

**First Presbyterian Church
Session Meeting
September 20, 2021 5:30 pm (via Zoom)**

A session meeting of First Presbyterian Church (Greensboro) was held via Zoom virtual/remote communication on Monday, September 20, 2021 starting at 5:30 pm. Rev. Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor, served as meeting moderator. Of the 66 attendees, in addition to Executive Pastor Neil Dunnavant and Batts Resident Rachel Fitch, guests included Debby Foster, Lana Burske, Christine Ciaccio, Donna Chase, Anne Albert, Erwin Fuller, and Trustee Graham Farless.

Welcome

Upon calling the meeting to order, Jill opened with prayer and shared a passage from Psalms 147:1-11.

What's Going Well

Attendees shared observations aloud and in the Zoom "chat" box, among which included Neil's news that FPC would be involved in assistance with relocated Afghan refugees, as well as commendation of Jill's participation in an ecumenical service denoting the 20th anniversary of the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Installation of Trustee

As led by Moderator Jill Duffield and with session participation, Graham Farless was installed for a five-year term as Trustee of the H. Smith Richardson Trust.

Finance

As the new Chair of the Finance Committee, Chuck Norman reported and summarized the statements and materials submitted in the session packet (attached). He highlighted that year-to-date received income exceeded budget projections by over \$476,000, of which included a \$98,000 increase over projected non-pledge gifts as well as a \$46,000.00 COVID relief grant sought and obtained by Lana Burske for the Weekday Preschool program. Chuck further noted that while pledge collections are lagging, it is anticipated that much of the balance of \$575,525 will be collected by year's end, and, when combined with year-to-date budget savings of expense reductions of \$82,000 (from limited campus use and program modifications also as a result of COVID), FPC could end the year without a budget deficit.

Prayers of the People

Rachel Fitch composed and led the prayers of the people.

Scripture Reading

Diane Aycock read to session from Ephesians 2:4-10

Faith Sharing

Adrienne Woods provided a moving statement of her faith journey to session.

COVID Task Force Update

Co-Chair Dr. Wells Brabham provided an update on trends in the Greensboro and Guilford County area, specifically, that while the previous two months had seen increases in community transmission and hospitalization, numbers have plateaued, that the R-naught value had fallen below 1%, that the positivity rate now hovers around 10%, and that Guilford County's vaccination rate is now well above 50% for those 12 years of age and older. It is projected that there will be a significantly improved position by Thanksgiving and that there is no movement to change the modified measures currently in place with the resumption of Rejoice, one sanctuary service, and church school attendance, with masks still to be worn when on campus.

Human Resources Committee

Chair Jean Goodman reported on recent developments and transitions with FPC staff, including the action taken by session at its called meetings two weeks previously to retain Rev. Newton Cowan as temporary supply pastor for pastoral care; she reported that Rev. Rachel Fitch, the Sid and Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident, had now been in place for more than a month, that Betsy Hyslop had been brought in to serve through the end of the year as associate director of music ministry for Rejoice, and that Rev. Leigh Curl-Dove had been hired to fill the re-envisioned position of Discipleship Coordinator. Jean further conveyed that current FPC staff was now 100% vaccinated, and that at its 09/13 meeting, the HR Committee had adopted a vaccine policy consistent therewith moving forward. Finally, Jean recognized the happy milestone that Franklin Brown has now fulfilled fifty years of service as a dedicated FPC staff member.

Nominating Committee

Chair Beau McIntosh reported that the Nominating Committee would be meeting weekly beginning 10/05 for purposes of considering, discerning, and nominating officers to serve as elders in the class of 2025 (and two youth elders for 2022-23). Criteria for consideration had previously been shared with session, including demographic, gender, and age representation. Beau reminded session of his request that session members may submit their own candidates for consideration by week's end (09/26), and that it is hoped that a slate would be completed by January.

Weekday Preschool

Director Lana Burske reported an update on FPC's weekday preschool program; she related that this fall's session opened on September 7th with 115 children attending in-person, with ages ranging from 2 months old to kindergarten. 13% of enrolled children are participating with tuition assistance. The ten classrooms are currently led by a team of 22 teachers. The program, licensed by NCDHHS and nationally accredited, began in 1946, which means this year will be commemorated as its 75th

anniversary. It was further observed by HR committee members present that of that lengthy operational tenure, we have been fortunate to have had Lana's talents and leadership for twenty of those years.

Discipleship Committee

Lisa Cook encouraged elders to sign up as volunteers to host the tent on Greene St. for greeting members and visitors before and after Sunday church services. A link to sign-up scheduling opportunities was shared and distributed. She and Jill also related that FPC yard signs featuring the Boomerang Back theme were available for pick-up in the Welcome Center.

Closing Prayer

Following expressions of continuing gratitude and encouragement from Jill, Neil closed the meeting with prayer.

The session meeting was adjourned at 6:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Robinson Hassell
Clerk of Session