

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
The Work and Worship of the Session
Monday, June 21, 2021

The stated meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church (Greensboro) was held on Monday, June 21, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary. Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor, served as meeting moderator. There were 35 attendees, including session members and senior pastoral staff. Guests included Erwin Fuller, Tim Millisor, Larry Hooker, Dan Kerns, Holly Ballenger, Christy Botros, Margee Jones, and Paula Pile.

Welcome

Jill Duffield opened the meeting with prayer and a reading of Psalm 145. The consent agenda was approved as distributed, including the attached minutes of the May 17, 2021 stated meeting, the June 13, 2021 congregational meeting, the May 20, 2021 member and committee reports from Discipleship, Pastoral Care and the Worship Committee.

What's Going Well

Attendees shared their views as to the movement of the spirit at FPC. Noted were recent baptisms, the ongoing sale of Church property, and continued efficient operations of the Church. In particular, members committed on the success of the new elder retreat and the excitement surrounding the new Elder Class.

Salem Presbytery Message

Larry Hooker, a representative from Salem Presbytery, appeared before Session and spoke to the process of pastoral transition occasioned by Neil Dunnivant's retirement. Larry specifically recognized Neil Dunnivant's service to the congregation, and noted the congregation looks forward to celebrating Neil's ministry at FPC. There was an overview of the process of selection of a new associate pastor by Mr. Hooker. He noted the process could take months to perhaps a year before a new associate pastor joined FPC. The first step in the process is the hiring of an interim pastor who would serve upon Neil's departure. It was also noted that the Church's mission study, as updated, would be pertinent in any search. By the time of the August Session Meeting a new transition team consisting of several members should be in place to consider new pastor applicants. Jill Duffield will also be involved in this process. The transition team members will be appointed by the Session and the team's tasks are to include:

1. Planning for Neil Dunnivant's departure.
2. Prepare, with input from Jill, a job description for the interim pastor. This would include a potential salary range.
3. Update the mission study as needed.
4. Nominate names for the Pastor Nominating Committee which will conduct the search for the new associate pastor.

The approval for the hiring of an interim pastor is to come from Session, and the person selected will further need to be approved by the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. Mr. Hooker invited Session members to remember the Transition Team and the Pastor Nominating Committee in their prayers as the process moves forward. He also indicated that he is available to answer questions and talk further should the Church have questions as the search unfolds.

Finance

Christine Ciaccio provided a report on current Church finances. She indicated that the finances are in a strong position as of the end of May. Pledges were up, including collection of prior year pledges, and budget targets have been exceeded. Expenses are also less than projected for the period through May. The Church has also undergone its annual audit and no problems were revealed. Christine further noted that a \$100,000 bequest made to FPC has been received.

Prayers of the People

Neil Dunnivant invited Session members to share their prayer concerns.

Scripture Reading

Matt Logan read to Session from Galatians 3:23-29.

Faith Sharing

Carol Simms shared a personal testimony and history of her personal faith journey.

Worship Committee

Jill Hare of the Worship Committee Leadership Team reported to Session that the Team has a new design for Sunday worship. The new schedule calls for the Rejoice Service to occur at 9:00 a.m., followed by Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. At 11:00 a.m. the traditional service will take place in the main sanctuary. All members of the Session were urged to promote and publicize the new worship schedule.

Property Committee

Robert McIver stated that the Property Committee was waiting receipt of a Contract for Purchase and Sale of Property from Dwight Stone pertaining to the Greene Street property which will then be discussed by the Committee, and ultimately referred to Session.

Discipleship Committee

Lisa Cook reported on the Discipleship Committee's plan to set up a Visitor Tent outside the Sanctuary. Elders will be encouraged to sign-up to meet and greet church members and service attendees at the tent following worship services. Access to the sign-up sheet is available on the Sign-up Genius website through links at the FPC website. Lisa reminded all Session members to be aware of others around us while in Church, and to reach out to support and welcome attendees, and advise them of Church resources.

Covid Updates

Doug Shaw reported on the continued activities of the Covid Task Force. The Task Force recommends, for the time being, the continued wearing of masks in the Church. Doug stated that while the indicators and statistical benchmark were generally good, the risk of Covid has not past. In particular, compromised people and children continue to require protection. Doug noted that a decrease in case trends in North Carolina and Guilford County continue with improvements in hospitalization cases taking place. In Guilford County 44% of residents have been vaccinated. However, in counties with lower vaccination rates significant rates of infection continue to occur.

New Business

John Whisnant provided an update regarding communion at church services in the fall. He stated that the procedure and process will change in view of Covid protocols, and the Communion Task Force will soon advise of the new procedures which will be different from traditional communion.

Closing Prayer

The meeting concluded and adjourned at 6:30 p.m. with Jill offered a closing prayer.