

**First Presbyterian Church
Session Meeting
Monday, August 18, 2025**

A Session meeting of the First Presbyterian Church (Greensboro) convened in the Mullin Life Center on August 18, 2025, at 5:30pm. Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield served as moderator. There were 35 elders in attendance and 8 excused absences. In addition to Rev Duffield, attendees included Rev. Matt Bussell, Associate Pastor for Outreach & Mission, Tim Millisor, Director of Property and Operations, Christine Ciaccio, Director of Finance, Will Edwards, Director of Music for Rejoice! and AV Support, Tom Gillespie, Anne Wagoner, Hugh Williams, Allison Cochran, Alice Moore, Andy Brantley, and Erwin Fuller.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield opened the meeting at 5:30pm by reading Psalm 150 and prayer, followed by a reading of the Session Group Covenant.

Consent Agenda

No changes were proposed, and the consent agenda was approved by acclamation.

- From the Clerk: Minutes of the June 16, 2025, stated meeting
- From the Discipleship Office: June and July 2025 membership reports
- Memorial Tribute: Mamie Hendrick Snider
- Salem Presbytery Pastoral Care Pastor Contracts for Douglas McLeroy and Maria Hanlin
- Upcoming Baptisms (none scheduled for September at this time)

Discipleship

Rev. Matt Bussell announced that two individuals have requested to join the church by letter of transfer: Kit Conner from Christ United Methodist Church and Diane Gabriel from Davidson College Presbyterian Church. Jarrett Wayman has requested to be received by reaffirmation of faith. These membership changes were approved without objection. The Discipleship Committee provided a small gift to Jarrett. Kit and Diane were not present.

Statements of Christian Belief and Service of Affirmation

Incoming elders - Anne Wagoner, Hugh Williams, Alice Moore, Andy Brantley, Tom Gillespie, Allison Cochran - read their statements of Christian Belief.

Rev. Duffield then began the Service of Affirmation of Elders-Elect. After a hymn and call to worship, Chair of the Church Officer Development Committee, Tim Cook, summarized activities that helped prepare the elders-elect for ordination/installation then presented the new elders to the Session. New elders read the Elder Covenant, then Mr. Cook made a motion to accept the elders into the class of 2028. The motion passed without objection.

Rev. Duffield offered a prayer then a thank you to the elder class of 2025 rotating off Session. After a closing hymn, Rev. Bussell gave the benediction.

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) Update

Lisa Cook, Chair of the APNC, presented a request from the committee for a \$2,000 salary increase for an experienced candidate for FPC's Associate Pastor for Christian Formation. This would bring the total compensation package to \$80,000/yr. The APNC has ensured that this compensation is equitable when compared to other FPC current employees. After a brief discussion, this motion received a second and was unanimously approved.

Scripture Reading

Tim Cook read John 7:53 – 8:11.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Matt Bussell offered Prayers of the People, and both joys & concerns were shared.

Finance

Finance Chair Rob Peddrick reviewed the July 2025 financials. He reminded Session that the church began 2025 with a deficit budget of \$238,000.

- Pledged gifts are now \$39k ahead of last year.
- In 2022, FPC had 493 pledges, in 2024, 473 pledges, and in 2025, 454 pledges. While the number of pledges has decreased, the average pledge has increased from \$5,226 in 2022 to \$5,969 in 2025. FPC members that are pledging are increasing the amount of their pledges, but the issue remains that fewer members are pledging.
- Non-pledged gifts are \$8k below where we were last year and is lower than the church needs.
- Rob is cautiously optimistic for the 4th quarter but still expects to be at approximately a \$238k deficit at year-end.
- Plate contributions are up this year.

Efforts to help revenue side of budget: beginning of Generosity Committee and effort to encourage participation in Paisley Heritage Society. Rob extended thanks to all those that have served on this year's Finance Committee and welcomed new members.

Property – Renovation Update

Tim Millisor, Director of Property and Operations, gave an update on the status of the renovation and noted that each week, a group meets to review renovation details. In June, Session approved Blum Construction's guaranteed maximum price and time schedule to run through December 2026. Tim reviewed various elements of the project expenses (detailed in the attached presentation).

The green area on the included map shows where fencing has gone up. Work area 1 is the Greene St. side; work area 2 runs under rose window and up to courtyard/Garden Room. Brown areas on the map indicate wood tunnels constructed to allow renovation

to continue safely during church operation. This is not expected to impact Hot Dish & Hope. Blum planned for rain days and funeral days when they will not work. Saturdays may occasionally be used as catch-up days; no work to occur on Sundays.

Anyone entering church Monday – Friday is strongly encouraged to wear mask when entering/exiting the church to avoid breathing mortar dust.

Construction of scaffolding and access tunnels will begin Sept 8 and will take approximately 15 days to be built. Currently subcontractors are providing submittals of materials used. A brick wall will be built soon near the columbarium with color of brick/mortar to be used for review to ensure it matches the current church building. The Property Committee and Project Review Committee will confirm the color of the brick and mortar. Stone around windows will be reviewed to decide if they need replacement. Four 10'x10' areas have been established for tuck-point and water testing to confirm the work of the contracted masons. This testing will happen through mid-September.

Outreach – Salem Presbytery Report

Tamara Slaughter reported out on the August 5, 2025, Presbytery meeting at Elkin Presbyterian Church. Attendees were Trip Brown, Lauren Martin, Florence Gatten, Rich Prigge, Gay White, and Rev. Matt Bussell.

Topics of note were a tribal land acknowledgement, the executive presbyter report, and the history of Lloyd Presbyterian Church in Winston-Salem and fundraising for its necessary renovation. Reports were also heard from the Board of Pensions, Peace & Justice Task Force, Church Growth Task Force, and STORM. Tamara noted an updated Salem Presbyterian website.

Appointments Committee

Dr. Leigh Jones, Appointments Committee Chair, presented a motion to elect the following members to the 2025-26 Appointments Committee.

Elders

Leigh Jones, Chair
Allison Cochran, Vice-Chair
Marshall Brown
Ross Harris, Nominating Chair
Andrew Spainhour, Nominating Vice-Chair

At-Large

Becky Cochrane
Kit Connor
LaVonne Fisher
Kelly Harrill
Terri Hendrickson
Jack Hicks
Doug Key
Matt King
Chad Oakley
Rebecca Sheaff
Julie Nelson (correction from session packet)

The motion was approved without objection.

Dr. Jones presented a motion to elect Lauren Martin as Clerk of the Session and Lorie Jones as Assistant Clerk; and Dave Thompson, Treasurer of the Session, and Hugh Williams, Assistant Treasurer.

The motion was also approved without objection.

Rev. Duffield then suspended the Session meeting and convened the annual meeting of the Trustees of the Corporation.

Dr. Jones presented a motion to elect the officers of the First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro Corporation for 2025-2026.

President: Florence Gatten
Vice-President: Marshall Brown
Treasurer: Dave Thompson
Assistant/Vice Treasurer: Hugh Williams
Secretary/Clerk: Lauren Martin
Assistant Secretary/Clerk: Lorie Jones

The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting of the Trustees was closed, and the Session meeting reconvened.

Nominating Committee

Ross Harris, Chair of the Nominating Committee, encouraged Session to submit Elder and Trustee nominations using the form provided in the Session packet. Session members should submit nominations by September 19 for 6 elders & a trustee for the L. Richardson Trust.

New Business – For the Good of the Session

Rev. Duffield presented a motion from the Pastoral Care Committee requesting that Anne Brown be named a member of the Sadye Bowles Ministry Team beginning September 1, 2025. Motion approved with no objection from Session.

Closing Prayer

Rev. Jill Duffield offered the closing prayer and adjourned the meeting at 7:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendi J. Cimino
Clerk of Session
2024-2025