

**STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**January 21, 2025**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**Zoom**

**CALL TO ORDER & DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

**Lucy Strong**

The stated Session meeting for Trinity Presbyterian Church on **January 21, 2025** was called to order at **6:03pm** by the moderator, Lucy Strong. The clerk, Drew Timmons, confirmed the presence of a quorum.

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

**Lucy Strong**

Prior to the formal business meeting of the Session, members of the session shared a meal and conversation with new members. After dinner, Lucy invited the session to introduce the new members from each table. After each of the new members were introduced, Lucy invited the new members to reaffirm their faith. Each of the new members and the Session responded to the questions of affirmation from Lucy. Lucy 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.

Katie Castro – Joining via Reaffirmation of Faith  
Roberto Castro – Joining via Reaffirmation of Faith  
Amy Ruff – Joining via Reaffirmation of Faith  
Trevor Ruff – Joining via Reaffirmation of Faith  
James Kauffmann – Joining via Reaffirmation of Faith  
Amanda Kauffmann – Joining via Reaffirmation of Faith  
Richard “Bo” Adams – Joining via Certificate of Transfer  
Windsor Adams – Joining via Certificate of Transfer  
Fuller Adams – Joining via Certificate of Transfer  
Denise Hewlett – Joining via Reaffirmation of Faith

**DEVOTION**

**Martha Craft**

Martha’s devotion was about seeing God in everyday things – in particular, banana bread. She uses her mother’s recipe who lived in a boarding house in Jefferson, GA. The key to delicious banana bread is using overripe bananas that you find in a special place at the supermarket – they are bananas that no one would want to eat. These bananas are put together and end up creating a wonderful flavor. This is what God does with our lives. The flaws and bruises give flavor and make things remarkable.

## **OMNIBUS MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

**Lucy Strong**

Lucy Strong directed session members to the omnibus motion in the meeting packet which included tonight's meeting Agenda (as amended), Stated Session Meeting Minutes from November 19, 2024, Congregational Meeting Minutes from December 15, 2024, Called Session Meeting Minutes from January 12, 2025, the Financial Reports for November and December 2024, the Statistical Reports for November and December 2024, and the Baptism Calendar. Drew moved to approve the Consent Agenda, and it was seconded by many. The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved without discussion.

## **MODERATOR'S REPORT**

**Lucy Strong**

Lucy began with gratitude as Rebekah always does. In particular, she gave gratitude for Rebekah and her planning for this time she is spending away while she heals. Lucy expressed gratitude for how the congregation responded with deep love for Rebekah and the TPC staff.

While this is a difficult time, everything at TPC is in good shape. There have been many activities and events since Session last met in November.

The Anniversary Lunch and Worship were very well attended. Thanks to MacKenzie Atkinson and the hospitality staff for ensuring a seamless event.

Mission Brunch – TPC packed 150 bags on Sunday morning. The bags were brought to Central Presbyterian to distribute along with breakfast. Debbie Stair has been a great liaison for the Central Breakfasts that Trinity has served every fourth Sunday for some time now.

As always, the season of Advent was packed with events. Agape Giving Tree; Advent Lighting – thanks for the families who lit the candles; Christmas Market – thanks to the volunteers and shoppers; Christmas Pageant – many thanks to Elizabeth Davis and her team of volunteers. Christmas Caroling in the community. Thanks to Scott Calhoun, chair of CFM who has done a great job of pulling the committee together and bridge the gap to make sure everyone is included.

The Christmas Carol Sing was well attended with about 250 people of all ages attending.

On Christmas Eve about 2000 people attended between all 4 services, confirming the need for multiple services on Christmas Eve. Thank you to Karen Simmons and the hospitality staff, Emily Beaver for her assistance with the services, Norman Mackenzie and the choirs for the beautiful music.

2025 has kicked off very well.

Much gratitude to Emily Beaver and Heather Edmiston for everything they've done.

Lucy expressed gratitude to the commitment campaign – especially to co-chairs Martha Craft and Tom Owens – because they reached their goal.

Lucy thanked Session for trusting how things will go in Rebekah's absence.

## **CLERK'S REPORT**

**Drew Timmons**

Recognize the leadership we have in place behind Rebekah. We are in perfect hands, and everything will be fantastic while she's gone and it will be the same when she returns. Thank you for your leadership.

Presbytery meeting coming up. Drew appreciated all who are attending. There are some important amendments they are voting on.

Devotion for February is Reese Jackson.

Next session meeting is February 18.

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

### **FINANCE & BUDGET**

**Heather Edmiston**

Process began in October; first look went to Session in November. All budget requests were fully honored in the budget that is before Session to approve.

Request for a comment on the Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care that will be hired in 2025. The current budget is aligned with the expectation that someone will be hired during the year. The unspent funds will return to Session with a recommendation for what to do with them, and Session will decide where to put them.

Motion: To approve 2025 operating budget as presented.

Motion approved unanimously.

### **COMMITMENT CAMPAIGN**

**Tom Owens and Martha Craft**

Martha: Thank you to co-chair, Tom Owens. Rebekah was fantastic and had everything they needed to make it successful. Heather Edmiston and Janet Martin had all the information they needed. Bonnie Harris kept everyone on track with to-do lists. Trinity Trustees who stepped in to help when people needed a nudge. We received a last-minute pledge today that put us over the \$4 million goal.

Pledging units were slightly down. 461 pledge units this year; 470 last year. Goal was 500. People are increasing their pledges, but we'd like to have more people participate.

Tom: Agreed with Martha's comments that serving on commitment was very rewarding. Tom met people at the church that he otherwise would not have. He appreciated the organization,

and the helpfulness of TPC staff. Tom echoed what Martha said – especially as it relates to Bonnie Harris because she has so much institutional knowledge about commitment. Tom was also encouraged by how younger members increased and participated in pledging this year.

## **ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Lucy Strong**

Part of the work of the committee is to ensure that the member rolls are correct. Moving someone to the inactive roll is a responsibility of Session. This happens every year. The Engagement Committee is doing this work.

The process of moving someone to the inactive roll happens when a member requests so, has moved, or has ceased to participate for a period of two years. Definition of participation is broad: giving, participating in small groups, etc.

Motion: To formally move members listed in the statistical report to the inactive roll.

Motion approved unanimously.

## **OPEN FORUM**

Mary Kelly Speed raised up how to communicate the opportunity for all Elders to serve communion. Give Session access to College of Elders, so they can request someone to serve communion for them.

Kenny Kraft raised up the active link for nominations to the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

Nick Leet raised up some interesting adult education opportunities that are coming up. Kicking off with the “At the River” series about ministers who had challenging experiences during desegregation. Also, Brendan Murphy from Marist Academy is coming to do a class on the Holocaust and antisemitism. Around Earth Day, climate change and all that’s going on in the world – a class on April 6 – a Georgia Tech professor will be coming to speak along with some theologians coming to talk about what our role is as stewards of God’s creation.

Anne Blicht raised up the Faith in Action committee is exploring the idea of Trinity becoming a creation care church. The process is beginning. They are meeting on Thursday, and they will be looking at Trinity getting an energy audit to make it a more energy efficient space.

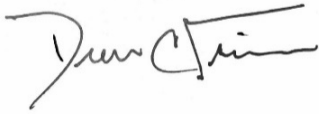
## **PRAYER AND DEPARTING BLESSINGS**

**Lucy Strong**

Lucy led us in a prayer adapted from Pastor Laura Jean Truman.

The meeting adjourned at 7:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Drew Timmons  
Clerk



Karen Bain  
Assistant Clerk

UPCOMING DATES		
Communion Sundays	February 2, March 2	
At the River Movie Screening	January 23, 7:00pm	Williams Hall
Friday Night Bingo	January 24, 6:00pm	Loft
Record Restriction Event	January 25, 9:00am	
Children's Sunday	February 2, 9 & 11am Services	Loft & Sanctuary
Service of Prayer & Lament	February 2, 6:30pm	Dobbs Chapel
Presbytery Meeting	February 8, 9am – 1pm	Eastminster Presbyterian
Cuba Trip	February 18 – 24	
Baptisms	February 9, 2025	Alden Campbell Abels, daughter of Isoline and Nelson Abels
	March 9, 2025	James Edward Anthony III, son of Hayden and John Anthony
	April 13, 2025	Louise Love Seiler, daughter of Alison and John Gray Seiler  Ruth Justice Elliot, daughter of Anna and John Elliot

Trinity Presbyterian Church Session In-person Attendance (In Bold), January 21, 2025:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Name</b>
Reid Willingham	<b>Karen Bain – Asst Clerk</b>	<b>Anne Blich</b>
<b>Kenny Kraft</b>	<b>Jon Balch</b>	Scott Calhoun
<b>Kristin Hunter</b>	<b>Dean Cleaveland</b>	Brooke Chaplain
<b>Tom Owens</b>	<b>Rebekah Groover</b>	<b>Dave Higgins</b>
<b>Martha Craft</b>	Jay Harris	<b>Mike Hobbs</b>
<b>Drew Timmons – Clerk</b>	<b>Paige Keller</b>	<b>Reese Jackson</b>
<b>Meredith Daniel</b>	<b>Nick Leet</b>	<b>Gina Nana</b>
<b>Allen Moseley</b>	<b>Jon McRae</b>	Anne-Marie Spalinger
Chris Suh	<b>Mary Kelly Speed</b>	<b>Michele Stancil</b>
Lindsey Greene	<b>Catherine Warren</b>	<b>Benjamin Walls</b>
		<b>Libby Gray Hall (youth)</b>
		Connor Willingham (youth)
<b>Staff Attendees:</b>	<b>Other Attendees:</b>	<b>Guests</b>
Lucy Strong - Moderator		Richard O'Donnell
Emily Beaver		James and Amanda Kauffmann
Heather Edmiston		Richard and Windsor Adams
		Katie Castro
		Amy and Trevor Ruff