

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**The Work and Worship of the Session**  
**Monday, July 20, 2020**

The stated meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church (Greensboro) was held on Monday, July 20, 2020 starting at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom meeting due to the COVID pandemic. Neil Dunnivant, Executive Pastor, served as meeting moderator. There were 71 attendees via Zoom.

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

- ☐ From the Clerk: Minutes of the June 15, 2020 stated Session meeting. [attached]

**Prayers of the People**

Alexandra Mauney offered a beautiful prayer for these times and for the life of the church. She invited Session members to use the chat function to share personal prayer requests. After the conclusion of the prayer Neil invited session members to share any additional requests.

**PNC Update**

Marshall Brown updated the Session on the progress of the PNC. First, Marshall thanked the Session and the Church for the corporate prayers from the Sunday services. The PNC's last update was communicated via email in April 2020.

The Committee has brought several candidates and their spouses to Greensboro and engaged with them in detailed conversations in social distancing and confidential settings. The candidates have had many questions about a variety of topics, including budgets, small groups, children and youth programs, and our vision going forward.

The Committee will resume meetings in person in August. The PNC is committed to continuing to evaluate the candidates under consideration and feel confident that we are getting closer to securing a next pastor of First Presbyterian Church Greensboro.

**Scripture Reading**

John Redhead read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.

**Finance Committee**

Rosa McNairy, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, presented the report on the June 2020 finances.

**Revenues**

Our revenues through June were \$2,180,544, which is \$12,945 more than budgeted and \$72,444 more than last year. These numbers lend themselves to a positive and optimistic report this month but there is no way to know if this trend will continue in light of the uncertainty of the pandemic and the economy.

### Expenses

Our expenses through June were \$2,061,820, which is \$217,172 less than budgeted and \$113,546 better than last year. We continue to be grateful to the staff because of how mindful they always are of expenses. They have done a great job working with our financial team. Reduced expenses are sadly because of cancelled programs and reduced utilities because the church hasn't been used as in normal times.

Bottom line, our June revenues exceeded our June expenses by \$118,724 and, all in all, we are better off than this time last year by \$185,990.

Rosa reported on the status of the PPP loan received by the church. The loan is still listed as a liability and most of the loan has been used for payroll. Human Resources is applying for the forgiveness of the loan and we are optimistic that the loan forgiveness will be successful.

### **COVID Leadership Task Force**

Neil Dunnivant prepared the Session on an update on the work of the COVID Leadership Task Force. The purpose of the Task Force is to address church programming and reopening during the pandemic. The Task Force has four working subgroups studying worship content, technology, funerals, and general reopening issues.

### **General Reopening**

Dr. Wells Brabham presented a report on behalf of the Task Force and recommended the following:

1. That the church remain closed through the end of September; Wells reported that it's still not the time to open the church, but the sincere hope is to open in October; services will continue to be livestreamed;
2. That funerals of up to 25 people inside in sanctuary and/or chapel begin now with appropriate cleaning and masking;
3. That off campus gatherings, including small group gatherings, of up to 25 people on campus outside begin now; and
4. That new Elders be ordained via Zoom on August 23.

The Task Force is communicating with other churches in Greensboro, specifically First Lutheran, First Baptist and Westminster Presbyterian, as it forges our FPC path going forward. Dolly Jacobs encouraged that Session members read an article written by Josh Musser Gritter; Debby Foster will circulate the article following the Session meeting.

Various Session members shared their concerns about reopening. Erik Albright voiced his discomfort with us not gathering as a church until the end of September. Tessa Kirkpatrick shared her opinions as a parent of younger children. She pondered whether young families will be comfortable bringing their children to a church where no nursery care is offered. Donna Chase replied that FPC has looked at providing nursery care, and at this point, we think that nursery care would be limited to one or two rooms. Griffin Jones asked various questions about small group gatherings, masking, and potentially a lottery system for attending worship services in the future.

Neil discussed the need to hear from all FPC members and called for the Church to prepare and circulate a survey on this reopening topic.

The Task Force will send its reopening recommendation by email following the meeting, and requests that Session members vote electronically on the recommendation.

## **Worship**

Ed Cox shared that virtual communion will be shared by FPC service attendees on Sunday, August 2, 2020. Element kits have been prepared and will be distributed to members on designated days during the week prior to the August 2 service.

## **Technology**

Neil reported that significant progress is being made with regard to the technological aspects of the livestreamed services. Several donors have generously contributed to the purchase of a new \$45,000 camera to better stream our weekly worship services. Praise for this development, and to the generosity of the donors!

## **Christian Formation**

Donna Chase and Kevin Murray presented an update from Christian Formation regarding outdoor small group gatherings. They want to encourage the following:

1. Virtual programming to create engagement;
2. Safe outdoor gatherings by grade levels, perhaps on a neighborhood basis; and
3. Weekly drive-by outreach and fellowship.

Lana Burske reported on the history and state of the Weekday Preschool, culminating in a recommendation that the Weekday Preschool be reopened as of its normal start time this fall.

Session members will be asked to vote on the approving of the opening of the Weekly Preschool by email following the meeting.

## **Human Resources**

Neil Dunnivant presented an update from the Human Resources Committee. The church has had to make two adjustments to its staff, specifically Stephanie Olsen and Brianna Martin, because of lack of work for them to complete during the pandemic.

## **Transition Team**

John Atkinson updated the Session on the work of the Transition Team and recommended to the Session that we approve the updated contract for Danny Massie. Danny has agreed to stay with FPC until we find a new minister. We are very grateful that he will stay with us longer than initially anticipated. The term of Danny's contract will be, unless extended at a later date, through the earlier of 30 days after the new pastor of FPC begins his work at FPC; or the end of 2020.

## **New Business**

Neil asked for Session members to comment on other New Business for the good of the Session.

Andy Supple offered to help facilitate a small group watching Race: The Power of an Illusion. It is a three-part documentary that investigates the idea of race in society, science and history. If anyone is eager to be involved in the first small group, please let Neil or Debby know.

The Race Equity Task Force reminded Session members of the 30-Day Journey that is underway, and encouraged Session members to participate.

Dolly let us know that FPC face masks are in process and will soon be offered for sale at the church.

Tonight, is the last FPC Session meeting for Nate Sell. Effective the end of August, Nate will be the new pastor of Christian Formation at Starmount Presbyterian Church in Greensboro. All Session members appreciate the commitment and earnestness with which Nate has served First Presbyterian Church Greensboro.

Nate Sell then offered a closing prayer.

The Session meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Louise Maultsby Bristol  
Clerk of Session