

SESSION MINUTES
First Presbyterian Church
Greenville, NC
September 23, 2018

The Session of First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, NC, held a stated meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm on September 23, 2018.

Elders present: Rob Ables, Catherine Adams, Clay Britt, Carol Cutler, Jessica Davenport, Kayce Dilday, Bill Farrow, Todd Fraley, Jeri Jackson, Bill Lehman, Allen Lyle, Dorothy Muller, Mary Jon Pabst, Kathleen Randall, Ray Spears, Greg Steele, Elizabeth Swaggerty, David Webb, Pete West and Jim Worden.

Excused: Doug Boyd, Linda Kean, Frances Mallison, Suzanne Morrow, and Mark Phillips.

Absent: Jason Lee, and Will O'Rear.

Others Present: David McNeilly, Interim Pastor and Moderator, Amanda Hines, Associate Pastor and Moderator, Derek Perry, Church Treasurer, and Shelley Basnight, Assistant Clerk of Session.

Moderator McNeilly called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.; a quorum was present. Shelley Basnight led a devotional and a prayer for the meeting.

PEOPLE ARE IMPORTANT

Illnesses:

Special mention was made for Martha Coffman, Margie Wright, Thelma Flye, Ben Lattin, Earl Trevathan, Joyce Lewis, Bill Newill, Linda Parham, Joe Sullivan, Sarah Whitehurst, and Fred Wood.

Deaths:

Mary Elizabeth Kittrell Clark, September 10, 2018.
Mary Guy's cousin, Sally Whalen August 15, 2018

Marriage: Samuel Hayes and Sarah Mellion September 8, 2018

New Members:

Joey and Barbara Quinn from Leland by letter of Transfer from Woodburn Presbyterian Church, Leland, NC.

Dave McNeilly led a prayer including all those mentioned under People are Important.

COMMUNICATIONS

Letters of thanks were received from the Hope of Glory Ministries for participation in the community food co-op; Kimberly Boyd of Boys and Girls Club for \$2000 in support and the Little Willie Center for \$1500 in support.

A letter from PCUSA, Presbyterian Mission, was also received, thanking for past support and asking for continued support.

MINUTES

Minutes were approved for the stated Session meeting of August 19, 2018 and the called Session meeting of August 26, 2018.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Administration Ministry (Rob Ables/Dorothy Muller)

A motion passed from the Ministry to approve building use requests for a) Service League of Greenville from 10-12 a.m. on September 25, 2018 for Provisional Meeting; b) Service League of Greenville from 9 a.m.-noon on September 12, October 11, and November 14 for blanket preparation and workshop; and c) Caroline Whaley from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on December 10, 2018 for a violin Christmas program/recital in the Sanctuary and reception in the Fellowship Hall.

A motion passed from the Ministry to having only one service at 11:00 AM on November 11 for Stewardship Consecration Sunday.

A motion passed to approve receiving a plaque honoring Mary Sorenson's gift to First Presbyterian Church. The plaque will highlight the Lewtak organ and will be displayed in the Welcome Center.

A check was received for \$375.00 as our share from the sale of a disaster trailer co-owned by Peace, Farmville, Kinston, and FPC Greenville churches and the funds have been deposited into the Disaster Relief Fund.

The Personnel Committee has accepted with regret the resignation of Deborah Durham as Financial Administrator. It will work to fill the position as quickly as possible.

Worship Ministry (Kathleen Randall)

A motion passed from the Ministry to approve a Moment for Ministry for Presbyterian Women on January 6, 2019 for the Neighbor to Neighbor Program.

A motion passed from the Ministry to approve usher training on Sunday October 7 following both services.

The Ministry wants to highlight the new procedures for Invitation to Discipleship. The Elder assigned to Invitation to Discipleship will now remain in the Welcome Center during the entire worship service locking doors 5- 10 minutes after the service begins. Detailed instructions will be sent to all Elders assigned to this duty.

Worship Ministry is creating a survey to send out to the congregation to gather data on radio broadcast "viewership." This will help guide the decision of whether to keep the radio broadcast, which costs \$5200 yearly and has not been reliably broadcasting.

Mission Ministry (Linda Kean/ Mark Phillips)

A motion passed from the Ministry to approve Georganne Perry and Karen Kay as co-chairs of Mayfest for Missions in 2019.

The ministry is still working on plans for a blood drive.

Membership Ministry (Catherine Adams/ Bill Lehman)

The Church picnic was held on September 9, 2018 at 4 PM and was enjoyed by all. Membership greatly appreciates Harding Sugg volunteering to cook for us.

September photography for the pictorial directory has been rescheduled for November 6-10, 2018. If you had an appointment scheduled you will keep the same day and time during that week. If you need to change your time the sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings.

Education Ministry (Ray Spears/Elizabeth Swaggerty)

A motion passed from the Ministry to approve the Men of the Church selling mums in the parking lot on October 6.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Perry called attention to the financial reports for August. He noted that at the end of August, 66.66% of the budget should be in play. Revenues are at 49.23% and expenditures at 59.65%, leading to a deficit in the budget at this point of a little over \$87,774.93. Monthly collections this summer have been behind about \$10,000 per month. He is hopeful that revenue will pick up during the fall.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Fundraising Committee, as requested by the Session at the August meeting, presented a revised Policy for Fundraisers (attached). This recommendation would allow only one fundraiser in the Welcome Center for one Sunday each month. All other fundraisers will be held in the Fellowship Hall. A motion was made to accept the policy as presented. Several members still had strong reservations regarding allowing any sales in the Welcome Center. After much discussion Rob Ables called for a roll call vote. The motion was defeated with a 4-17 vote (voting FOR: Ables, Fraley, Lehman, Spears; Voting AGAINST: Adams, Basnight, Britt, Cutler, Davenport, Dilday, Farrison, Jackson, Lyle, Muller, Pabst, Randall, Steele, Swaggerty, Webb, West, Worden).

A motion passed to rescind the approval for PW to display Raffle items and sell tickets in the Welcome Center on January 27 for NTN luncheon.

A motion passed unanimously to forward the Interim Mission Statement of the First Presbyterian Church of Greenville as presented (attached) to the New Hope Presbytery for approval.

The meeting was adjourned after a closing prayer by Dave McNeilly.

Dave McNeilly, Moderator

Shelley Basnight, Asst. Clerk of Session

INTERIM MISSION STATEMENT OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENVILLE

Part One: Current Ministry Strengths

Guided by the gift of God's grace, the people of First Presbyterian Church have joined together on the faith-filled journey to share the love of Christ within our congregation, our community, and our world.

Guided by the presence of God's Son, we understand *worship as the heart* of our congregation. A strong music program assisted by our ably played Lewtak pipe organ uplifts our spirits! A large and well-directed Chancel Choir, assisted by Bell Choirs (youth and adult) and several Youth Choirs involve many of the church in the vibrant worship of praise. Trained Lay Liturgists assist clergy in worship leadership. Children are included and after the Children's Time each week, programming is provided to help youth learn about worship. Communion is celebrated monthly at the 11:00 am service and weekly at the 8:30 am service. The sanctuary is beautiful and intimate, while providing comfortable seating for 400. Worship tends to the formal, but the congregation is open to innovation and laughter often graces the room. The spirit present on Sundays is positive and welcome is offered to visitors.

Guided by the promise of God's Son, we recognize *mission as the soul* of our congregation. Our heartbeat reverberates through the ministries and programs that serve our youth, our aged, and all within and without the Church. It resonates in the mission-focused activities that occur within our congregation throughout the year. We have several Mission Trips, both national and international – recently to South Dakota and Costa Rica. Fund-raising events have provided funding for Neighbors in Need to help paying utility bills for local families in difficult times – funds matched by the city of Greenville! Further fund-raising assists the local Community Crossroads Shelter and the Greenville Food Bank. Our large building houses many local ministry organization. This all culminates in the busy but joyful Annual Mayfest that raises tens of thousands of dollars, all offered for mission beyond bounds of First Presbyterian!

We thank God that, by God's blessings, we have seen the manifestations of mission being fulfilled by our Presbyterian Women circles, our Men of the Church, and more. A strong youth ministry touches the lives of our children and youth. A staff (five full-time, assisted by five others part-time) provides leadership and works well together and with membership. Guided by the Command of our Lord to love our neighbors as ourselves, we open our hearts and doors to the students and staff of East Carolina University, as well as all members of the Greenville community. We help provide for a Presbyterian Chaplain to ECU and host students for gatherings in the Church on Thursday evenings. We welcome all as we fulfill the principles of being a Stephen Ministry congregation.

We thank God that, by God's blessings, we have seen the manifestations of our open hearts and door. Guided by the Great Commandment, we are a people that loves God and gratefully serves Christ as the head of our church. We share our journey of faith—at times boldly and at times humbly, but always in awareness that it is in the daily giving of God's love that we daily receive God's love and grace.

Part Two: Current Ministry Needs

While FPC has strong ministry and many strengths, after study it was decided the church could grow in its efforts at:

- Church Growth. While worship is strong and the Church is united, we're looking to get more people to come to church and then settle them in to serve with us. In recent years our weekly attendance has declined to 240. Efforts to address this would include efforts at intentional

invitational outreach, followed with training in the welcome and assimilation of new members. Potential for growth is strong.

- Developing ministry for young families. While we have a strong programming for teens and a solid Sunday School, we would be blessed by further ministry designed to assist younger families continue to join us. Classes to assist families with their needs, supported by sermons that address family life would be most helpful.
- Better coordination of over-all programming. Much goes on at FPC, but coordination and publicity of what goes on could be enhanced. Many know some of what we do, but most are not aware of all we do. We also seek to spread the news of our ministry to our surrounding community.
- Adult Christian Education. There are four adult classes of various sizes, but regular clergy inclusion in adult education would add spirit and content.
- Stronger Stewardship. An annual pledge drive is generally effective, but new ideas and approaches would be valued and helpful. A year round stewardship program would be most helpful.
- Improved relations with East Carolina University. We draw *many* faculty, but a far smaller number of students. FPC is right beside the ECU campus. ECU has 28,000 students...

To help First Presbyterian Church grow in ministry and outreach, we seek a pastor who:

- Has interest and skills in Church Growth, to help the church develop skills at outreach, welcoming and assimilating new members into the life of the church – plus skills at re-involving inactive members in the church community.
- Has the ability to coordinate, publicize and manage a wide range of ministries, to help membership be better aware of all that is going on and enable the church to better share its ministries to the surrounding community.
- Has interest and skills in Stewardship, to help run an effective year round stewardship ministry, in a manner that will bring the blessing of giving to all members.
- Has in interest in Adult Education, looking to teach adults on Sunday mornings, lead weekly studies and conduct seminars that will enable better ministry and outreach.
- Enjoys working with young adults, preaching and teaching in a manner that will strengthen family life.

Again, overall programming and staff are strong, worship is working, but getting the good news of what is happening out to the church and surrounding community will add to ministry and growth.

Part Three: Demographics

(For the data behind this report, see the website found at: >maps.nazarene.org/demographicspresbyterian<)

First Presbyterian Church is immediately surrounded by an established and settled community. Some neighborhoods near the church are expected to grow, an equal number are expected to remain the same. There is a similar balance between young families and older families, with East Carolina University (right across the street) affecting these results. The great majority of the surrounding population have at least a bachelor's degree – again the influence of ECU. Most nearby residents who are not students are families. To the east of the church, but within three miles, there has been an increase in the building of homes, other directions are fairly built up, but more building is expected. In the area surrounding the church annual income varies from \$45,000 to \$98,000 – with significant areas of higher income to the immediate southwest.

On the whole the area surrounding the church is stable to growing, the age of residents is balanced, the socio-economic and educational levels are high and the balance between individuals and families is equal.

Affecting this overview is the presence of East Carolina University with 28,000 plus students and 5000 faculty and staff. Also nearby is Vidant Medical Center – a significant hospital system that employs 7800 -- and the Brody School of Medicine. Pitt Community College (11,000 students and 1000 faculty and staff) is also located nearby. Church attendance reflects a large number of faculty from these institutions.

In recent years the city of Greenville has grown in population. There were 97,000 (students excluded) residents in 2011. The population is near 100,000 right now and growth is projected.

In 2012 Greenville was ranked in the top ten of the nations “Best Small Places for Business and Careers” by Forbes Magazine.