

STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
August 20, 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 **August 20, 2024** was called to order at **6:47 pm** in Williams Hall by the moderator, Rebekah LeMon. The 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. Mary Kelly Speed 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.

Carol Morgan – Joining via Certificate of Transfer
Jim Bennett – Joining via Reaffirmation of Faith
Margaret Slaughter – Joining via Certificate of Transfer
Thomas Slaughter – Joining via Certificate of Transfer
Beth Walker - Joining via Certificate of Transfer
Graham Reaves - Joining via Certificate of Transfer

DEVOTION

Mary Kelly Speed

Mary Kelly shared with Session about a family who immigrated to America in January as refugees from Myanmar. They left in the middle of the night and stayed at the border of Thailand for 2 years while they waited for entrance to Thailand. They have been working hard over the past months since their arrival to acclimate to our culture. Navigating our broken systems has been particularly challenging for them. They had their SNAP benefits cut with no warning. The Nongovernmental Organizations assigned to help them that are overburdened with need and unable to respond timely. Systems have been so frustrating – how do you navigate these systems that are only accessible during the workday when you need to be at work. Continue to pray that these systems can be fixed. Mary Kelly closed with a benediction.

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, (one amendment to the agenda – Mary Kelly Speed gave the devotion), Stated Session Meeting Minutes from June 18, 2024, Called Session Meeting Minutes from June 30, 2024, the Financial Reports for June, July 2024, and the Statistical Reports for June, July 2024. The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved without discussion.

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Rebekah LeMon

Rebekah began her report with gratitude as always. She gave a huge shout out to Janet Martin who spearheaded our database transition and has been instrumental in making the transition smooth.

After updates to the manse, Emily Beaver has moved in, and she has been ordained.

Family ministries worked hard this summer. Vacation Bible School. Youth trips and lock in. It was a busy time!

Rebekah praised the Property committee. They have repainted the second floor and installed new carpet. Renovations to the Five Points bathrooms are next.

Many thanks to Heather Edmiston and her work to have the new HVAC installed. She has worked every day this summer to make this happen.

Over the summer many policies were updated.

We are expecting a relaunch of the greeter program to ensure visitors are welcomed and directed where to go during the Sunday School hour.

Personnel changes – Jesse From resigned, and the position will not be filled for now. Laura Ann Stafford retired from Trinity Presbyterian Preschool. The process is moving toward hiring a Wellness Director. Tanner Short is going to be doing an internship here in the fall.

Commitment co-chairs this year are Martha Craft and Tom Owens. Session will hear from the co-chairs at the September Session meeting.

This fall is our 75th anniversary celebration. We will have a worship service of music. Sunday School will have special celebrations. There will also be a church family meal.

CLERK'S REPORT

Drew Timmons

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Fun Fest on Sunday. Special thank you to Elizabeth, Rebekah, Lucy, Emily, Jean, and Tanner who sat in the dunk tank. The hymn sing and potluck are this Sunday August 25. The church year kickoff with Barbeque and Bluegrass is September 8th. Please register so we know how much food to cook.

Reminder of the Rosemary Kittrell lecture on October 24th. Tickets will be available to the public on September 16th. The event will likely sell out.

September Communion is Labor Day weekend. Please sign up for that or other communion service.

Adult Education is starting September 15.

Devotion sign ups were circulated. Every session member does a minimum of one devotion during their time on session.

Presbytery meeting sign ups were circulated.

SPECIAL ORDERS & REPORTS:

LAUNCH OF 2025 CONFIRMATION PROCESS

Emily Beaver

The 2025 Confirmation process is starting. Confirmation is for eighth grade students to become members of the church. They learn more about the church and Presbyterianism. Every confirmand needs a mentor. If you're interested in being a mentor, let Emily know. The curriculum for confirmation is Changing the World and is hands on. Officially launch on October 22.

Usually for eighth graders, but anyone from 8-12 grade can go through confirmation.

Commitment as a mentor is to conduct six meetings with your confirmand from October through April. The curriculum has information for mentors to use if they want it. The goal is that at the end the confirmand knows an adult in the church knows them as a person and has a deeper relationship with them.

AUGUST 6 PRESBYTERY MEETING REPORT

Nick Leet

Hybrid meeting – Zoom and in person.

Presbytery shared an update on “Unified Conversations” a current initiative to evaluate future of the Presbytery financial policy, and upcoming potential changes to the Book of Order.

The Nomination Committee and Committee on Representation are both looking for new members to support their efforts within the Presbytery. The Volunteer Information Form to explore supporting these committees is at www.atlpcusa.org/vif.

Three new ministers were examined and ordained including Trinity's very own Emily Beaver.

Presbyterians for a Better Georgia and the Peach and Global Witness Partnerships shared video on their mission and works.

Rev. Jihyun Oh offered a sermon focused on embodying love and living courageously together.

Rebekah reminded everyone that when you attend Presbytery meeting you are a voting member representing TPC. You don't vote in a block – it's up to you individually as you discern.

MISSION COUNCIL TASK FORCE PLAN FOR RESERVES

Paige Keller

Mission Council created a Task Force in Fall 2023 to discern how best to make use of unspent funds allocated for the Mission Reserve Account, which has \$195,735 in it. After 8 months of research, conversation, and prayer, this Task Force presented the following plan for disbursing these funds:

- 1) Support refugee family from Myanmar – \$5,000
- 2) Fund Additional Impact Grants over the next 3-4 years – \$75,000
- 3) Fund Living Waters Filtration Project in Cuba – \$44,000

- 4) Fund emergency needs for refugee families in relationship with IRC over the next 2 years - \$48,000
- 5) Buffer for unseen items / emergencies – \$25,000

Mary Kelly Speed asked whether the Emergency funding of needs (item 4) is to TPC or funneled through IRC. Can do both: If it's a family closely working with TPC, through TPC. But also have a Memorandum of Understanding with IRC that enables us to send funds and IRC will pass on to the family. IRC has a process of selection that they will use.

FINANCE & BUDGET

Heather Edmiston & Dave Higgins

MOTION: Of the unspent funds from the 2023 fiscal year budget (\$728,628), allocate 60% to the Property Reserve Fund, 20% to the Mission Reserve Fund and 20% to the Technology Replacement Reserve Fund.

This proposal is after all reserves have been allocated.

Nick Leet asked if the allocation of more to property would be ongoing. Heather Edmiston pointed out that in years past, property received 100% of allocation, and she is assuming that was based on need. She is working on budgeting for property, so we don't have to dip into reserves.

Rebekah LeMon stated that for years the property budget was insufficient, so reserves had to be used. We are shifting into a more realistic number including a capital expenditure within the budget. Additionally, in the past, we had not calculated the technology needs, and we are repairing that as well. The hope is to not dip into reserves to maintain property. Also, the hope is that we won't have this unspent money.

Motion passed unanimously.

Dave Higgins provided a report on finance and the budget. We are ahead of the budget because we have underspent in several categories – mission, finance and administration, and personnel. Mission underspend is due to timing, and it will be spent by year end. Finance and administration is due to technology being below budget, but it is expected to catch up. Personnel underspending is related to the timing of new staff members.

Page 29-42 of the Session packet is the auditor's report. The report was accepted by the Finance committee last week.

ADULT EDUCATION PLAN FOR 2024-2025

Nick Leet

Thank you for your feedback at the retreat. Aware of the need to improve communication.

Excited to have three fantastic outside speakers coming to lead Sunday school this fall. Dr. Joel LeMon and Dr. Brennan Breed will be with us on the 15th and 22nd of September, respectively.

Dr. Ellen Ott Marshall has graciously agreed to take time away from her Sabbatical to share her wisdom on the topic of Conflict Transformation. How do we as a community of faith respond to all the conflicts that seem to be enveloping us in the world right now? Her wonderful and inspiring lecture is scheduled for November 10th. And while it is timely (as the Sunday after the election), it will be completely apolitical, instead focusing on the ethical/theological impact and opportunity that we can take into and away from conflict.

Adult Ed will have offerings surrounding the Kittrell Lecture on October 24.

OPEN FORUM

Elizabeth Davis spoke about the need for Sunday School teachers. Parents of children are not the only teachers – a lot of grandparents teach. Mr. Music (Scott Calhoun) teaches the littlest children. K/1st graders learn about worship, worship spaces, why do we do the things we do. 2/3 graders receive bible education; how to read the bible; what's special about it; receive their own bible to bring home. 4/5 graders dive a little deeper into the bible stories. For example learning the other part of the story of Noah's ark. Lessons are prepared, and they are sent the week before so you know what you're doing. Even if you don't do the lesson, it's okay. The goal is to build relationships with the children – that they are known and they are loved by God through all of us. Teaching Sunday School is part of our baptismal vows. If you can't do it, please ask others to help.

Lucy Strong spoke about communications. How do we get to know what's happening better? YouTube channel has sermons, music, and adult education. Follow social media, so you can share the posts.

Events page on website will have everything that's happening at Trinity, and the website homepage will have a link to a pdf with everything.

Realm – all the information will be on Realm.

We are implementing a greeter program to show people where to go. We are hoping to have 3 greeters in the education hour at Five Points and in D building. We need volunteers to be greeters.

Mary Kelly Speed brought up publishing a mission calendar so everyone knows what is scheduled throughout the year. People are unaware of what the church is offering, what the engagement opportunities are, and where specifically TPC is helping.

Emily Beaver raised up college students. Talking about how to care for college students. One way is to bring back Montreat College Conference. Similar to the youth conference but more adult feeling. This year's theme is God's Hope in a Weary World.

Lucy raised up a men's gathering on September 7 in the church parking lot. An outdoor fellowship opportunity.

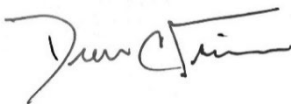
PRAYER AND DEPARTING BLESSINGS

Rebekah LeMon

Rebekah asked for joys and concerns. Rebekah closed us in prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Drew Timmons
Clerk



Karen Bain
Assistant Clerk

UPCOMING DATES		
Communion Sundays	Sept. 1, Oct. 6	
Trinity Fun Fest	August 18	4-6pm
Hymn Sing & All-Church Potluck	August 25	11am-130pm
BBQ & Bluegrass (one worship service at 11am)	Sept 8	12-3pm
Two morning worship services and Adult Education restart	Sept 15	
All-Church Financial Town Hall and Commitment Launch Brunch	Sept 29	10am
Kittrell Lecture	Oct 24	7pm
Baptism – Ellen Childs Sanders, daughter of Amanda and Daniel Sanders	Nov 10	11am

Trinity Presbyterian Church Session In-person Attendance (In Bold), August 20, 2024:

Name	Name	Name
Reid Willingham	Karen Bain – Asst Clerk	Anne Blich
Kenny Kraft	Jon Balch	Scott Calhoun
Kristin Hunter	Dean Cleaveland	Brooke Chaplain
Tom Owens	Rebekah Groover	Dave Higgins
Martha Craft	Jay Harris	Mike Hobbs
Drew Timmons – Clerk	Paige Keller	Reese Jackson
Meredith Daniel	Nick Leet	Gina Nana
Allen Moseley	Jon McRae	Anne-Marie Spalinger
Chris Suh	Mary Kelly Speed	Michele Stancil
Lindsey Greene	Catherine Warren	Benjamin Walls
		Libby Gray Hall (youth)
		Connor Willingham (youth)
Staff Attendees:	Other Attendees:	Guests
Rebekah LeMon-Moderator		
Lucy Strong		
Emily Beaver		
Elizabeth Davis		
Heather Edmiston		