

First Presbyterian Church
Session Meeting
Monday, January 22, 2024, 5:30pm

A session meeting of First Presbyterian Church (Greensboro) convened in the Mullin Life Center on January 22, 2024, at 5:30pm. Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor served as moderator. There were 39 elders in attendance and 12 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 Finance Christine Ciacco Director of Worship Anne Albert, and Erwin Fuller.

Welcome

Rev. Jill Duffield opened the meeting at 5:30pm with Psalm 99 and a prayer.

Consent Agenda

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

- From the Clerk: Minutes of the December 11, 2023 stated meeting {attached}
- From the Discipleship Office December 2023 membership reports {attached}
- Committee Reports: Christian Formation Adult, Children and Youth {attached}
- Salem Presbytery Statistical Report {attached}
- Salem Presbytery Pastoral Care Contract for Caroline Phillips {attached}
- Baptisms, upcoming {attached}

Discipleship

Rev. Newton Cowan welcomed new members Marnie Fenley and Ji Fenley. Marnie joined by letter of transfer and Jim by reaffirmation of faith.

Finance

Scott Faircloth presented the December 2023 financial reports and 2024 Proposed Budget. 2023 Revenue outpaced projections by \$497,000 and was \$233,000 over the prior year{attached}.

Pledged gifts were \$194,000 over budget and \$229,000 over last year. There is a\$57,000 surplus for 2023. The surplus goes into another account that is held for a “rainy day”.

Expenses were over budget by nearly \$372,000. Almost \$145,000 of these expenses are for property repairs that are mostly being funded by the FPC Property Maintenance Reserve Fund. Programs & Activities were over budget by \$72,000, salaries and benefits were over by nearly \$66,000, Hospitality was over by almost \$12,000 and Outreach was over budget by a bit more than \$41,000.

The Proposed Budget for 2024 {attached}.

The committee anticipates pledges to be up in 2024. The Fees for Service line item is \$95,000 more than 2023 due to an anticipated increase in participation. The proposed budget projects a deficit of \$68,088 for 2024.

A motion was made and the proposed 2024 budget was approved.

Stewardship

Dan Goley noted that 2023 was a very successful year with the church receiving more pledges than anticipated. 16% of 2023 pledges are still outstanding. The committee is at work contacting these members and are hopeful that all pledges will be honored.

The 2024 Stewardship goal is a 7 1/2% increase in amount pledged from members. 424 pledges have currently been received for 2024.

Capital Campaign

Co-chairs of the Capital Campaign John Veraar and Lauren Martin gave an update on the campaign. Their spouses, Becky Veraar and Will Martin are also co-chairing the campaign. Bonnie McAlister and Jean Davidson have worked coordinating efforts behind the scenes and the entire committee has been busy since October.

The public campaign begins Sunday, February 18th. 3 videos have been created for the campaign that will be shared on the FPC YouTube channel. The committee is organizing events to inspire participation. Brochures have been created and will be mailed to members, a series of sermons are being written, and committee members will be talking to Sunday School classes, book clubs etc. in February and March. The official campaign will conclude on Sunday, March 17, celebrating the financial commitments made to the campaign. John and Lauren reported that \$1.5 million has already been secured toward the total \$11.2 million campaign goal.

Scripture Reading

Lauren Martin read Luke 19: 1-10.

Faith Sharing

Dan Kerns shared his faith journey.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Newton Cowan led Prayers of the People.

Property

Paul Leonard gave an update on the proposed Shetler building project. Ginger Booker and Erwin Fuller have been added to the Property Committee Lease Negotiating Group.

On Dec. 29, 2023 several members of the committee, along with Rev. Jill Duffield, met with DHIC to tell them that FPC could not meet their tight timeline. DHIC was able to revise their 2024 timeline and indicated they could not push the project to 2025.

On January 5th the Property Committee had a lengthy meeting to discuss this new timeline and agreed that FPC should continue to move forward in order to comply with the Session's request to determine if a satisfactory agreement could be reached with DHIC.

There are still many obstacles facing this proposed project. Rezoning, negotiating a mutually agreeable lease and congregational approval are critical requirements. Informational sessions for the congregations will be held in April and a congregational vote is planned for May 5th if the proposed project moves forward. Tim Millisor showed 2D renderings of the proposed project "Shetler Place" and showed a first sample look at 3D model.

Project Review Committee

Homer Wade gave an update on the committee's progress and presented a motion {attached}. The committee is very confident in their recommendation below.

Project team members:

Engineering Firm-SKA Engineering

This firm has worked on the FPC campus for over 45 years.

General Contractor-Frank Blum Construction

Construction Attorney-Richard Connor

Owners Representative- Tim Millisor FPC Director of Property and Operations

The motion was made and passed.

Outreach

Rev. Matt Bussell gave an update on Interfaith Affordable Housing. A motion {attached} was made to join IAHI and for Rev. Matt Bussell to represent FPC. Interfaith Affordable Housing Initiative (IAHI), is a collective of faith communities in Greensboro who have come together to address issues of affordable housing. Joining St. James Presbyterian, West Market UMC, Temple Emanuel, Westminster Presbyterian, Holy Trinity Episcopal, First Lutheran, Starmount Presbyterian, and others, to explore how faith communities in Greensboro to be a part of the solution to the affordable housing crisis.

The motion was made and passed.

Implementation Team

Florence Gatten presented the Manual of Operations revisions {attached}.

The Implementation Team was tasked with looking at how to operate now and how we need to operate in the future. They have been working on the revisions since August 2023.

Many changes were needed to the Manual of Operations due to the gradual decrease in the total number of Elders from 60 to 18. The committee ensured that the revised Manual of Operations conformed to the Book of Order, used contemporary language, filled in gaps of current practices that may not be written down, and corrected any errors. Florence reviewed the revisions and opened the floor for discussion.

A motion was made to approve these revisions and it was approved.

Nominating Committee

Carrie Johnston gave an update from the 2023-2024 Nominating Committee.

This year the slate is comprised of 6 members to be considered for the Class of 2027 as Elders for a three-year term, and one nominee to serve a five-year term as Church Trustee. Nominees are: Nancy Abrams, Marshall Brown, Leigh Haley Jones, Graham Farless, Lorie Jones, and

Andrew Spainhour as Elders, and Tom Nelson as Trustee (Responsible for the L. Richardson Trust).

Called Congregational Meeting

Rev. Jill Duffield asked for the Session to call a congregational meeting on March 3rd to vote on the nominated slate of officers and changes in terms of call for the installed pastors. There were no objections.

New Business

Nancy Courts reminded the Session that some members need assistance parking their cars in order to attend services at FPC. Volunteer parking attendants are needed.

Closing Prayer

There being no further business, Moderator Duffield offered a closing prayer and adjourned the meeting at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Libba C. LaFave
Clerk of Session
2023-2024

First Presbyterian Church
Called Session Meeting
Monday, February 6, 2024

A Called Session Meeting of First Presbyterian Church (Greensboro) took place via Zoom at 5pm on Monday, February 6, 2024. Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield served as the Moderator.

A quorum was determined with 47 Elders in attendance. Along with Rev. Jill Duffield, the following FPC staff were in attendance: Rev. Newton Cowan, Rev. Matt Bussel, Anne Albert, Lisa Witherspoon, and Tim Millisor. Erwin Fuller also attended the meeting.

A quorum having been determined present, the Moderator opened the meeting reminding the Session of the importance of trust and confidentiality. She then led the group in prayer.

Along with the emailed invitation to the Called Zoom meeting, the Elders received a motion submitted by the Property Committee. The motion: ***On October 16, 2023, the Session of First Presbyterian Church authorized the Property Committee to pursue planning for and development of the Shetler Building Property for affordable housing with DHIC as the developer. After extensive exploration, thorough analysis, and prayerful consideration, the Property Committee unanimously voted, for the reasons to be provided, to recommend to the Session that pursuit of the proposed Shetler Building redevelopment with DHIC be discontinued. The Property Committee requests that the Session adopt a motion to this effect and authorize the Chair of the Property Committee to communicate this decision to DHIC.***

Paul Leonard, Chair of the Property Committee, began with a brief history of the proposed “Shetler Place” project with DHIC. Committee Member, Brian Pierce discussed the Power Point {attached} that had been shared earlier to the Session by email. Rev. Duffield led an in-depth discussion regarding the Committee’s recommendation to discontinue the pursuit of affordable senior housing with DHIC on the Shetler site.

Brian shared the many reasons for the recommendation. Notable reasons are the large size of the structure on a small parcel of land abutting our campus, the church may not have control of the lease terms, there is not a guarantee that the project will always remain senior affordable housing, the lease is very long at 75 years, and the timeline is too short to work on an acceptable lease and educate the congregation.

Conversation ensued around the hope that the Session and church will commit to pursuing and participating in other senior affordable housing options. The church will also continue to prayerfully consider other options for the Shetler site.

The above motion was voted on and passed by the Session.

Rev. Duffield concluded with prayer and the called meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Libba C. LaFave

Clerk of Session 2023-2024