

## **Stated Session Meeting Minutes for November 20, 2023**

Session convened at 6:00 p.m. and opened in prayer.

A quorum was noted with the following Session members present: Grayson Bryant, Brian Collins, Paul Ferrell, Mark Fulton, Valena Hoy, Carl Leimer, Peggy Mackey, Rashell Mathews, Bob Pursell, Kristine Rand, Emily Webb, Jim Wood

### **Examination of Potential New Members:**

None

### **Guests:**

Lee Ann Warstler, Administration and Finance Director  
Hunter Johnston, Preschool Director and Director of Children and Family Ministries

**Devotional:** Grayson Bryant shared thoughts on suffering and prosperity based on Proverbs 3: 9-14

**Financial Report:** The financial report was reviewed by Lee Ann Warstler.

### **Clerk's Communications and Reports:**

- Attendance Figures for October 15, 2023 through November 12, 2023.
- Membership Gains and Losses Figures
- Upcoming Session Meetings and Calendar Reminders
- Births and Deaths Information
- Baptisms and Weddings Conducted
- New Members and Transfers/Removals Noted

**Minutes for Stated Session Meeting for October 16, 2023:** Reviewed by Session and ordered by common consent.

**Consent Agenda:** The Consent Agenda for November 20, 2023 was approved and ordered by common consent.

### **New Business:**

**MOTION:** That the amount of the projected two month 2% increase be applied to a fund to distribute a Christmas bonus to lay staff. The motion was seconded passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** That the Presbytery's recommendation of a 3.5% increase for pastoral and eligible lay staff effective January 1, 2024 be accepted. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** To approve the wedding of Dawn Renee Yurkas and Leslie (Ian) Wayne Wright conducted at First Presbyterian Church. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

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**MOTION:** To approve the removal of inactive members names from the church rolls. This is a list of inactive members who have not had any activity at the church since prior to 2020. (Many of them much further back than that.) List attached at end of docket. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** To approve the following dates for Communion:

### **Communion Schedule for 2024**

Sunday, January 7  
Sunday, February 4  
Wednesday, February 14 (Ash Wednesday)  
Sunday, February 25 (Women's Retreat)  
Sunday, March 3  
Sunday, April 7  
Sunday, May 5  
Sunday, June 2  
Sunday, July 7  
Sunday, August 4  
Sunday, September 1  
Sunday, October 6  
Sunday, November 3  
Sunday, December 1

### **Staff Reports:**

**Preschool and Children and Family Ministries Report:** The FPC Children and Family Committee met on November 5 and discussed Children's Sunday School, Past Successes, Present Plans and Programs and Upcoming Events, including the Children's Christmas Pageant. The committee also approved teachers for the various Sunday School classes (Details in the committee report).

**PEVA Commissioner Report:** Brad Hunter reported that he attended the meeting and participated in the farewell to Liza Hendricks, Transitional General Presbyter.

**Team Reports / Committee Minutes, URC/N.E.S.T. Report:** None this month.

### **Pastors' Reports:**

Joel Phillips

Joel noted that there are lots of new people attending services. Deacons and elders are using the connection cards to greet new folks. C4C continues to do well. There were 242 bags of groceries delivered to the church for the outreach to low-income

families. FPC will once again host the initial week of the Winter Shelter Program for the homeless. Recruiting for other churches to participate is going well. Family Night is set for December 20.

Valena Hoy

Valena also commented on the retirement dinner for Liza Hendricks. She reported that she is transitioning out of her pastoral care role in PEVA. Jeff Bell will serve as interim pastoral care provider in that role. FPC wedding coordinator Susan Brown is retiring. Music Sunday is set for December 3. The spiritual growth survey was very successful. Community groups continue to do well. Plans for the 2024 women's retreat are in the works.

Jim Wood

Attendance and visitor numbers are looking very good. The staff Thanksgiving event was very nice. Barbara Watson will once again head up the holiday decorating at FPC. Wednesday evening programming has been doing very well since its return. The young adults group is doing well. The plans for sanctuary renovations are moving forward. The trustees have approved a significant amount to put toward the project. Approval to move forward with a program to raise the remaining funds needed for the work will be addressed in January.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was closed in prayer and adjourned at 7:30 pm by common consent.

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Mark Fulton, Clerk of Session

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Rev. Jim Wood, Senior Pastor