

**First Presbyterian Church
Session Meeting
Monday, March 17, 2025**

A Session meeting of the First Presbyterian Church (Greensboro) convened in the Mullin Life Center on March 17, 2025, at 5:30pm. Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield served as moderator. There were 36 elders in attendance and 4 excused absences. In addition to Rev Duffield, attendees included Rev. Newton Cowan, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care, Tim Millisor, Director of Property and Operations, Rev. Matt Bussell, Associate Pastor for Outreach & Mission, Christine Ciaccio, Director of Finance, and Erwin Fuller.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield opened the meeting at 5:30pm by reading Psalm 146 and offering a 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 February 17, 2025, stated meeting; March 2, 2025, Special Called Session and Annual Congregation meeting minutes
- From the Discipleship Office: February 2025 membership reports
- Committee reports: Pastoral Care Report
- Memorial Tributes for Steven Lowell Easter and David Ernest Caccamo
- Upcoming Baptisms

Discipleship

Rev. Newton Cowan announced that Preston & Amanda Edwards have requested to be received by reaffirmation of faith. Ginger Garner, Michael Garner, and William Garner request to be received by letter of transfer from West Market Street United Methodist Church. These membership changes were approved without objection. The Discipleship Committee provided a small gift to the Edwards family.

Time to Connect

Each table group discussed questions about kindness.

Scripture Reading

Nancy Abrams read Philippians 3:12-16.

Faith Sharing

Preston Young shared her faith journey.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Newton Cowan offered Prayers of the People; both joys & concerns were shared.

Stewardship

Dan Goley, Chair of the Stewardship Committee, gave the Stewardship update, but first opened with a thank you to Christine Ciaccio, Director of Finance.

2024

Total pledged amount	\$2,683,699	
Pledges collected to date	\$2,644,131	(98.5%, overpayments included)
Still to collect	\$141,342	
Overpayments	\$101,774	

2025

Pledge goal	\$2,800,000
Total pledged to date	\$2,645,601
Total number of pledges	444

Mr. Goley noted that 35-40 pledging units that gave in 2024 still have not submitted pledges for 2025. If the remaining 35 pledges average \$4,300 each, we will meet our goal.

Finance

Finance Chair Rob Peddrick began the February 2025 financial review with a thank you to Christine Ciaccio. He also reminded the Session that FPC finished 2024 in a negative position.

While January 2025 got the year off to a good start, February was not as good. In February, pledge gifts are slightly down from our projection & from 2024. The major shortfall is in non-pledge contributions, which are down \$65,000 from our projection and down approx. \$32,000 from this time last year. There is a concern that the capital campaign could be having an impact on these gifts.

The remaining \$3.1M bequest continues to provide a cushion by generating interest income, and many members that give via credit card have opted to cover the credit card fee, which last year totaled close to \$30,000.

Regarding the continued discussion about the recent bequest, many members have approached Mr. Peddrick stating that they wish for all of the remaining bequest to go to the capital campaign without giving 10% to Habitat for Humanity and United Way. (Approximately \$800,000 will still go to HFH and United Way as a result of the capital campaign.)

During a meeting with Ralph Davison, Chair of the Human Resources Committee, Mr. Davison shared the HR Committee's suggestion that FPC consider hiring someone to serve as Director of Engagement & Generosity (not an ordained position). This position would provide relief to pastors by working to re-engage members that are no longer active and by working to increase pledges.

Mr. Peddrick proposes meeting with all Committee Chairs to discuss 1) applying the entire remaining balance of the bequest to the capital campaign with no additional outreach and 2) how to fund the hiring of a Director of Engagement and Generosity.

The HR Committee intends to benchmark other Presbyterian churches as well as other churches in North Carolina that have similar position.

There was a suggestion to manage the remaining bequest in such a way that sustains the principal and uses proceeds to support the work of the church.

New Business – For the Good of the Session

Rev. Dr. Duffield announced that the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee for Christian Formation is up and running. The Ministry Discernment Form (MDF), like a job description, will be brought to April Session meeting for approval.

A strategic planning committee is being explored, and the church is currently talking to consultants.

New elder training has started, with the new elder social, service project at Backpack Beginnings, and the first training session complete. Rev. Dr. Duffield requested of Session that the new elders celebrate communion on April 5 at the new elder retreat. The Session approved without objection.

The HR committee is reviewing staffing, mission statement, and committees.

On March 31, 5:30pm, there will be a workshop w/Joel Mikell, capital campaign consultant, on cultivating generosity. Session and the Stewardship Committee should make every effort to attend for tangible next steps regarding possible endowment planning.

The Property and Renovation Committees will need to know very soon if there is a change in direction for the renovation as a result of discussions about how to utilize the recent bequest.

Closing Prayer

Rev. Jill Duffield offered the closing prayer and adjourned the meeting at 6:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendi J. Cimino
Clerk of Session
2024-2025