

**First Presbyterian Church
The Work and Worship of the Session
Monday, January 27, 2020**

The stated meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church (Greensboro) was held on Monday, January 27, 2020 starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Garden Room. Neil Dunnivant, Executive Pastor, served as meeting moderator. Dolly Jacobs attended the meeting as a called ordained staff member.

The Elders first sang the hymn “We All Are One in Mission” accompanied on the piano by John Alexander, and then read Psalm 104.

Guests: Anne Albert, John Alexander, Christine Ciaccio, Keith Dove, Erwin Fuller, Maria Hanlin, Danny Massie, Alexandra Mauney, Tim Millisor, and Nate Sell.

Maria Hanlin who has joined the Pastoral Care staff spoke to the Session about how excited she is to be serving FPC.

Upon a motion made and seconded, the Consent Agenda was approved as distributed.

- From the Clerk: Minutes of the December 16, 2019 stated Session meeting. [attached]
- From the Discipleship’s office: December 2019 attendance, membership and visitor reports. [attached]
- Committee Report: Adult Formation. [attached]
- Statistical Report 2019. [attached]

Session members identified their prayer partners for the next month.

What’s Going Well – Where Have We Seen God’s Movement of Spirit at FPC and Where Are We Fulfilling Our Commitment to Be a Matthew 25 Church?

1. As of this Session meeting, 58 elders had pledged funds for the 2020 budget. Neil expects remaining elders to pledge soon. The average pledge is approximately \$6,000/elder.
2. Myles Fish has resigned from his position as Director of Stewardship within FPC. Key Compton, current chairman of the Stewardship Committee, expressed gratitude for Myles’ work over the past 4 years. Christine, Danny and Neil will attend the Stewardship Committee meetings in Myles’ absence to make sure the Committee is properly supported by the church staff.
3. Congratulations to the youth elders who participated in the community event the 8th annual Big Hair Ball presented by the Family Service of the Piedmont.
4. Good news - 27 elders have volunteered to help with upcoming funerals held at the church going forward.
5. Danny’s letter asking for additional funds for FPC was extremely successful – lots of year-end giving!
6. Amazing response to coat drive for Irving Park Elementary, the Christmas Party for Hot Dish and Hope and the bell ringing for Salvation Army.
7. Kudos to Lisa Witherspoon for writing the curriculum for this summer’s Vacation Bible School.

Finance Committee

Rosa McNairy, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, presented the report on the December 2019 finances.

Revenues

Our revenues through December were \$4,478,530, which is \$41,004 less than budgeted but \$110,568 more than last year.

Expenses

Our expenses through December were \$4,424,112, which is \$95,422 less than budgeted but \$168,722 more than last year. We continue to be grateful to the staff because of how mindful they have been of expenses throughout 2019.

Revenue exceeded expenses through December by \$54,418. Rosa highlighted the wonderful news that we ended 2019 with a surplus of revenue in excess of expenses. As has been consistent with our historical inflow of revenues, many church members fulfilled their annual pledges in the last quarter of 2019. Rosa commented that the inflow of funds during December may have been attributable to Danny's strong letter sent to parishioners. Rosa commented about the generosity of the congregation and the collective belief in the importance of God's ministry being carried out at FPC.

Our line of credit has now been paid off, and our total outstanding debt is gradually being reduced and is now only \$947,922.

The finances of the church are especially relevant and important right now as we search for a new senior pastor. All candidates feel comfortable with stewardship and appreciate the goal of a balanced budget. All recognize the importance of being involved with the finances and stewardship efforts of the church.

Rosa next presented the 2020 projected budget, and made the following comments:

Revenue

The Stewardship Committee has done a great job in securing 2020 pledges. There are still many church members who pledged in 2019 who have not yet pledged in 2020.

The Non-Pledge Contributions projected budget has been changed to \$350,000 to be more in line with the 2019 actual amount collected of Non-Pledge Contributions. These gifts are difficult to project, and the Stewardship and Finance Committees believe that this amount is conservative and realistic.

Expenses

At the present time, our expenses are more than our projected revenue. This reported cash flow deficit will be offset by an accounting standards change that is related to capital lease reporting and any capital projects. Notwithstanding the projected cash flow deficit, the budget is forecasted to balance when the adjustment is included. The Finance Committee is committed to watching this closely throughout 2020.

Upon the motion made by the Finance Committee, to provide funding for the 2020 operating expenses, the Session unanimously approved the 2020 budget and accepted as the will of the Session that any additional funding requests and/or needs be submitted to the Finance Committee for its review and approval, and then to the Session for its approval, before a commitment is made to the spend the funds.

Prayers of the People

Session members named those to be remembered in prayers of need, healing, thanksgiving, and celebration, and Keith Dove offered prayers for those people and the life of the church.

Scripture Reading

Jim Hoeger read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.

Faith Sharing

Elder Elizabeth Brumeloe shared her faith statement with the Session.

Worship

John Alexander shared that the Worship Committee met in December to review the changes to the worship schedule that took place in the fall of 2019. John reviewed our previous schedule and then highlighted our new schedule which includes:

Sunday 8:30 am - First Light service
Sunday 10:30 am - Rejoice and Sanctuary services
Wednesday night - Vespers

An important time during the new schedule is the intentional fellowship hour between the First Light service and the 10:30 service in the Welcome Center. Our goal is that FPC be a teaching church where folks learn from us, and we learn from them.

We are fortunate to have 9 ordained ministers on staff at the present time. With 3 preaching opportunities each week at the various services, there are more opportunities for our ministers to shine!

Keith Dove commented on the attendance at the various services from 2017 to 2019. Average attendance has declined since 2017. There is a pattern of increased attendance at whichever service Danny is present and preaches. Attendance is now posted in the weekly bulletin to draw the congregation's attention to these important numbers.

Property Committee

Andy Cochran gave an update to the Session about the Safety and Security Plan security measures at the church. Elders asked questions and shared their concerns about church security on Sunday mornings.

The last Safety and Security Plan was approved in 2017. The Plan requires the Property Committee to review and update the plan on a regular basis. The Committee has reviewed the Plan and suggested several revisions set forth in the motion distributed at the Session meeting.

Upon the motion made by the Property Committee, the Session approved unanimously the revisions suggested to the Safety and Security Plan for FPC.

Appointments Committee

Phyllis Parker reported to the Session about the Nominating Committee activities. She previously had requested that each member of Session submit names of current Elders and At-large congregation members to serve on the 2020-2021 Nominating Committee.

New Business

Neil asked for Session members to comment on other New Business for the good of the Session. Tessa Kirkpatrick indicated that she and others are recruiting volunteers for this summer's Vacation Bible School, and to let her know if anyone is interested in volunteering for VBS this year.

Nate Sell offered a closing prayer.

The Session meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Maultsby Bristol
Clerk of Session