

**STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**April 16, 2024**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Old Fellowship Hall**

**CALL TO ORDER & DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

**Rebekah LeMon**

The stated Session meeting for Trinity Presbyterian Church on **April 16, 2024** was called to order at 7:08 pm in the Old Fellowship Hall by the moderator, Rebekah LeMon. The clerk, Bonnie Holliday, confirmed the presence of a quorum.

**DEVOTION**

**Roxanna Erwin**

Roxanna Erwin provided the devotion. She first read from Psalm 139 regarding God's reach over us. She then shared a heartwarming story about a time when she truly felt God's presence on Earth. She recounted preparing for a trip to High Point, NC with her husband, Alex, on Christmas day in 1992. When they awoke to prepare for an early morning departure, they realized that the furnace in their home had broken down. After much delay and no hope of repair on Christmas, plus a little irritation, they finally began their trip. As they proceeded on the highway on that cold morning, Roxanna noticed an elderly woman on the side of the road next to a broken-down vehicle. Despite already being behind schedule, Roxanna insisted that they stop and help. When they approached, they recognized the woman as Dora Rhodes, a founding member and longtime greeter at Trinity, who also took great comfort in seeing fellow members of the Trinity congregation come to her rescue. They arranged for Dora's car to be towed and she joined them on their trip, to the delight of all. As Roxanna was recently going through old boxes in the attic, Roxanna found an old issue of the Trinity Times from January 17, 1993. It included Dora Rhodes' account of the same event, and rekindled Roxanna's memory of that cheerful day. She concluded her devotion by reminding us all that God is right here among us.

**OMNIBUS MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

**Rebekah LeMon**

Rebekah LeMon directed session members to the omnibus motion in the meeting packet which included tonight's meeting Agenda, the Stated Session Meeting Minutes from March 19, 2024, the Called Session Meeting Minutes to receive Tate Wildman and Molly McGilvray from April 14, 2024, the Financial Reports for February and March 2024, and the Statistical Report for March 2024. Bonnie asked to make a note about the statistical report and informed the session that the confirmands do not appear in this report, but will be found in the statistical report for April, which is the month when they were presented to the congregation. The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved without discussion.

Rebekah began her report with gratitude as always. She first discussed last Sunday's youth Sunday worship service, including the sermon, the choir, and all the efforts from our youth to create a comprehensive service. Rebekah made mention of what is seemingly a constant barrage of concern about the future of the church, and how this worship service really demonstrated the engagement of our youth at Trinity.

Rebekah also talked about the success of the Holy Week and Easter worship services and the new ideas that will most certainly become new traditions in our services. It truly seemed to be more of a total package for worshipers who experienced the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday services.

Rebekah noted the large number of memorial services recently, and gave a special thanks to the Memorial Garden and Pastoral Aid Committees, and our staff and volunteers for all the work put into those services. Additionally, she provided her thanks to TreVarius for his work in updating and renovating the Manse in quick time to have it ready for potential needs of an associate pastor.

Rebekah reminded the session that we have a mini-retreat scheduled for Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm to welcome new session members who are rolling onto the session in June, to discuss faith statements, to ask questions about our vision for the coming year, and to seek advice from those session members who are rolling off.

Rebekah happily revealed that the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is very close to finalizing a candidate for the Associate Pastor of Family Ministries position, and she is hopeful that an announcement can be made soon on this.

In other personnel news, we've received interest from a very good candidate for the Wellness and Recreation Coordinator position, and we are exploring what may be required from us (salary, benefits) to secure a candidate like this one or someone similar. Also, Joseph Williams has joined the facilities team – please welcome him when you see him.

For the new session members who will be rolling on in June, each has put forth their request for committee assignments, and their preferences seem to match with our needs for each committee. The last meeting of outgoing session class is May. Members of the new class are invited to attend that meeting as observers. On May 19<sup>th</sup>, we will ordain and install the new class of elders during worship. June is the first meeting for the new class as installed session members.

In property news, Rebekah announced that the HVAC for the sanctuary is broken and needs to be replaced. A replacement unit will not be available for installation until after June 5, which means that it will be warm in the sanctuary over the coming weeks as the weather heats up outside. Rebekah asked the session to let people know so they understand what is happening. We may have to be creative with our worship services based on weather and the timing of receiving the HVAC unit.

Over the coming week, the Trinity staff will be getting together to do strategic planning for events for the year. If you have ideas and wish to be heard, Rebekah asked that the session please send an email.

Rebekah also reported that the Personnel Committee recently audited its guidelines and have submitted revised guidelines to reflect current practice. A vote is not required, but the new guidelines are available for review as part of the Session packet.

Finally, Rebekah noted that she would love to hear from session and the congregation about theologians who they are reading and in whom they are interested, and from whom we believe the community might be interested in hearing so we can plan for the next Kitrell lecture.

## **CLERK'S REPORT**

**Bonnie Holliday**

Bonnie also began her report by thanking the youth for their wonderful service on Sunday. She noted that her children were so excited to see the youth doing the service and it seemed to increase their interest in worship overall.

Bonnie reminded Session of the upcoming Presbytery meeting scheduled for April 30, 2024, via Zoom. Additionally, she reminded all elders to sign up to assist with communion whenever possible.

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

### **TRUSTEES**

**Rebekah LeMon**

Rebekah directed the session to the motion from the Trustees to make a distribution of \$26,492 from the Kittrell Speakership Trust Fund to the Kittrell Operating Fund. This motion was passed by Board of Trustees in February 2024. A second was not required. The session approved the Trustees' motion unanimously.

### **FINANCE & BUDGET**

**Heather Edmiston**

Heather Edmiston provided a report on finance and the budget. She noted that we have two months of financial reports (February and March) in this month's packet. However, only the March report is relevant at this point. She noted that we are on target for most items which are revenue related. There is only a tiny variance from the budget for trust fund income, which should resolve itself. We continuing to benefit from the current interest rates in interest revenue. We remain favorable in the Expenses column because of timing – many expenses will hit later in the year. For example, mission grants usually do not begin until the summer, so those numbers will catch up. The same is true for our personnel budget – it remains favorable because we are missing some key roles. When the new Associate Pastor for Family Ministries and Wellness Coordinator are hired, those numbers will even out.

As for pledges, year to date we have seen a \$244,000 decrease in pledged income from this time last year. However, we received a significant grant last year in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, and we expect to receive that same grant this year in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

## **ADULT EDUCATION**

**Allen Spetnagel and Nick Leet**

Nick Leet reported on behalf of the adult education committee. The Committee has voted to have one adult education track at a time, rather than have multiple classes where the interests are split. As such, we are shifting to options of one traditional adult education Sunday school, plus the Connections class and the Foundations class, each of which provide their own offering.

Lots of session members discussed and asked questions about the classes we currently have, and what options we have for different tracks. There was much discussion of the unique offerings of Foundations and Connections and how we might be able to consolidate efforts and make sure our classes are not in competition with each other.

## **OPEN FORUM**

During open forum, Roxanna Erwin discussed and distributed a flyer for an event with the Georgia Chamber Players at Trinity on Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup> at 3 pm. She encouraged session members to spread the word about these talented young musicians and attend the event.

Lane Rhoden began a discussion about the difficulty for parents of teenagers to participate in the Sunday School offerings due to the lack of options of interesting classes for kids of that age. Youth group, and children's choir fill up a lot of the extra time that middle schoolers and high schoolers have available on Sunday, and they seem to choose those options over attendance at Sunday School with the same friends. This consequently makes it difficult for the parents of these teenagers to attend their own Sunday School classes. Helen Slawson and Catherine Quillian both commented about their issues with Sunday school and how it could be improved for their age group.

Reid Willingham noted her excitement about the church organizing a new lock-in event for the confirmand classes who did not get one from 2019 and 2020. She thanked the efforts by Emily Beaver and Rebekah to make this happen. Likewise, Allen Moseley gave kudos to Emily Beaver for her work with the recent confirmand class. Along the same lines, Karen Bain expressed her gratitude for the recent attention and encouragement Jean Lapitan has shown toward to her son, and Dean Cleaveland had similar comments about Elizabeth Davis and her outreach to Dean's daughter, Julia.

Lucy Strong added her thanks to Rebekah for all that went into the numerous events and worship services for the Holy Week and Easter. Rebekah has created a space that has allowed the church and the team to prosper.

Roxanna Erwin commented that during a recent memorial service, she and Alex heard numerous people from the community note how beautiful the church is and how much they felt welcomed and would like to return.

Mary Kelly Speed offered a brief story about her recent experience welcoming a family from Myanmar as part of her commitment to HOME Team with International Rescue Committee. She

encouraged others who have the ability to explore this program and assist. It has been a very positive experience for her.

**PRAYER AND DEPARTING BLESSINGS**

**Rebekah LeMon**

Rebekah invited a sharing prayer. All present shared one thing for which they were thankful. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie Holliday  
Clerk



Drew Timmons  
Assistant Clerk

UPCOMING DATES		
Baptisms	April 21	Collins Josephine Carr, daughter of David and Jennifer Carr  Ava Katherine Roller, daughter of Kristen and Blake Roller
Braves Game	April 28	
1/2 day Session retreat	May 11 4-8 pm	Overlapping Session classes
Ordination and Installation of elders, Holy Smokers BBQ	May 19, 11:00 a.m.	*one service
Baptism	June 9	John Patterson Pulliam, son of Sara and John Pulliam

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

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