fund***

Following a proposal from Mission Council, the Trustees are seeking session approval to make a distribution of \$25,000 will be made from the Brumley-Love-Morrell Fund to Agape Youth and Family Center to assist the Center with its on-site meals program.

Rebekah presented the motion from the Trustees. A second was not required. The motion was approved unanimously.

### ***Resolution Regarding TELC Fund***

Following a proposal from the Trinity Early Learning Center ("TELC") the Trustees are seeking session approval to make a one-time distribution from the TELC Fund in the amount of \$31,172 to fund student scholarships in the amount of \$25,000 and cabinet painting costs in the amount of \$6,172.

Rebekah presented the motion from the Trustees. A second was not required. The motion was approved unanimously.

### ***Report on Trustee officers for 2024***

Margaret Reiser reported on the nominated and elected officers of the Trust Fund beginning January 1, 2024:

Margaret Reiser, as Chair, one-year term  
Frank Fuerst, as Chair-Elect, one-year term  
Bonnie Harris, as Secretary, one-year term  
John Oglesby, as Treasurer, three-year term

## **INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE** David Caldwell & Margaret Reiser

David Caldwell & Margaret Reiser reported on behalf of the Infrastructure Implementation Committee that the infrastructure campaign is officially winding down. They reported that the campaign was initially hopeful to receive \$1.75 million in donations from the congregation,

but that we were surprised to receive close to \$2.65 million. While we expect a slight net gain of around \$26,000, many of the aspects of the infrastructure projects were more expensive than we expected and the additional contributions from the congregation were necessary for our efforts. The main piece of work yet to be completed is installation of HVAC units, which has been held up by delays for getting the equipment.

Given the conclusion of this work, the Committee brought a motion to the Session to dissolve the Infrastructure Implementation Committee, with oversight for the remainder of the work and funds going to the Property Committee

Rebekah presented the motion from the Trustees. A second was not required. The session gave much gratitude to the committee and all of the work it accomplished. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **ORDINATION SERVICE REQUEST**

Rebekah LeMon

Rebekah announced that Kevin Lacson has asked to have his ordination service here at Trinity. Trinity will only host the service, as it will be run by the Presbytery.

Rebekah presented a motion to host the ordination service for Kevin Lacson on the afternoon of January 7<sup>th</sup>. Bonnie Holliday seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **PRESBYTERY MEETING**

Paige Keller

Paige Keller reported on the Presbytery meeting from November 4<sup>th</sup> at North Decatur Presbyterian Church. The meeting including examination of candidates and introduction of candidates for ordination. Of note, once of these was Trinity's own Kevin Lacson. It also included the election of members of the class of 2024 presbytery committees.

The committee of preparation for ordination voted on alternatives for standard examination, as some questions in the standard have been found to create barriers for certain people and groups of people. All proposed changes were approved. Paige also reported that during the meeting, a necrology was read of all ruling and teaching elders of the local Presbyterian community who had died over the previous year - 9 were recognized from Trinity.

### **FINANCE REPORT AND 2024 BUDGETING PROCESS**

Heather Edmiston & Richard O'Donnell

Richard began the financial report with a year-to-date summary. Overall, the church financials look very good. Details were presented in the session packet.

Heather continued by speaking of the challenge of creating our budget for 2024. She noted that a Budget worksheet will go out to all committees. She encouraged committee members to engage everyone in the committee to have input into the budget process. The questions should be: if you had the same resources, how would you allocate? Also, if you had unlimited resources, what would you do with it? Heather requested input by December 20<sup>th</sup> so we can plan the budget.

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE**

Rebekah LeMon

On behalf of the worship and music committee, Rebekah moved to approve the communion and baptism schedule for 2024, as provided in the packet. Seconded by Bonnie Holliday. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **OPEN FORUM**

Bonnie Holliday mentioned the lack of elder nametags for the ruling elders. She noted that we are working on having these made because it is important to have the session recognized during communion and within the congregation.

Lane Rhoden announced Trinity's hosting of a youth "studypalooza" night on December 10<sup>th</sup> following the children's Christmas pageant. She asked for suggestions for teachers within the congregation or the community who might be willing to be there. Many names were mentioned and noted for follow up. Helen Slawson also volunteered to help and to have other older youth members act as tutors.

Dean Cleaveland mentioned a recent ceremony with the local Jewish community relating to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. She noted that various members from Trinity and First Presbytery were present for the event. This began a discussion of our duty to invite interfaith fellowship. One opportunity for this which was mentioned was the upcoming Interfaith Thanksgiving Service with Ahavath Achim Synagogue on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Lucy reminded everyone of the upcoming Christmas market on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the Agape Giving Tree which begins on November 15<sup>th</sup> and goes through December 6<sup>th</sup>. Finally, Trinity is also hosting its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual thanksgiving lunch on November 26<sup>th</sup>, during which we will pack lunches for Central Outreach and Advocacy Center and write Christmas Cards to incarcerated women at the Pulaski State Prison.

## **PRAYER AND DEPARTING BLESSINGS**

Rebekah LeMon

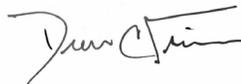
Rebekah offered a prayer via a moment of silence and then a popcorn prayer from all of us.

Mary Kelly moved to close the session meeting and Allen Moseley seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie Holliday  
Clerk



Drew Timmons  
Assistant Clerk

| UPCOMING DATES                                       |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Kittrell Lecture                                     | November 16, 2023                                       | Arthur Brooks speaking<br>Register and submit questions   |
| Fall Music Festival:<br>Song of Thanks and<br>Praise | Nov. 19   |   |
| Baptisms   | November 26, 2023                                       | Wesley James White, son of Michael<br>and Ali White   |
| Christmas Market                                     | December 3, 2023  |   |
| Christmas Caroling in<br>the Community               | December 3, 2023  |   |
| Drive Thru Christmas<br>Pageant                      | December 10, 2023                                       |   |
| Carol Sing   | December 17, 2023                                       |   |
| Christmas Eve<br>Services                            | December 24, 2023<br>(11 am, 4 pm, 6 pm, 9pm,<br>11 pm) | Candles at all afternoon and evening<br>services  |
| Session Meeting                                      | January 16, 2024  |   |
| Presbytery Meeting<br>@ Roswell PC                   | February 3, 2024  | Attending Commissioners:<br>Lane Rhoden, Karen Bain, Lindsey<br>Green, Kristin Hunter, Martha Craft,<br>Catherine Quillian, Nick Leet |

Trinity Presbyterian Church Session In-person Attendance (In Bold), November 14, 2023:

| 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<br>(youth) |
|                             |                           | Helen Slawson (youth)         |
| <b>Staff Attendees:</b>     | <b>Other Attendees:</b>   | <b>Guests</b>                 |
| Rebekah LeMon-<br>Moderator | David Caldwell            |                               |
| Elizabeth Davis             | Margaret Reiser           |                               |
| Heather Edmiston            |                           |                               |
| Lucy Strong                 |                           |                               |