

SESSION MINUTES
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
GREENVILLE, NC
August 27, 2017

The Session of First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, NC, held a stated meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. on August 27, 2017.

Ruling Elders present: Rob Ables, Catherine Adams, Clay Britt, Sue DelVecchio, Bill Farior, Sandy Jackson, Karen Kay, Linda Kean, Dave Kemble, Bill Lehman, Allen Lyle, Frances Mallison, Gibson McCall, Debra Mizelle, Dorothy Muller, Kathleen Randall, Elizabeth Swaggerty, David Webb, Holli Williams, and Jackie Wynne.

Excused: Kelly Barnhill, Doug Boyd, Debbie Hahn, Jeri Jackson, Mark Phillips, and Ray Spears.

Absent: Griff Burgwyn, Tyler Burgwyn, Jessica Davenport, Daniel Griffis, and Will O'Rear.

Others present: Bill Neely, Pastor and Moderator, Amanda Hines, Temporary Associate Pastor, and Dick Marks, Clerk of Session.

Moderator Bill Neely called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.; a quorum was present. Elizabeth Swaggerty led an opening devotional and prayer.

PEOPLE ARE IMPORTANT

Illnesses:

Special mention was made for Kelly Barnhill, Connie Bond, Madge Chamness, Beth Clark, Martha Coffman, Shel Downs, Jean Duff, Thelma Flye, Ben Lattin, Michael Nelms, Wilma Piner, Carol Scull, Joe Sullivan, and Margie Wright.

Deaths:

Clinton Leinweber, Sr., on August 17, 2017.
Mary Smith, on August 25, 2017.

Amanda Hines offered a prayer, which included those mentioned under concerns and celebrations.

COMMUNICATIONS

Thank-you notes and letters were received from Third Street Education Center, Hope of Glory Ministries Community Food Co-op Program, First Presbyterian Church, Kinston, Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC (2 letters), Camp Albemarle, and Boys & Girls Club of Coastal Plain for ongoing support and Mayfest funding.

Fifteen letters and/or cards, mostly handwritten, some on torn-out paper from a notebook, from Habitat for Humanity families thanking the church for paying their mortgage for a month. Many mentioned specifically that this came at just the right time for their particular needs.

A request was received from the Nominations and Representation Committee of New Hope Presbytery asking for volunteers or recommendations for individuals who might serve on Presbytery committees.

The clerk corresponded with the Rev. Jim Kirk, of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, informing him of Bill Neely's upcoming retirement, and inviting members of PDA to attend the events associated with the service of retirement on the weekend of Dec. 9-10, 2017.

The clerk included the letter written to Peace Presbyterian indicating the support of FPC, Greenville, for the Ulster Project grant application.

A request was received from Pat Dunn for names of any who would serve on the Habitat for Humanity board.

MINUTES

Minutes were approved for the stated Session meeting of June 25, 2017.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Administration Ministry (Rob Ables)

A motion passed from the Ministry to approve building use requests for a) The Service League of Greenville for monthly board and general meetings on Sept. 11, Oct. 2, Nov. 6, and Dec. 4, 2017 and Jan. 8, Feb. 5, Mar. 5 Apr. 2, and May 7, 2018, using Room 202 and FH; b) NH Presbytery for Healthy Boundary training, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Nov. 7 and 11 in Room 202; c) Men of the Church for mum sale in the parking lot from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sept. 23; d) Greenville Junior Cotillion for monthly cotillion from 7-9 p.m. in the FH on Sept. 23, Oct., 28, Nov. 17, Dec. 9, 2017 and Jan. 6, Feb. 3, and Mar. 10, 2018; e) Scout troop 452 using FH on August 28 in the evening as a backup if it is raining; f) ECU Choral Department using upstairs rooms and Sanctuary for concerts/rehearsals from 6-9 p.m. on Oct. 22 and 23, Nov. 19 and 20, 2017 and Feb. 25 and 26, and Apr. 22 and 23, 2018; g) St. Paul's Episcopal Church for staff retreat and lunch in FH on Aug. 24 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; h) Scout troop 452 for lock-in in both FHs and kitchen from 5 p.m. to morning on Oct.10-11; i) Elizabeth Kempton Dunn for wedding in the Sanctuary on Feb. 24, 2018, with rehearsal on Feb. 23; j) use of the parking lot on August 30, around 6:30 p.m. by those who are attending the celebration for the Greenville North State Little League team at Elm St. park.

(Personnel) A motion passed from the Committee to approve Kerby Baier as a soprano Choral Scholar, to replace Beth Stovall.

(Personnel) A motion passed from the Committee to approve the job description for a choral scholar/youth bell assistant (attached) and to approve Eli Cole to fill this position.

(Personnel) A motion passed from the Committee to approve sending Bill Neely's retirement letter (attached) to the congregation.

(Personnel) A motion passed from the Committee to approve the following to serve as the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee: Gibson McCall, Frances Mallison, Catherine Adams, Linda Kean, and Jim Worden.

(Personnel) A motion passed from the Committee to support the Rev. Amanda Hines in her pursuit of changing ecclesiastical jurisdiction from the Disciples of Christ to become a Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church, USA. The motion included supporting her nomination to the congregation in seeking a call at FPC as a Designated Associate Pastor for a three-year term. The clerk will correspond with the Presbytery Commission on Ministry to indicate the Session's support for this plan.

Mission Ministry (Dave Kemble/Linda Kean)

A motion passed from the Ministry to approve collecting school supplies in the Welcome Center for students in 27 counties affected by Hurricane Matthew, the power outages on Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands and other disasters.

A motion passed from the Ministry to approve a Moment for Mission for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance by the Rev. Jim Kirk of PDA on December 10.

A motion passed from the Ministry to approve a Moment for Mission for Mayfest for both services on September 10.

The Ministry will sponsor a Mayfest 2018 planning session for the entire congregation on September 17 at 4:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Membership Ministry (Gibson McCall/Debbie Hahn)

A motion passed from the Ministry to approve the sale of mums by the Men of the Church on September 23 in the parking lot to support the Youth Program

The Ministry announced that Stephen Ministry is in preliminary discussion about starting an additional information session.

Worship Ministry (Karen Kay)

A motion passed from the Ministry to approve allowing Brad Collier and Karrie Rushing to prepare and sell a CD of music as a fundraiser for the choir tour in Europe in May 2018.

A motion passed from the Ministry to approve Wanda Neely as a guest preacher for Bill Neely's retirement service on December 10.

A motion passed from the Ministry to approve designating the offering collected during the retirement service to the FPC commitment to Union Presbyterian Seminary.

A motion passed from the Ministry to approve hosting the Wingate University Singers for a concert on February 19, 2018 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The Ministry will coordinate homestays and meals during their stay in Greenville.

The Ministry announced that FPC is the host church for this year's Interfaith Service on November 19 at 3 p.m. They will coordinate efforts for a reception to follow this service, as well as the reception following the retirement celebration service on December 10.

The Ministry announced a) that Brad Collier is working on guidelines for the use of the organ and Sanctuary piano by guest musicians, b) that Tom Lewtak will upgrade the trackers in the organ in September, and c) that Jon Randall will provide liturgist/assisting elder training on October 8 from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Education Ministry (Debra Mizelle)

A motion passed from the Ministry to approve "Animate (by Cokesbury)," a 6-week study course for the Foundations Class, to be taught by Amanda Hines.

A motion passed from the Ministry to approve a redistribution of Children's Church School classes from K-1st grade, 2nd-3rd grades, and 4th-5th grades to K-2nd grade and 3rd-5th grades.

A motion passed from the Ministry to approve Church School teachers for 2017-2018: K-2nd – Marigail Matthijs, Luanne Manning, Alisa Fraley, Katy Kemble, and Emily Harvey; 3rd-5th Grade – Peggy Barnes, Hunt & Melinda McKinnon, Jason Lee, David Webb, and Dave Kemble; Mid-Hi – Ashtyn Clark, Michael Scull, Lisa Burgwyn, and Sandy Jackson; Sr. Hi – Emily Coffman, Greg Steele, and Sarah Adams; New Wine – Karen Kay and Mary Jon Pabst; Westminster – Ginny Hill; Covenant – Peggy Barnes, Peggy Wood, and Shelley Basnight.

A motion passed from the Ministry to approve having voluntary contributions of \$20 per person at the retirement party for Bill Neely on December 9 to support Youth Ministry.

The Ministry announced that Fall Festival is on October 29 and the Youth Ministry kickoff/parent meeting is on September 17.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Moderator called attention to the financial reports through June and July. He noted that pledge revenue and other income are below the 66% expected for the date, but that the overall budget is in the black through July. He noted that the bank balances and Foundation

accounts are in good shape. The funds for the Ficklen fund have been received, and this will show up after the official paperwork is completed, probably next month.

OTHER BUSINESS

A motion passed to elect Catherine Adams and Linda Kean as Commissioners to the stated meeting of New Hope Presbytery in Goldsboro on October 28.

A motion passed to agree for FPC to co-host with Peace Presbyterian the meeting of New Hope Presbytery in July 2018. The initial request will include 2-3 persons to serve on a coordinating committee.

Karen Kay and Jackie Wynne reported as Commissioners to the 101st stated meeting of New Hope Presbytery on July 25.

The Clerk reported that he has begun initial discussions with the office staff concerning annual membership records review. He also reported that the 2016 Session records were examined on July 25, 2017 and approved without exception.

The Clerk distributed the policy of New Hope Presbytery on "Separation Ethics" in anticipation of Bill Neely's departure. He received permission from the Session to distribute it to the congregation at some point before the retirement becomes effective.

The meeting was adjourned after a closing prayer by the Moderator.

William K. Neely, Moderator

Richard Marks, Clerk of Session