

First Presbyterian Church
Session Meeting
Monday, December 11, 2023, 5:30pm

A session meeting of First Presbyterian Church (Greensboro) convened in the Mullin Life Center on December 11, 2023, at 5:30pm. Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor served as moderator. There were 46 elders in attendance and 3 excused absences. In addition to Rev. Duffield, attendees included Rev. Newton Cowan, Rev. Matt Bussell, Director of Property and Operations, Tim Millisor, Sid and Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident, Rachel Fitch, Director of Music Ministry & Principal Organist, John Alexander, Anne Brown, Erwin Fuller, and Marissa Duffield.

Welcome

Rev. Jill Duffield opened the meeting at 5:30pm with Psalm 97: 1-2, 4-9 and a prayer.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made, seconded and approved with no objections to accept the Consent Agenda:

- From the Clerk: Minutes of the November 20 stated meeting {attached}
- From the Discipleship Office November 2023 membership reports {attached}
- Committee Reports Hospitality {attached}
- Baptisms, upcoming {attached}

New Members

Rev. Newton Cowan welcomed new members Jordan Mickleberry, Anna Mickleberry and Amy Speaks. The 3 new members joined by Reaffirmation of Faith. He also reported that one member has transferred out to a church in Charlotte.

Installation of FPC Trustee Responsible for L. Richardson Trust

Anne Brown, Class of 2028, was installed as the Trustee Responsible for the L. Richardson Trust.

Time to Connect-

Session members gathered in groups and Rev. Duffield led a discussion about The Book of Order.

Scripture Reading

Clark Herring read 1 Peter 2:4-10

Faith Sharing

John Veraar shared his faith journey.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Newton Cowan led the Prayers of the People

Finance

Rob Peddrick gave the November 2023 financial report {attached}. Revenue outpaced projections by over \$800,000. Contributions and gifts are \$550,000 over budget, mainly due to pledged giving. Pledged gifts are \$479,000 over budget and nearly \$320,000 over last year. Expenses are also over budget by \$274,000 mainly due to property repairs, salaries, benefits and outreach being over budget by \$45,000 each. The committee is confident that budget will be balanced or may have a surplus by year's end.

The church received an unrestricted \$100,000 bequest. An unrestricted bequest usually goes toward paying down debt but there is no current debt. A motion was made by the Finance Committee {see attached} for all unrestricted bequests to go toward property repairs if there is no debt. A lengthy discussion ensued a vote was taken and the motion did not pass.

A new motion was made for this specific \$100,000 bequest to go into The Property Maintenance Reserve Fund. This motion was seconded and passed.

The Finance Committee will bring a recommendation on how future bequests over \$5,000 are to be allocated, should there be no church debt.

Stewardship

Dan Kerns gave an update and he apologized for making errors on his verbal report in October. Currently he has received \$2.1 million in pledges. He encouraged Session Members to please follow up and make their own pledges and to encourage other members to do so ASAP. \$2.8 is the goal for 2024 pledges.

Property

Paul Leonard gave an update on the Property Committee's progress with the Shetler building {attached}. He stated that many obstacles are present especially with the tight timeline in working with DHIC towards a land lease. The lease needs to be signed in early January 2024. DHIC has given the impression that waiting until 2025 is not a viable option for them.

2 other high priority concerns with the project are:

1. Ensuring the property will always be designated as affordable housing for seniors
2. FPC to maintain some architectural control

If The Property Committee determines that DHIC cannot accommodate these requests, the committee will terminate negotiations with DHIC.

If moving forward with DHIC is possible, Mr. Leonard stated that the congregation will have an opportunity to vote on this project prior to a lease being signed. A 3- dimensional digital rendering will be made available for viewing and an actual model is being investigated. Many meetings and opportunities to learn more about the project will be presented to the

congregation in advance of the vote. Any risks associated with the project will be fully disclosed to the congregation before a vote will take place.

Appointments Committee

Sam Simpson asked for nominations for 2024-2025 Nomination Committee.

Worship and Music Committee

Jackie Wilson made a motion {attached} to establish a donor restricted fund to be known as the FPC Organ Maintenance Reserve Fund. "This reserve fund shall be a fully expendable fund, and its purpose will be to provide a funding source for future non-routine large-scale expensive FPC organ maintenance and repair actions." John Alexander, FPC Organist, stated there are no immediate repairs needed but the organ is 23 years old. This new fund will help facilitate a large post-death gift by a Church member for the care of the sanctuary organ. The motion was made and was passed.

New Business-For the Good of the Session

Rev. Jill Duffield led table discussions about the Book of Order

Closing Prayer

There being no further business, Moderator Duffield offered a closing prayer and adjourned the meeting at 7:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Libba C. LaFave
Clerk of Court
2023-2024