

**STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**January 16, 2024
7:00 p.m.
Virtual (via Zoom)**

CALL TO ORDER & DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Rebekah LeMon

The stated Session meeting for Trinity Presbyterian Church on **January 16, 2024** was called to order virtually (via Zoom) at 7:01 pm by the moderator, Rebekah LeMon. The clerk, Bonnie Holliday, confirmed the presence of a quorum.

DEVOTION

Drew Timmons

Drew Timmons provided the devotion. He spoke about fear, and its impact on our ability to think clearly and function when faced with difficult decisions and uncertainty about the future. He told the story of his recent job change and how he was affected by his fear of the unknown. He reminded us that God has instructed us many times over on the subject of fear: no matter the circumstance – do not be afraid; trust in God, and He will provide what is needed.

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 Session Minutes, the Stated Session Meeting Minutes from November 14, 2023, the Called Session Meeting for Receipt of New Members on December 3, 2023, the Congregational Meeting Minutes from December 10, 2023, the Called Session Meeting Minutes for the adoption of a Ministry Discernment Profile for the Associate Pastor for Family Ministries position held on December 18, 2023, the Financial Report, and the Statistical Reports for November and December 2023. 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 expressed her wonderment over the Advent and Christmas season and all who helped put the numerous events together and made them run so smoothly. She gave special thanks to all the Trinity staff for making it possible, and all who volunteered and helped to contribute.

Rebekah also gave thanks to all the committee chairs and members for the extra effort to comply with Trinity's early requests for 2024 budget submissions, which happened to come during the Advent season. This was our first attempt at early budgeting and all the committees did what was needed to submit their projected figures.

As to Trinity's efforts in Mission and Faith in Action, Rebekah highlighted that the last two Sundays, the Mission Council has held project-specific Sunday School classes. The first centered around Trinity's partnership with Meals on Wheels to address food insecurity in our local community. The second addressed refugee resettlement. Rebekah also applauded Trinity's involvement in the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. march in downtown Atlanta, as well

as the congregation's recent commitment to several legal advocacy issues, including housing, maternal health, and gun safety affecting our community members.

With respect to adult education, Rebekah commented on the numerous classes we have available at the current time, including the young-adult Foundations course, the Connections course, the "Exploring Faith" series, and others which provide diverse opportunities for the congregation and visitors to continue their faith education.

Rebekah also made mention of recent deaths from the congregation, including Tom Barrow, Ginger Beverly, David Haynes, and Bill Graves. Memorial services will be forthcoming. We also already have seven weddings on the calendar for 2024, and 8 babies scheduled for baptism.

As it relates to our commitment campaign, Rebekah informed the session that we are currently \$94,000 and 30 pledges short of our goal, with an indication from members that we will reach our financial goal in the very near future. Even so, all the budget requests that came out of our committees can be met based on the current pledges. We are expecting to have enough left over to add new programs or new positions, including someone in wellness and recreation, a new associate pastor for spiritual formation, and/or a new associate pastor for pastoral care. In the same realm of hiring, Rebekah mentioned that she believes we have a strong candidate for our Trinity Fellow position, and she is hoping to introduce that person in February.

Rebekah reminded the session that nominations for the session are still open but will close on Monday January 22nd. She also reminded everyone that the season of Lent is coming up quickly – Ash Wednesday is February 14th and we will have a service at 6:30 pm.

CLERK'S REPORT

Bonnie Holliday

Bonnie began her report by asking the session to pay attention to upcoming dates, including the Town Hall meeting regarding Trinity's finances, the deadline for session nominations, and Children's Sunday.

Bonnie reminded us that the February session meeting will be held on February 20th. Tom Owens is scheduled to provide the devotional.

Additionally, the upcoming presbytery meeting is on February 3, 2024, in person at Rowell Presbyterian Church. Lane Rhoden, Karen Bain, Lindsey Green, Kristin Hunter, Martha Craft, Catherine Quillian, and Nick Leet are the attending commissioners.

Bonnie thanked Lucy for her assistance in putting together the statistical reports.

SPECIAL ORDERS & REPORTS:

PROPERTY

Allen Moseley

Allen presented on behalf of the property committee and provided a quick overview of recent issues and needs relating to the church campus. He highlighted the big projects of the sanctuary and issues with lightning strikes in 2022; the need for updated security, new

elevators, the Part D renovation, and issues with the memorial garden in 2023. He gave a round of applause to and recognized all the members of the committee who completed the recent projects, and were able to stay very close to budget (budgeted at 642,000, actual spend 666,000) despite various unexpected costs and unanticipated projects.

For 2024, Allen stated that the most significant request will be an increased budget overall to allow us to be more proactive in maintaining the structures we have in place. Additionally, he was hopeful that we can begin a renovation of the bathrooms in the Five Points area behind the Sanctuary. Allen noted various other general projects which we hope to complete in 2024, including carpet and paint requests for the whole facility. He reminded the session of the numerous events (internal and external) that happen at our church and that need to be considered in relation to the upkeep of the campus.

FINANCE REPORT AND 2024 BUDGETING PROCESS

Heather Edmiston & Richard O'Donnell

Richard began the financial report with an overview of the financials and a year-to-date summary. He noted the strong finish to the calendar year, based on the income received during the 4th quarter. In the last 3 months of the year alone, Trinity received \$1.3 million of pledged income, \$115,000 of non-pledged income, and \$50,000 of other income.

Overall, we were favorable to budget by about \$35,000 in 2023, and \$460,000 favorable during the fourth quarter. As it relates to our expenses, all were favorable from the budget, with the biggest standout being the Personnel budget due to unfilled positions. We still have some 2023 expenses which will arrive in 2024 and will need to be added to the 2023 figures. Trinity's reserve funds were filled with any surplus in accordance with the session's prior approval.

Heather also spoke about the recent increase in pledges. Our policy is to discount our pledged amounts by about 4% to account for uncollected pledges. We currently have approximately \$115,000 in pledged amounts still outstanding from 2023 as of the end of the month. We are hoping to collect approximately \$55,000 of that amount. In 2024, we are also hoping to see non-pledged contributions increase as they did between 2022 and 2023.

Heather walked the session through the item-by-item budgeting for 2024. Of note, the projected expenses reflect the requests submitted by each committee. We also have a one-time budget increase to fund a 75th anniversary celebration for the church. She noted the increased property budget to account for some of the unanticipated maintenance needs we should expect so we do not have to dip into our reserve funds so often. We have also budgeted for a full staff in personnel. We will not budget for a surplus. Any new pledges which have not been received as of today will be reallocated as needed. We will continue to refine the budget through the end of January. The completed budget will be recommended to the session at the February 20th meeting.

Jon Balch inquired as to whether the 2024 property budget accounts for building updates. Heather indicated that it does to a certain extent. We cannot fully fund needed updates without asking for additional money from the congregation. However, it accounts for more than what we've requested in the past, and we are hoping not to move forward with any new

infrastructure campaign in 2024. Instead, we are trying to forecast in some additional unanticipated costs so we don't have to go to reserves as often as we have in the past.

Jon Balch also asked about what reserves we have for unbudgeted items. Heather reminded the session of the property reserve fund, the trust for property maintenance, the mission reserve fund, the personnel reserve fund, and the various other trusts in place for mission, worship, youth and family, and certain restricted accounts for youth programs which come from targeted congregational donations.

Rebekah Groover asked about surplus funds which might be available once total revenue is contemplated. Heather and Rebekah LeMon stated that we will vote on how to distribute any unbudgeted revenue based on needs, including those which were not submitted, or which were hopeful, but not requested. The current 2024 budget anticipates no new jobs, so we could add use additional funds to add a needed position, or distribute to property maintenance, or to mission, based on need.

Rebekah Groover also asked about potentially having the Town Hall meeting about Trinity's finances available via Zoom for those members who cannot attend in person. Unfortunately, it is not feasible for this type of meeting.

OPEN FORUM

Allen Spetenagel raised the issue of the new technology around the church and comments he has heard from members as to its efficacy and how we can use it after spending the money to have it installed. Do we need a dedicated person to help with adult education streaming and technology? Rebekah LeMon responded by saying that she understands the issues, but that we are not looking to hire anyone to fill that role. Everyone on staff is working to get accustomed to the new technology and make sure it does what it supposed to do. Lucy also responded and sought to lift up the technology staff and the various volunteers who help with this process. We are all trying to figure out the technology together and need to be patient with one another as we learn how best to utilize it and make it effective for individual members and the congregation as a whole.

Lucy also discussed Trinity's recent mission efforts at the intergenerational foodbank project and the recent MLK march. She was very impressed by the overflow of commitment from our members.

PRAYER AND DEPARTING BLESSINGS

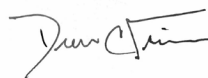
Rebekah LeMon

Rebekah moved to close the session meeting and many seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Lucy provided a prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie Holliday
Clerk



Drew Timmons
Assistant Clerk

UPCOMING DATES

Session Nomination Deadline	Jan 22	
All-Church Foodbank Volunteer Day	Jan 27	8:30 - 11:30 am; Atlanta Food Bank
Town Hall Conversation About Trinity's Finances	Feb 1	Lay and staff finance leaders and chair of our Board of Trustees will talk about TPC's budget, the Trinity Trust, and results of our 2024 Commitment Campaign.
Presbytery Meeting @ Roswell PC; in-person	Feb. 3	Attending Commissioners: Lane Rhoden, Karen Bain, Lindsey Green, Kristin Hunter, Martha Craft, Catherine Quillian, Nick Leet
Children's Sunday	Feb 4	9am and 11am
Baptisms	Feb. 11	Johnny Hubbard McFerrin; son of Nancy and Wes McFerrin Artemis Hicks Harris; daughter of Frances and Cal Harris
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Race & Dinner	Feb 13	6pm; Dinner followed by race
Ash Wednesday	Feb 14	Worship @ 6:30 in Dobbs Chapel
Session Meeting	Feb 20	
Annual Congregational Meeting	Feb 25	After 11am worship
Trinity's Got Talent	Feb 25	6pm in the Loft (Sign-up Genius coming soon!)
Baptisms	March 31	Isabelle Langlely Warley; daughter of Peyton and Emma Higgins Warley
Baptisms	April 14	Smith Edward Riley; son of Katie and Chris Riley Bunny Gossett King; daughter of Blake and Bailey King

Trinity Presbyterian Church Session In-person Attendance (In Bold), January 16, 2024:

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		
Heather Edmiston		
Lucy Strong		