

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**The Work and Worship of the Session**  
**Monday, May 17, 2021**

The stated meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church (Greensboro) was held on Monday, May 17, 2021. starting at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom meeting due to the COVID pandemic. Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor, served as meeting moderator. There were 69 attendees, including session members and senior pastoral staff. Guests included Anne Albert, John Alexander, Diane Aycock, Donna Chase, Christine Ciaccio, Keith Dove, Debby Foster, Erwin Fuller, Tim Millisor, Dwight Stone, John Veraar, and Lisa Witherspoon.

**Welcome**

Jill Duffield opened the meeting with prayer and a reading of Psalm 136.

The consent agenda was approved as distributed, including the previously attached minutes of the April 19th stated meeting, April 2021 membership reports, and Outreach committee report.

**What's Going Well**

Attendees shared numerous ways they have seen God's movement of spirit at FPC, including: the dinner for young families organized by Matt Logan and others, the May 16<sup>th</sup> baptism, and the service at the ballpark. Neil shared his gratitude for our ongoing outreach efforts with Hot Dish and Hope led by Camile Townsend and with food collection for Greensboro Urban Ministry led by Michael Hunt and Hoke Huss.

We celebrate the ministry of Keith Dove as tonight is his last session meeting at FPC. Pending congregational votes, Keith Dove will be the new pastor of New Creation and Faith Presbyterian Church in Greensboro. Please keep him in your prayers in the coming months.

**Faith Sharing**

Louise Bristol shared a personal testimony of her faith.

**Property**

Robert McIver informed the session that the Property Committee has received a letter of intent for the sale of the five Fisher and Greene Street properties in the amount of \$850,000. The session is asked to approve a motion that the Property Committee move forward with the LOI with the goal of signing a contract to purchase and sell the property. If Motion 1 is approved, the session is asked to approve a motion to call a congregational meeting to vote on the sale of the properties.

Beau McIntosh provided the session with an overview of the process that preceded tonight's vote and then introduced Dwight Stone of D. Stone Builders, Inc who wishes to develop up to nine upscale townhomes on the properties.

Several concerns were shared regarding the proposed sale of the properties by session members. Beau feels that the proposed project has a higher probability of success than the 72-

unit apartment complex that was proposed by the Wellspring Group and that this offer is still very competitive on a per acre basis. Robert shared that this proposed development is more in line with what the congregation would like to see on the properties. Lastly Neil reminded the session that FPC needs to pay of its debts and reduce some of its fixed costs. He feels very strongly that this is the time to sell.

Session members were asked to send their objections to Debby Foster. Both motions passed without objection.

### **COVID Update**

Wells Brabham reviewed last week's announcements by the CDC and NC Governor Cooper. The number of hospitalizations due to COVID in Guilford County has decreased as well as the positivity and transmission rates. Unfortunately, less than 40% of eligible adults in our community have received vaccinations.

The COVID task force recommends that we increase capacity in our sanctuary and allow members to congregate outdoors without masks. Masks will still be required in our sanctuary worship services but can be removed at members' discretion when they are gathered indoors among small groups.

When asked why FPC would still require its vaccinated members to wear a mask in certain situations, Wells stressed that it is our aim to protect the most vulnerable among us, namely our children who are not yet vaccinated. We look forward to discontinuing our mask policy when the level of community spread has decreased. Members of session thanked the task force for its hard work this past year.

### **Prayers of the People**

Dolly Jacobs invited session members to share their prayer joys and prayer concerns.

### **Scripture Reading**

Lori Richardson read Matthew 5:38-47

### **Finance**

Joe Vartanian, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, presented the report on the April 2021 finances.

Our revenue through April is \$1,549,802 which is \$263,816 higher than projected and \$101,421 less than last year at this time. Our pledged and non-pledged gifts have come in significantly better than projected thus far this year. We have not collected any plate offerings to date this year. Our expenses through March were \$1,309,351 which is \$95,660 less than projected and \$216,500 better than this time last year. Our net expenses through April are \$23,365 which is better than projected by \$359,476 and \$115,080 better than this time last year.

On a positive note, our loan balance continues to be reduced and our cash position is strong. Our budgeted revenue looks favorable. However, our revenue is a bit weak from the standpoint of our pledged gifts and when compared to last year. We are grateful for a \$100,000 unrestricted donation from one of our former members which will be used to further reduce out loan balance.

### **Outreach**

Jim Hoeger shared a summary of the May 11<sup>th</sup> Salem Presbytery report, see attached.

### **New Business**

Lisa Cook of the Discipleship Committee informed the session that it will be invited to be a part of our church's discipleship efforts moving forward. More information will be shared in coming months as we resume welcoming visitors to FPC.

### **Closing Prayer**

Jill offered a closing prayer.

The Session meeting was adjourned at 7:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sara Stroud  
Clerk of Session