

**STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**May 21, 2024**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Williams Hall**

**CALL TO ORDER & DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

**Rebekah LeMon**

The stated Session meeting for Trinity Presbyterian Church on **May 21, 2024** was called to order at **6:40 pm** in Williams Hall by the moderator, Rebekah LeMon. The assistant clerk, Drew Timmons, confirmed the presence of a quorum.

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

**Rebekah LeMon**

Prior to the formal business meeting of the Session, members of the session shared a meal and conversation with new members. After dinner, Rebekah invited the session to introduce the new members from each table. After each of the new members were introduced, Rebekah invited the new members to reaffirm their faith. Each of the new members and the Session responded to the questions of affirmation from Rebekah. Rebekah then invited a motion to receive the new members into the church. Drew Timmons made the motion, which was seconded by many. The motion was approved unanimously.

The following new members affirmed their faith and were welcomed into Trinity.

Jimmy Beach

Lauren Beach – Reaffirmation of Faith

Jennifer Butler – PCUSA Pastor, will join as a pastor affiliate

Susie Butler – Certificate of Transfer from Peachtree Road United Methodist, Atlanta, GA

Gretchen Henry – Certificate of Transfer from Hopkinsville First United Methodist Church,  
Hopkinsville, KY

Ren Henry – Reaffirmation of Faith

Belinda Parks – Baptism and Profession of Faith

Lee Parks

Amanda Sanders – Certificate of Transfer from Morningside Presbyterian Church,  
Atlanta, GA

Daniel Sanders – Certificate of Transfer from Morningside Presbyterian Church,  
Atlanta, GA

Lauri Watnee – Certificate of Transfer from South Mecklenburg Presbyterian,  
Charlotte, NC

## **DEVOTION**

**Bonnie Holiday**

Bonnie Holiday provided the devotion. Her theme was “two things can be true at once.” She talked about her small hometown: Roopville, GA, and the contrast between being raised in a Southern Baptist church with a community of conservative thinkers, and with the very liberal ideals of her parents. No matter how often and how consistently her parents disagreed with the other community members on issues of politics, and how strongly each felt about their positions, they were all good people. That community nurtured Bonnie as a child. She still to this day receives letters from women of Roopville every Christmas. Even though she was never surrounded by people in any setting who thought and believed like she did, they were able to love another, just as God loves us despite our inability to stay on course. Two things can be true at once.

## **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, Stated Session Meeting Minutes from April 16, 2024, Session Retreat Minutes from May 11, 2024, the Financial Reports for April 2024, and the Statistical Report for April 2024. The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved without discussion.

## **MODERATOR’S REPORT**

**Rebekah LeMon**

Rebekah began her report with gratitude as always. She wanted to especially thank Karen Simmons, TreVarious Worthy, Ryan Brown, and James Williams and all the property team that puts in so much work to make this church ready for the various events we hold here. She noted that it has been a very wild calendar of events over the course of the last several months – the ceremonies, the mission events, the funerals and weddings, etc. She also thanked the AV and sound team that allows for Zoom capabilities for many of our events and worship services.

Rebekah noted that our bookkeeper, Aaron Claytor, got married this week. She invited the session to say congratulations to him if they see him.

Rebekah noted the excitement and celebration of Pentecost Sunday, and the BBQ event that followed. It was truly a joyous occasion – thank you to the Holy Smokers for another wonderful meal and fellowship event for the church.

As reported previously, the HVAC in the sanctuary needs to be replaced, and we are looking to do this sometime after June 21<sup>st</sup>. We will need to change worship services as a result. Rebekah asked session members to let everyone know so that no one is caught off-guard by this issue.

Rebekah thanked all who attended the mini retreat on Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup>. We had a great time welcoming new session members who are rolling onto the session in June, and discussing our vision for the coming year.

## **CLERK'S REPORT**

**Bonnie Holliday**

Bonnie reminded Session of the upcoming Presbytery meeting scheduled for August 6, 2024 at Radcliff Presbyterian Church.

## **PRESBYTERY MINUTE REVIEW**

**Drew Timmons**

Drew spoke about the minute review meeting which took place at Alpharetta Presbyterian Church on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Trinity's minutes were approved without exception. Overall, it was a very informative experience and Drew will work with the incoming assistant clerk to refine the minutes further to ensure stricter compliance. A copy of the Minutes Review Checklist from the meeting is attached to the minutes.

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

### **APNC REPORT AND REQUEST**

**Mark Stancil**

Mark Stancil reported on the progress of the APNC in identifying a new Associate Pastor for Family Ministries. The APNC reviewed 43 candidates. Of those, 12 asked to apply, and 8 interviews were conducted. After the 8 interviews, the APNC narrowed the candidates down to 3 to invite for a 2<sup>nd</sup> round of interviews. 2 of the candidates were invited to have a one-on-one interview session with Rebekah. The APNC had an in-depth discussion with Rebekah prior to final interviews. After this process, the APNC believes that it has found the person who God has called to Trinity to fill the role of the Associate Pastor for Family Ministries.

On behalf the APNC, Mark presented a motion to call a Congregational Meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup> after worship to present the new APFM. The motion was adopted by consent.

## **PRESBYTERY UPDATE**

**Allen Moseley**

Allen Moseley reported on the Presbytery meeting which took place via zoom on Tuesday April 30<sup>th</sup>. The theme was "hope and humility," and it centered around openness of heart and continuous learning. He reported that 5 new ministers were welcomed into the presbytery, and two overtures were presented. The first overture was for action relating to freeing children from gun violence. This was approved by the presbytery and will now go to the general assembly for approval. The second overture was a request for concurrence directing presbyterian church to use a gospel of love. For various reasons, there was not enough support for this overture to go to the general assembly.

The report from Allen led to a discussion of some of the processes of the Presbytery and how certain decisions are made by the Presbytery, mostly to inform the incoming members of our role in approving policies and actions of the Presbytery.

## **FINANCE & BUDGET**

**Heather Edmiston & Richard O'Donnell**

Richard O'Donnell provided a report on finance and the budget. He noted that we are ahead on income based on single gift representing 5% of the total income. We are also favorable on interest income. Property expenses are higher due to renovations to the Manse. Mission expenses are currently lower than budgeted, but we will eventually use all the budget. We are working to fill the position of Wellness Coordinator, and the cost is likely to be higher than our current budget. We are likely to use money from the personnel reserve fund for this during this calendar year. We are optimistic that this position will generate additional income for the church to offset the increased cost for the position in the future.

Our annual outside financial review is set to take place in June. Carr Riggs & Ingram will perform the review and the finance committee will report on this after it occurs.

## **REALM MIGRATION UPDATE**

**Heather Edmiston**

Heather reported on the upcoming migration of our server database to a new database. Realm is the product that makes the most sense for Trinity to use. Janet Martin is mostly handling the "clean up" of the database. Lucy has been heroic in helping with this process. The staff is working on improving proficiency with the new program, and we are working to put structures in place to make sure all employees use the database only. The new database will take over on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and all systems will be down for a week while the migration occurs. By June 10<sup>th</sup>, we will be using the new system in its entirety.

## **OPEN FORUM**

During open forum, Rebekah Groover asked about the seminary graduates, Emily Avant and Emily Beaver, and whether we are doing anything to recognize them and their accomplishments. Rebekah indicated that we would be doing something to recognize their recent graduation and celebrate them with a staff party.

Lucy spoke about a new opportunity for fellowship. The youth group has in the past gone to the Battery on a Wednesday night to enjoy each other's company. Lucy has proposed that we do this as a congregation. This event will occur for the first time on Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. Rebekah and Lucy mentioned that we are working to have more and more events like these in the future – hopefully including an on-campus oyster roast event later in 2024.

## **PRAYER AND DEPARTING BLESSINGS**

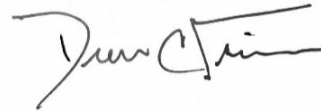
**Rebekah LeMon**

On this last meeting for the 2024 class of elders, Rebekah offered her thoughts and thanks to each of the outgoing elders and presented each one of them with a gift. She then read a poem by John O'Donohue for times of transition. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie Holliday  
Clerk



Drew Timmons  
Assistant Clerk

UPCOMING DATES		
Single Sunday Service	Begins May 26	One service at 10:00 a.m. through the summer
Communion Sundays	June 2, July 7, Aug. 4	
Speaking of Faith	Sundays in June (9am in Williams Hall)	June 2   Scott Calhoun June 9   Bonnie Holliday June 16   Jean Lapitan Shults June 23   Tony Breuer
Baptism	June 9	John Patterson Pulliam, son of Sara and John Pulliam
VBS	June 10-14	
Stated Session meeting	June 18	
Longest Day Vespers Worship	June 20	Dobbs Chapel, 6:30 p.m.

Trinity Presbyterian Church Session In-person Attendance (In Bold), May 21, 2024:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>Roxanna Erwin</b>	<b>Reid Willingham</b>	Karen Bain
<b>Ginny Hobbs</b>	<b>Kenny Kraft</b>	<b>Jon Balch</b>
<b>Bonnie Holiday –Clerk</b>	<b>Kristin Hunter</b>	<b>Dean Cleaveland</b>
<b>Richard O’Donnell</b>	<b>Tom Owens</b>	<b>Rebekah Groover</b>
<b>Trey Reese</b>	<b>Martha Craft</b>	<b>Jay Harris</b>
<b>Lane Rhoden</b>	<b>Drew Timmons -Asst. Clerk</b>	<b>Paige Keller</b>
<b>Allen Spetnagel</b>	<b>Meredith Daniel</b>	Nick Leet
<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 (Incoming Session Members)
<b>Rebekah LeMon-Moderator</b>	<b>Mark Stancil</b>	<b>Libby Gray Hall</b>
<b>Elizabeth Davis</b>		<b>Scott Calhoun</b>
<b>Heather Edmiston</b>		<b>Connor Willingham</b>
<b>Lucy Strong</b>		<b>Benjamin Walls</b>
		<b>Anne-Marie Spalinger</b>