

STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
September 17, 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 **September 17, 2024** was called to order at **7:01pm** in Old Fellowship Hall by the moderator, Rebekah LeMon. The clerk, Drew Timmons, confirmed the presence of a quorum.

DEVOTION

Karen Bain

Karen Bain shared about her friend, Ellen, who struggles with many health problems but continues to exude an amazing spirit and energy.

- **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 (as amended), Stated Session Meeting Minutes from August 20, 2024, the Financial Report for August 2024, and the Statistical Report for August 2024. The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved without discussion.

MODERATOR’S REPORT

Rebekah LeMon

- Rebekah began her report with gratitude as always. She first lifted up everything that happened on “Barbeque Day.” She particularly lifted up the staff and volunteers who made it happen. The wonderful meal was enjoyed after a joyful and meaningful worship, the weather was perfect, and the event was seamless. She gave thanks for the great staff team at Trinity, as well as the members who give their time cooking food and arrange flowers and making it all happen.

Children’s bibles (both picture bibles and early reading bibles) are now in every pew in the Sanctuary. There are plans to make worship additions in the Loft as well.

The Five Points restroom renovation project is on schedule. The restrooms will be finished on Thursday or Friday this week. Thanks to Heather Edmiston, the Property Committee, and Benjamin Walls for making the project happen and happen quickly.

Trinity hired a new Director of Wellness and Recreation. Dina Blair will start on September 30. Her first set of priorities will be to meet our current needs and then to see what we might do if we are able.

Tom Owens and Martha Craft will be giving a presentation on Commitment. Rebekah commended them for all the prework that they have done for this process.

There are already 654 tickets reserved for the Kittrell Lecture with Anne Lamott on October 24.

The Realm database conversion continues to go well.

Trinity's Umbrella of Care – which is a group of committees focused on pastoral care - met last night. They are going to be working to identify gaps in our care processes.

Continuing a conversation about adult education and encouraging people to make a 2 hour commitment on Sundays to attend both worship and adult education.

75th anniversary plans are finalized. Trinity will have an 8-day week of celebration. On November 17 there will be a worship of music and a reception celebrating Norman Mackenzie's 40th anniversary with Trinity. On November 24, Trinity will celebrate the 75th anniversary – during the 10am hour, there will be a presentation of a compilation of interviews, videos, and photos celebrating Trinity's history and future. Worship will remain at 11am. After worship, at 12pm there will be a church-wide lunch celebration.

CLERK'S REPORT

Drew Timmons

Drew Timmons reminded everyone of the Presbytery meeting on November 9.

Next Session meeting is October 17.

Communion on October 6 – please sign up to serve.

Halloween Bingo is on 10/25.

Pumpkin Carving is on 10/27.

SPECIAL ORDERS & REPORTS:

CANDIDACY OF EMILY AVANT

Emily Avant & Rebekah LeMon

MOTION: To recommend to the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta that Emily Avant, inquirer under the care of the Session of Trinity Presbyterian Church, be approved as a Candidate for Ordination. Many seconded. Passed unanimously.

Emily Avant is in the next process of ordination; she has graduated from seminary. Emily served as an intern at Trinity with Rebekah as her mentor. Emily has preached, taught, and worked with youth. Trinity is larger than anywhere she has served before. She expressed gratitude for all she learned in her internship. She has started a fulltime job at the Candler Foundry which provides seminary level education to churches. She is excited to assist the Foundry with strategy and

operations because it combines her talents from corporate America with her knowledge from seminary. Emily gave much thanks for the support she's had from Trinity.

TRUSTEE REPORT

Frank Fuerst

MOTION: To approve the request of the TELC board for \$20,000 from the TELC fund to be used for Financial Aid and technology refresh.

\$15,000 is for financial aid, and \$5,000 is to be used for technology refresh. Drew Timmons asked about the purpose of the TELC Fund and Frank Fuerst explained it.

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To approve a requested distribution from the Kahn Family Fund of \$7,500 for professional development, suicide prevention training, and costs for staff celebrations and transitions.

\$2,500 for professional development for supervisory staff.

\$2,000 for suicide prevention training for staff.

\$3,000 for staff celebrations and transitions.

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To approve a distribution of \$30,000 from the Love Ministry Impact Fund to furnish common spaces in the manse.

The manse is a 5-bedroom house. Since Emily Beaver is single, she does not need all the 5 bedrooms. Moreover, using the market value of such a large home in her compensation package would have left her with virtually no cash salary. TPC entered into an arrangement that includes the master suite and a sitting room as if Emily were in a 1-bedroom apartment. She has full use of all the other spaces in the house, but the church will now also be able to use those spaces for events and entertaining. The manse has already been used for a back-to-school cookout for youth, a staff birthday, and Emily Beaver's ordination drop-in celebration will be held there in late August. The reception after the women's advent service and other small events will also be hosted at the manse (with permission and coordination with Emily).

The upstairs bedrooms in the manse, connected by a jack-and-jill bath, have been furnished as guest rooms to be used for visiting teachers, speakers, and church staff when we need to be at church late/early/for a weekend. Emily moved out of an efficiency dorm apartment and did not have furniture to fill the home, so the request for the 2024 distribution from the Love Fund is to furnish the common spaces (not Emily's private apartment).

The purpose of the fund is to provide for specific projects.

Love family was conferred with, and they approved the use of the money this way.

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To nominate Esther Stokes to serve a seven-year term as Trustee beginning January 1, 2025.

Seven trustees with seven-year terms. Every year a new trustee is nominated.

Bonnie Harris is rolling off.

Motion passed unanimously.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/MEMBERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

Lucy Strong

MOTION: To combine the Congregational Life and Membership and Engagement Committees into one “Engagement” committee of the Session.

Currently Congregational Life / Membership & Engagement Committees

- Congregational Life works most often with events.
- Membership and Engagement works with new members and inviting members to events.

The work they do is similar, and the committees are stretched – they do better work if they’re together.

If the motion carries, it will shift session to 9 session committees. That will result in a change from nominating 10 session members to 9 session members. Most churches of similar size to Trinity have 5-7 elders per class. This move makes sense for TPC.

The Engagement Committee will be chaired by Mary Kelly Speed. Both committees need more volunteers.

Many seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCE & BUDGET

Heather Edmiston & Dave Higgins

Dave Higgins provided a report on finance and the budget. We are a little behind from last year. Youth and Families have spent more than last year, mainly due to trips. Personnel is ahead due to vacancies. Mission underspend is due to timing, and it will be spent by year end. Finance and administration budget position is due to technology being below budget, but it is expected to catch up. Other administrative expenses will rise, so that will even out. Property is under the budget at this moment, but it is expected to even out by year end. Overall, the budget is in good position.

2025 COMMITMENT SEASON LAUNCH

Martha Craft & Tom Owens

Theme for the 2025 Commitment Season is Whole Faith. The Greatest Commandment – Love your Neighbor as Yourself.

Tom Owens and Martha Craft encouraged us to be ambassadors and cheerleaders for commitment. They are taking a holistic approach to giving our whole selves to God.

More than 95% of TPC's budget comes from member gifts. The budget process is based on pledged dollars. Session and trustees pledge deadline is September 28 because commitment kickoff brunch is September 29. Rebekah wants to be able to announce at the brunch that 100% of session /trustee have given.

The commitment goal is \$4 million with the primary goal to add a full-time pastor to the team.

- Associate Pastor for Congregational Care; process is uncertain – could use APNC (6-8 months before you have names) or could use a contract call or a different structure all together (hire someone who is ordained) because these processes are faster.
- Whether the hire can be made depends on reaching commitment goal.

Also adding some support in spiritual nurture educational ministry. Need new small groups, new bible study opportunities. TPC is adding a regular calendar of evening chapel worship offerings. Future budgets may require more, but costs year over year should not be monumental. Replacing reductions that were made during lean years. Resupporting the church in terms of infrastructure. Rebekah will send an email tomorrow about pledges.

November 3 will be Commitment Sunday.

2025 BUDGET PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Rebekah LeMon & Heather Edmiston

Committees will receive a budget template and will have an opportunity to provide budget requests for 2025. All are encouraged to think outside the box about what you as a committee hope to do next year, and what the cost would be.

Opportunity to provide some input.

Every committee will have a finance committee member as a liaison to guide them through the budget process. Heather Edmiston is also available. All budget requests need to be back by the end of October. This will enable finance to bring a first look budget in late November or December and session will be prepared to vote on it in January.

OPEN FORUM

Mary Kelly Speed had question about the reduction of size of session – how it will be communicated to congregation. That communication will come when the nominations are

made. It will be a training exercise on how the session structure looks and what the nominating committee is considering.

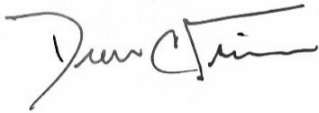
PRAYER AND DEPARTING BLESSINGS

Rebekah LeMon

Session conducted a prayer where members named some things on their heart and leave silence.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Drew Timmons
Clerk



Karen Bain
Assistant Clerk

UPCOMING DATES		
Deadline for Session Pledges for 2025	Sept. 28, 2024	
All-Church Commitment Kick-off Brunch	Sept. 29, 2024, 10am	Williams Hall
Communion Sundays	Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 1	
Blessing of the Animals	Oct. 6, 2024, 4-500pm	Magnolia Circle
Baptism	Oct. 13, 2024	Harrison Clay Landon, son of Nancy and Paul Landon
Kittrell Lecture	Oct. 24, 7pm	Sanctuary
Halloween Bingo	Oct. 25, 6pm	
Pumpkin Carving	Oct. 27, 6pm	
Presbytery Meeting	Nov. 9	Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church
Baptisms	Nov. 10, 11am	Ellen Childs Sanders, daughter of Amanda and Daniel Sanders Christian Edward Belisle, son of Brooke and Andrew Belisle
Fall Music Sunday and Celebration of Norman MacKenzie's 40th anniversary	Nov. 17	
Trintiy 75th anniversary worship and all-church luncheon	Nov. 24, 10am Education, 11am Worship, 12pm Luncheon	

Trinity Presbyterian Church Session In-person Attendance (In Bold), September 17, 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	• Emily Avant	• Frank Fuerst
Lucy Strong		•
Emily Beaver		•
Heather Edmiston		