

MINUTES OF THE SESSION

Stated Meeting

First Presbyterian Church, Durham, NC

Monday, January 29, 2018

STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION

Called to order at 7:02 pm by Mindy Douglas.

Andy Henry led a devotional with an excerpt from Henri Nouwen about patience, then opened the meeting with prayer.

PRESENT—A quorum was present, including:

- Moderator Mindy Douglas, Pastor
- Marilyn Hedgpeth, Associate Pastor
- Christyn Klinck, Clerk
- Chris Brown, Deacon and Chair of the Property Committee
- Lauren Hunter and Keith Dove, students of Duke Divinity School
- Jane Brown, representative of the Strategic Planning Team
- the following Elders, representing a quorum:

Class of 2018

Al Arrowood

Lenore Champion

Miriam Morey

Eric Wiebe

Jane Williams

Ellie Dilworth

Class of 2019

George Bernhardt

Barbara Buckley

Libby Gully

Delia Kwon

Dewey Lawson

Karen Romines

Gray Wilson

Class of 2020

Carol Carson

Brent Curtis

Andy Henry

Tyler Momsen-Hudson

Alice Raney

Cris Rivera

Jane Wettach

Excused absences: Caroline Rourk

Other absences: Sigfried Fullenkamp, Gerald Postema

CONCERNS/CELEBRATIONS

Mindy shared joys and concerns of the congregation, including for Lanny Pratt's son Jonathan, injured in an assault. Elders shared joys and concerns of their own. The congregation's prayers continue for Ben Johnston-Krase, pastor of Farm Church. Donations are being accepted through the Live Into Hope page of the Farm Church's website (<http://www.farmchurch.org/hope/>).

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Mindy introduced Lauren Hunter and Keith Dove, attending the meeting tonight as part of their Presbyterian Polity class at Duke Divinity School.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT—Trends in Giving

Mindy reviewed aspects of trends in giving, summarized in the document attached to this report. The session members' comments included noting that the new tax laws

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might affect giving, and new accounting laws might affect record-keeping; changes in the way funds and endowments are awarding grants; the need to be transparent with our budget; fine-tuning our strategy between looking forward (here is what we will do with your gift) and looking back (this is what we did with your gift).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: It was moved and seconded to approve the Agenda.

Discussion:

- Chris Brown withdrew the motion from the Emergency Management Team (Item F). This motion will go back to the Property Committee for review.
- Mindy noted two additions made today: In the Consent Agenda, Item C; and in the Agenda under New Business, the item concerning Rabbi Larry Bach of Judea Reform Congregation.

The motion carried, with the change made by Chris Brown.

CONSENT AGENDA: It was moved and seconded that the Consent Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

The Consent Agenda as approved includes:

- A. Reception of minutes
 1. Stated Session Meeting November 27, 2017
 2. Called Joint Officers Meeting December 18, 2017
 3. Called Session Meeting January 7, 2018
- B. Transfer of Membership: Neal Wilkins to Christ Central Church, Durham NC
- C. Preaching Schedule: Reverend Starsky Wilson, to preach on Feb. 25, 2018 for the McPherson Lectureship
- D. Committee minutes and Diaconate Report – Diaconate 11/27/17; Christian Education January 2018; Finance and Investment 12/5/17; Finance and Investment 1/16/18; Budget 1/10/18; Property 01/ 2018; Service and Mission 12/2017; Stewardship 01/2018; Worship and the Arts 1/10/18
- E. Correspondence – Thank you note from The Achievement Academy, 11/9/17

STAFF REPORTS

Mindy – See report.

Mindy noted that Sam Miglarese is teaching on Monday nights this semester, so will be unable to join us for Session meetings this spring. Mindy highlighted some items on her report:

- Marilyn, Sam, and Jane Williams, among others, attended the Durham Congregations in Action annual banquet. Mayor Schewel spoke about housing, jobs, and food/hunger programs.
- Mindy encouraged officers to visit the NC Council of Churches website to see all the exciting work that they are doing. (<https://www.ncchurches.org>)
- The Session will hear more from CAN in the future about a new jobs initiative.

Marilyn – See report. In addition to mentioning a few people especially in need of prayer, Marilyn added:

- The Durham Holiday Parade was a lot of fun, and she hopes we will do it again next year. Lenore echoed her comments and enthusiasm.
- On Feb 11th the speaker in the Faith and Community class will discuss the theology of dementia.

7:30 P.M. ORDER OF THE DAY

Report of the ad hoc Strategic Planning Team (SPT) – Jane Brown

Mindy introduced Jane Brown, who presented the first report from the Strategic Planning Team (attached to these minutes). Committee members are Mindy Douglas, Beth Stringfield, Carl Rist, Emily Durham, Scottie Seawell, Jane Brown, Jennie Alwood, Jon Abels, Leslie McDow, Walt Barron, Sharron Johnson, and Graham Curtis. In the report originally submitted to session, the word “staff” was added to the section about groups consulted.

Jane described the enthusiastic and visionary mindset of team; summarized their process to date; described how they see their roles and their goals; explained some of the processes they intend to use and the reports to session (a.k.a. tollgates); and expressed the SPT’s goal for transparency and that the whole church will feel a part of the process.

Discussion from session included that this is a process of discerning what God’s will is for the future of the church. Implementation of this strategic plan will be up to the session; the plan for implementation will be a separate process. Mindy noted that several people on the SPT were also on the Mission Study team.

The vote was called on the motion from the ad hoc Strategic Planning Team: ***Approve the mission statement and approach to developing a strategic plan to be presented at the next tollgate. The motion passed unanimously.***

The report was concluded, and Jane Brown left the meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Stewardship Committee – Miriam Morey, George Bernhardt

Miriam reviewed report from the committee. Miriam expressed special thanks to the new members who helped shape campaign, to Cris Rivera, for their work on the campaign materials, and to George Bernhardt for organizing congregational visits and to all who made those visits. The campaign was very successful! Many people increased their pledges by 10%.

B. Finance/Investment – Al Arrowood, Carol Carson

Minutes from meetings in December and January are attached to this report.

From the December meeting the committee brings one motion:

Motion a: Make a one-year exception to the investment policy and draw down 5% from the Building and Grounds, Human Needs, and McPherson endowments for the

2018 budget. *The withdrawal from the Meyer endowment will be in accordance with the policy, using 0 for years before the gift was made and invested.*

After discussion, the vote was called. *The motion passed unanimously.*

From the January meeting the committee brings four motions (Motions b-e). The first two concern the budget, which will be presented by Karen Romines.

Motion b: Approve the budget proposed for 2018 by the Budget Working Group.

Karen thanked the Stewardship committee--all progress is due to their efforts.

Karen summarized the decisions made by the committee. The stewardship campaign was so successful that the committee was able to construct a budget which addressed all three of the goals stated in the stewardship campaign: to not rely on reserves to balance the operating budget; to increase the budget for the Service and Mission Committee; and to increase the budget for Personnel Committee, allowing for an increase in the salaries of the associate pastor and the minister of music.

The proposed budget restores the committee budgets to the levels of the 2017 budget. The proposed Service and Mission budget reflects a 15% increase over the 2017 budget. The proposed personnel budget provides for a 2.5% increase for all staff and a small increase in the continuing education budget for the minister of music, maintains staffing levels to those at the end of 2017; provides for a 12.5% increase in the associate pastor's salary and a 15% increase in the minister of music's salary.

During a discussion about the personnel budget, Marilyn Hedgpeth and Mindy Douglas left the meeting.

After discussion, Mindy called the vote on the motion. *The motion passed, with one nay vote.*

Gray Wilson excused himself from the rest of the meeting. A quorum was maintained.

Motion c: Establish a Budget Subcommittee as a permanent subcommittee of the Finance and Investment Committee for future budget cycles, using a process similar to what was employed for the 2018 budget.

After a brief discussion about this year's process, including suggestions for improvement, analysis of limitations, and the positive consequences of what was put into place for the 2018 budget process, Mindy called the vote on the motion. *The motion passed unanimously.*

Karen asked that specific suggestions for improving the process be communicated to the Budget Subcommittee soon.

Motion d: Approve an even split of the distribution from the Meyers Endowment as between music and gardens/landscaping.

After a brief discussion, Mindy called the vote. *The motion passed unanimously.*

Motion e: Approve the use of up to \$1,000 for the purchase of new jerseys for the FPC basketball teams using funds from "Memorials/Special Gifts."

During discussion of this motion, Mindy encouraged committee chairs to bring requests for funding for projects such as this one to the Finance and Investment Committee. The F&I Committee might be able to identify sources for funding which are not part of a particular committee's budget. Mindy called the vote; and *the motion passed unanimously.*

C. Christian Education –Lenore Champion, Caroline Rourk, Brent Curtis. See report.

D. Nominating— Tyler Momsen-Hudson

The committee is on schedule for presenting the slate of officers at the February congregational meeting.

E. Personnel – Gray Wilson No report.

F. Property – Chris Brown, Celia Dickerson. See report.

G. Service and Mission – Jane Williams, Libby Gulley

See report. Jane added two comments: the incredible gratitude the committee has for congregation's generosity; the Lenten matching grant will start Feb 14, and they are pleased with the plan for presenting this opportunity.

H. Worship and the Arts – Alice Raney. See report.

NEW BUSINESS

- Rabbi Larry Bach of Judea Reform Congregation to speak in worship on February 18, 2018, and the choirs will be combined. This invitation is part of a pulpit- and choir-exchange program, initiated by the two congregations' music directors, to celebrate our long-time relationship. FPC will participate in the worship service at Judea Reform on Friday evening, February 16 (Mindy speaking, combined choirs). *Karen Romines moved and Lenore Champion seconded that Rabbi Bach speak at worship February 18, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.*
- Elect elders for February 24, 2018, Presbytery meeting at FPC Raleigh. *Libby Gulley moved and Jane Williams seconded that Delia Kwon and Brent Curtis are delegated to attend the Presbytery meeting at FPC Raleigh on February 24, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.*
- Call congregational meeting to elect new officers for Feb 18, 2018. Mindy noted that Feb 18 is also fellowship lunch Sunday, and Judea Reform will our guests in worship. Other option, Feb 25, is the McPherson lectureship. *George Bernhardt moved and Alice Raney seconded to call this congregational meeting for February 18. The motion passed unanimously.*
- Call annual congregational meeting and meeting to consider changes in the terms of call for installed pastors for March 4, 2018. Mindy noted that the changes in terms of call will be retroactive to Jan 1, 2018. *Jane Williams moved and Lenore Champion seconded to call this meeting for March 4, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.*

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting closed with prayer by Mindy Douglas at 8:53 pm.

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This meeting and all meetings of the year are moderated according to The Book of Order and Robert's Rules of Order.

Next Stated Meeting: February 26, 2018; Jane Wettach will lead the devotion.

Christyn F. Klinck, Clerk

Rev. Mindy Douglas, Moderator

Approved by Session: