

First Presbyterian Church
Session Meeting and Service of Affirmation of Elders-Elect
Monday, August 19, 2024

A Session meeting of the First Presbyterian Church (Greensboro) convened in the Mullin Life Center on August 19, 2024, at 5:30pm. Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield served as moderator. There were 43 elders in attendance and 9 excused absences. In addition to Rev. Duffield, attendees included Rev. Newton Cowan, Director of Finance Christine Ciaccio, Director of Property and Operations Tim Millisor, Director of Children and Youth Ministry Lisa Witherspoon, Director of Music for Rejoice! and AV Support Will Edwards, Andrew Spainhour, Nancy Abrams, Marshall Brown, Graham Farless, Leigh Jones, Lorie Jones, Erwin Fuller, and Homer Wade.

Welcome

Rev. Jill Duffield opened the meeting at 5:30 pm with Psalm 111 and a prayer. The Session Group Covenant was read in unison.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved without objection to accept the Consent Agenda:

- From the Clerk: Minutes of the June 17, 2024, stated meeting {attached}
- From the Discipleship Office: June and July 2024 membership reports {attached}
- L. Richardson Trust report {attached}
- Upcoming Baptism {attached}

Statements of Christian Belief and Service of Affirmation of Elders-Elect

The elders-elect presented their Statements of Christian Beliefs. Upon motion by Reaves King on behalf of the COD Committee, the elders-elect were accepted and affirmed by acclamation. The new elder Class of 2027 includes Nancy Abrams, Leigh Jones, Lori Jones, Graham Farless, Andrew Spainhour, and Marshall Brown. Rev. Duffield presented the charge to the elders-elect.

Rev. Duffield thanked and recognized the Class of 2024 as they rotate off the session. She encouraged them to continue to be present and involved in the church. Rev. Duffield also thanked the Committee for Officer Development for preparing the new elders for service.

Discipleship

Rev. Newton Cowan presented the Membership report {attached}. Pam Barnhardt and Barney Barnhardt have requested removal from the FPC roll. Jean C. Wilson is being reinstated as a non-resident Member. Charles Efirid is joining the church, by Letter of Transfer from First and Franklin Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, MD. A motion was made and these membership changes were approved without objection. Rev. Cowan also reported that good things are happening on campus. Youth are inviting friends to church and members are helping and supporting each other in various ways.

Sadye Bowles Committee

Rev. Newton Cowan presented a motion from the committee {attached}. The motion named Brenda Keys and Charles Norman to the Sadye Bowles Ministry Team beginning September 1, 2024. The motion passed with no objections and a full report from the committee will be given at the September meeting.

Finance

Scott Faircloth presented the June and July 2024 financial reports {attached}. He thanked the committee for all of their efforts. Scott also acknowledged Christine for the great work she and her staff have done in the finance office.

- Revenue outpaced expenses by \$66,000 through July.
- Pledged gifts were \$129,000 over budget, but \$119,500 behind last year.
- Pledges total \$2,674,280 with 473 pledges received at the end of July.
- It would be helpful for budgeting purposes, for all members to pay their pledges quarterly or monthly.
- Expenses are steady and \$85,000 less than projected for the year.
- \$1,711,891 in capital campaign contributions had been received by the end of July.

Project Review Committee

Homer Wade presented detailed PowerPoint slides regarding the timeline for the project {attached}. This will be a multi-year project that will affect many areas of the campus. The timeline shows that construction documents will be available by 12/6/24 and 4 construction bids will be made by 1/10/25. A brick wall will be sample tested to see if the tuckpointing is functioning as designed in April 2025. The tuckpointing efforts on the East and North sides of the sanctuary are to begin in June 2025. \$1,200,000 additional capital campaign funds are needed before the end of 2026 to consider repairs to the Smith Building.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Newton Cowan led the Prayers of the People.

Scripture Reading

Gay White read Luke 10:25-37.

Human Resources

Rev. Jill Duffield shared that the HR committee will begin to discern staffing and succession plans in anticipation of future retirements. A search is currently underway for a part-time assistant organist.

Children and Youth

Director of Children and Youth Ministry Lisa Witherspoon gave a thorough update on the children and youth of the church. She reported that Phae Smith, Associate Director of Children and Youth, has been doing a wonderful job since being hired in February.

This summer, some youth attended Passport Camp for 3rd-6th graders at Brevard College, 16 middle schoolers went to Tennessee for a program sponsored by Montreat, and 15 high schoolers went to Montreat. 95 children attended VBS on the church campus and 22 youth participated in Kids Disciple Club doing service around the community. First Families will continue every month on Friday evenings for young families. A new adult education class will focus on new parents during Sunday School. They will be reading a book called *Anxious Generation*. The committee is searching for Sunday School teachers, Milestone Class leaders, and confirmation mentors. Youth Group will take place on Sundays from 5-6 pm for middle schoolers and 6:30-7:30 pm for High Schoolers. Breakfast club will be held at Chick fil a twice a month for middle schoolers and at Panera once a month for high schoolers.

Outreach

Elizabeth Wilson gave the Salem Presbytery Report. Rev. Jill Duffield, Rev. Newton Cowan, Charles Younce, Paul Leonard, Elizabeth Wilson, and John Vanderwerff attended the Salem Presbytery meeting on August 6 at Jamestown Presbyterian Church. Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo, Jr., the president of the Columbia Theological Seminary, gave the sermon. Dr. Aloyo's sermon was called "A New Day" and he asked attendees to "have faith in the impossible....God makes it possible." He encouraged everyone to let go of "self" - the past, fears, busyness, etc. -and to start new.

Appointments Committee

A. Election of the Members of the 2024-2025 Appointments Committee

Vice-Chair Randy Jackson presented the following slate of nominees for the Appointments Committee for 2024-2025: five Elders Randy Jackson, Chair; Leigh Jones, Vice-Chair; Libba LaFave, Nancy Moore (Nominating Chair), Ross Harris (Nominating Vice-Chair); eleven at-Large from the congregation Jane Brabham, Elizabeth Brumbeloe, James Gentry, Jean Goodman, Harrison Hood, Vince Keys, Dean Norman, Billie Pope, Ashley Staton Scott, Tom Tilley and Hugh Williams {attached}.

Dr. Jackson made a motion to elect the proposed slate of nominees to the 2024-2025 Appointments Committee, with a second from the 2023-2024 Appointments Committee. There being no objections, the slate was approved by acclamation.

B. Election of Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer of the Session

Dr. Jackson made a motion to elect Wendi Cimino, Clerk of the Session, and Lauren Martin, Assistant Clerk; and Rob Peddrick, Treasurer and Dave Thompson, Assistant Treasurer; with a second from the 2023-2024 Appointments Committee. There being no objections, the slate was approved by acclamation.

The moderator convened the annual meeting of the Trustees of the Corporation.

C. Election of Officers of the Corporation

Dr. Jackson presented the slate of nominees for election as officers of the First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro Corporation for 2024-2025:

President: Clark Hering

Vice-President: Florence Gatten

Treasurer: Rob Peddrick

Assistant/Vice Treasurer: Dave Thompson

Secretary/Clerk: Wendi Cimino

Assistant Secretary/Clerk: Lauren Martin

Dr. Jackson made a motion that the Trustees of the Corporation elect this slate of nominees as officers of the Corporation for 2024-2025, with a second from the 2023-2024 Appointments Committee.

The Session, acting as the Board of Trustees of the Church Corporation, unanimously elected the slate as presented.

The moderator adjourned the Annual Trustee meeting and reconvened the Session meeting.

Nominating Committee

Chair Nancy Moore requested nominations for Elders and Trustees for 2024-2025. Submissions are requested before September 17, 2024.

Trustee

Rev. Jill Duffield reported that Jim Hegner resigned as a First Presbyterian Church Trustee (Responsible for L. Richardson Trust). Graham Farless will serve as President for 2 consecutive years.

Closing Prayer

Rev. Jill Duffield led the closing prayer and adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm.

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