

**STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**March 19, 2024
6:47 p.m.
Old Fellowship Hall**

CALL TO ORDER & DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Rebekah LeMon

The stated Session meeting for Trinity Presbyterian Church on **March 19, 2024** was called to order at 6:47 pm in the Old Fellowship Hall by the moderator, Rebekah LeMon. The clerk, Bonnie Holliday, confirmed the presence of a quorum.

WELCOME DINNER WITH CONFIRMANDS

Emily Beaver

Prior to the formal business meeting of the session, members of the Session enjoyed a casual dinner with the 2024 Confirmand Class. After dinner, Emily Beaver invited the session to introduce the confirmands. After each of the confirmands were introduced, Rebekah invited the confirmands to confirm the promises made on their behalf at the time of their baptism. Both the confirmands and the Session responded to the questions of affirmation from Rebekah. Rebekah then invited a motion to receive the confirmand class into the church. Drew Timmons made the motion, which was seconded by many. The motion was approved unanimously.

DEVOTION

Meredith Daniel

Meredith Daniel provided the devotion. Her devotion focused on the question of being a Presbyterian, how she became a Presbyterian, and what it means to her to practice her faith as a Presbyterian. She gave an interesting history of her family's faith roots, and her Scottish heritage, dating back to 1855 when her great grandfather moved to Atlanta and joined Westminster Presbyterian Church. She then spoke of her own faith journey and her experience with different religions and denominations in boarding school in England and at Emory University, including her friendship with Joanna Moseley and Diane Daniel, whose brother, Billy, she eventually married, now 50 years ago. She expressed her excitement with how much Trinity has grown despite the fear of declining membership. She highlighted that for Trinity, the faith of our members is active on our campus and out in the world.

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 February 20, 2024, the Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes from February 25, 2024, the Called Session Meeting Minutes to Receive New Members from February 25, 2024, and the Statistical Report for February 2024. Lucy asked to remove the Financial Report from the omnibus motion for separate consideration. After the Financial Report was removed, 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 excitement and joy over Trinity's receipt of 17 thoughtful and earnest youth as confirmands. She thanked Emily Beaver for her role in this process, and for reinstating the mentorship role for the confirmands which was a huge success.

Rebekah also made note of many recent mission and fellowship events and the excellent participation from Trinity members, including the 24 people on the recent trip to the civil rights museum in Montgomery, AL, the talent show which included 40 participating members of the congregation and an overflow of attendees, the first women's retreat in many years which included 120 women, and the spaghetti youth supper to raise money to fund the youth's trip to Scotland. Rebekah also expressed her gratitude for the many members of Trinity who have participated and who continue to participate in the legislative process and provide input to our lawmakers.

Rebekah next called attention to the ongoing work of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. At this point, the APNC has completed first round interviews for some, and second round interviews for others. They are continuing to narrow down the search and when they believe they have 2-3 finalists, Rebekah will provide another update.

Rebekah reminded the session that the last few weeks of Lent are approaching, including Holy Week which involves a Maundy Thursday dinner and service, a Good Friday service, and 3 services on Easter Sunday. She also noted that for the children, there are egg hunts coming up on the night of Friday, March 22 and the morning of Saturday, March 23.

As it relates to technology, Rebekah noted the general dysfunction of the ChurchLife App, and our efforts to complete our data migration process and phase that App out of use. We are close to merging everything to another platform.

Finally, Rebekah announced that Karen Bain has been selected as the next Assistant Clerk of Session for the 2024-2025 term.

CLERK'S REPORT

Bonnie Holliday

Bonnie reminded the Session of the upcoming Presbytery meeting scheduled for April 30, 2024, via Zoom. She also reminded all elders to sign up to assist with communion whenever possible. Bonnie noted that we are missing someone to provide the devotion at the April meeting, which Roxanna Erwin then agreed to give.

SPECIAL ORDERS & REPORTS:

TRUSTEE REPORT

Margaret Reiser

2023 Annual Report to Session

Margaret Reiser presented on behalf of the Trustees. She provided an overview of the trust funds for 2023. Trinity received estate gifts in the amount of \$163,242. We also established the Jennifer and David Kahn Family Fund for Trinity Employee Development and Well Being by way of the Kahn Family gift of \$125,000. Trinity received other memorial gifts in the total amount of \$38,242.

The Trustees continued to focus on two important priorities in 2023: to be more transparent with Session and the congregation about the trust funds, their purpose and use, and to be more proactive about the use of the funds in accordance with their intended purpose. It was also a goal of the Trustees to have a renewed focus on encouraging planned giving to Trinity.

Over the course of 2023, the Trustees oversaw disbursements of \$311,146 from the trust funds. This included the following:

- \$31,172 from the TELC Fund for TELC Scholarships & cabinet painting
- \$30,000 from the Love Fund for new sacred furnishings and worship items for our worship spaces
- \$25,000 from the Brumley Love Morrell Fund for agape meals program
- \$8,750 from the New Church development Fund for the New Church Development Fund's Pastor Cohort
- \$151,000 to the church's operating budget
- Gifts to support the Kittrell lectureship, counseling, mission, Trinity youth fellow, and property operating reserve fund

During 2023, the value of Trinity's trust fund portfolio grew by 18.6%, and we ended the year with a total of \$8.9 million.

Love Ministry Impact Fund

Margaret spoke about the Love Ministry Impact Fund. The purpose of the fund is to support a major project each year for Trinity's mission areas. Potential uses may vary by year but include programmatic or capital needs in the areas of Mission, Family Ministries, Education, Communications, Worship and Music, and Congregational Life. Margaret asked the Session to begin considering how to use these funds in 2024, and to bring any ideas to Bonnie and Rebecca in advance of the May Session meeting.

Trustee Nomination

Margaret informed the Session that we need nominations for a new Trustee. She asked that the Session be thinking and praying about who could fill this role. She reminded the Session that Trustees have the responsibility of overseeing the trust funds for the church, including making

decisions regarding investments and disbursements according to donor intent. This person should be a trusted and respected church leader who has served at least one term on the Session, has demonstrated a financial commitment to the church, and who has some professional experience that could be valuable for this role, including finance, real estate, and legal.

Motion for YFM Intern Funding

Margaret presented a motion on behalf of the Trustees. The Trustees approved the following motion and recommended it to Session for approval:

Motion: The Personnel Committee requested funding for continuation of the YFM Intern program to be supported by the Trinity Fellows in Ministry Trust Fund for a period of two years (2024 & 2025), with a distribution of up to \$19,000 annually.

Margaret explained that the YFM Intern is expected to be a hybrid position, including a part-time, 12 hour/week position during the school year, and full time during the summer months. We are expecting an annual compensation package of \$25,000. The personnel committee has agreed to absorb the difference between the \$19,000 distribution and the \$25,000 compensation out of its budget.

After presentation of the motion, a second was not required. The Session approved the motion unanimously without discussion.

FINANCE & BUDGET

Heather Edmiston and Richard O'Donnell

Richard provided a brief update on the 2024 budget. As of February 29, 2024, there have been no surprises, and we are off to a good start. Lots of expected expenditures have yet to hit. Heather is currently working on financial review by our outside consultant. We are also beginning to work on a database conversion which will be important for accounting and commitment and will improve how we track our budget and spending.

Bonnie inquired as to whether there was a way for us to track both people and gifts from those who consistently give, but who do not necessarily make a formal pledge. It would be nice to be able to identify these givers so we can both provide appreciation to them for their gifts and encourage them to make formal pledges to assist in our budgeting process. According to Heather, our commitment chairs have access to this information, and we are working and have worked to convert these givers to pledgers. We try to identify every gift we can.

With respect to the budget, Rebekah asked that every committee be looking at their budget and tracking what spending is available and what is being used. She noted that committee members can obtain a statement every month as to spending and remaining funds available in the budget so they can make sure to not over or under spend.

OPEN FORUM

Meredith Daniel offered a plug for the Presbyterians for a Better Georgia, which is a group that works to affect state legislation, especially in areas of affordable housing and healthcare. She noted that legislators have reported that most of the time they don't hear from a single constituent for an entire legislative cycle. She encouraged Session members to reach out to their legislators and try to make an impact on proposals within our State.

Lucy spoke about the mission council. In March, they decided to use the time for their monthly meeting to serve dinner at Agape. This was a wonderful experience. She noted that these opportunities are available for any of the committees. Paige Keller expressed her excitement about this opportunity, and Catherine Warren noted that the Young Women's group is serving dinner at Agape on April 9th. Lucy indicated that Mission council is working through the logistical issues and details of this mission opportunity, and once resolved, she hopes to present it to the entire congregation.

Allen Spetnagel asked if there was a session meeting in April. Rebekah confirmed that there is on April 16th.

Ginny Hobbs reminded the Session of the upcoming record restriction event on Saturday April 20th, from 12pm – 3 pm. She noted that we especially need lawyers to attend and use their skills.

Lucy announced the Braves game event, which is scheduled for Sunday, April 28th. We have purchased 80 tickets. She encouraged Session members to sign up and invite others.

Bonnie mentioned that during the recent confirmation dinner, she was reminded of how important the lock-in event is to the confirmands. She noted that the confirmand classes from 2019 and 2020 did not get a lock-in. These classes are now Juniors and Seniors. The Session determined that we would consider another event for the Juniors and Seniors to make up for this missed experience.

Martha Craft asked about the session elder nametags. Lucy noted that there have been some snafus, and we are still working on this. A new shipment has been ordered and is anticipated soon.

PRAYER AND DEPARTING BLESSINGS

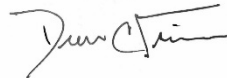
Rebekah LeMon

After all voices were heard during open forum, Rebekah invited a motion to close the session meeting. Martha craft made the motion, and it was seconded by Adair White. The motion was unanimously approved. Rebekah provided a prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie Holliday
Clerk



Drew Timmons
Assistant Clerk

UPCOMING DATES

Officer Training	April 14 & 21	
Holy Week Worship	March 28, 29	March 28, Maundy Thursday, 6:00, Williams Hall March 29, Good Friday, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary
Baptisms	March 31	Isabelle Langley Warley; daughter of Peyton and Emma Higgins Warley John Charles Ale III, son of Margaret Mansfield Ale and John Ale Rex Newell Stewart, son of Catherine and Peter Stewart Elliot Charles Reeves, son of Charles and Nathalie Reeves
Baptisms	April 14	Smith Edward Riley; son of Katie and Chris Riley Bunny Gossett King; daughter of Blake and Bailey King
Youth and Confirmation Sunday	April 14	Confirmands to be received during Worship
Baptisms	April 21	Collins Josephine Carr, daughter of David and Jennifer Carr Ava Katherine Roller, daughter of Kristen and Blake Roller
½ 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), March 19, 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	Margaret Reiser (trustee)	
Elizabeth Davis	Frank Furst (trustee)	
Heather Edmiston (virtually)		
Lucy Strong		