

MINUTES OF THE SESSION

Stated Meeting

First Presbyterian Church, Durham, NC

Monday, April 23, 2018

**STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION**

Called to order with prayer at 7:06 pm by Mindy Douglas.

Gray Wilson led a devotional with a reflection from Rod Dreher's article about the Benedict Option and from Shirley Guthrie's *Christian Doctrine*.

PRESENT— A quorum was present, including:

- Moderator Mindy Douglas
- Marilyn Hedgpeth, Associate Pastor
- Christyn Klinck, Clerk
- Chris Brown, Deacon and Chair of the Property Committee
- the following Elders, representing a quorum:

<b>Class of 2018</b>	<b>Class of 2019</b>	<b>Class of 2020</b>
Al Arrowood	George Bernhardt	Carol Carson
Lenore Champion	Barbara Buckley	Brent Curtis
Miriam Morey	Libby Gully	Andy Henry
Caroline Rourk	Delia Kwon	Tyler Momsen-Hudson
Eric Wiebe	Dewey Lawson	Alice Raney
Jane Williams	Karen Romines	Cris Rivera
Sigfried Fullenkamp	Gray Wilson	Jane Wettach

Absences: Gerald Postema, Ellie Dilworth

- Others in attendance: Graeme Peterson
- Incoming officers of the Class of 2018 and 2019 (as noted):

**Elders**

Kim Abels  
Tom Bacon  
Chris Brown  
Lenore Champion  
Leah Graves  
Raymond Mbah  
Diane Prosser  
Sigfried Fullenkamp (19)  
Griffin Momsen-Hudson (19)

**Deacons**

Brian Castle  
Kathy Conner  
Grace Mbugua  
Bob Pleasants  
John Mozart  
Emily Wilkins  
Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey (19)  
Minna Fullenkamp (19)  
*Sam Henry (19), Amy Dillon (19), Matt Cline, and Katy Barron were unable to attend but were introduced by Marilyn.*

#### NEW OFFICER INTRODUCTIONS AND EXAMINATION

Mindy asked current elders to introduce new officers and share a few highlights from the conversations had around dinner. Officers asked questions of the Session. *George Bernhardt moved and Miriam Morey seconded that Session receive these officers, to be ordained and installed on May 20, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.*

Incoming officers were dismissed, and invited to stay for the meeting if they wished.

#### CONCERNS/CELEBRATIONS

Mindy shared concerns and celebrations of the church.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the agenda with these changes: after the Consent Agenda is discussed and passed, the Session will hear from Graeme Peterson (new member), Leslie McDow (STP Tollgate), and Rebecca Harvard Barnes (Inquirer), in that order.

#### APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

**Approved by common consent.**

The Consent Agenda as approved includes:

- A. Reception of Session Minutes
  1. Stated Session Meeting March 19, 2018
  2. Called Session Meeting April 9, 2018
  3. E-vote March 25, 2018: Sanctuary Use on 4/26/18 by Religious Coalition for a Non-Violent Durham; 17 for, 0 opposed.
- B. Baptisms: Juneau David Schultz Wallace, July 1, 2018
- C. Weddings: Erin Hottle and Patrick Ayers, Nov 17, 2018
- D. Reception of Committee Minutes and Diaconate Report – Diaconate 3-19-18, Christian Education 4-16-18, Property 4-19-18, Service and Mission 4-16-18, Stewardship 4-11-18, Worship and the Arts 4-11-18

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

- New Member—Graeme Peterson: Mindy introduced Graeme to the Session to be examined and received as a member of FPC. Graeme talked about his faith journey, which included being part of FPC as a youth. *It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive Graeme as a member of FPC.* Marilyn offered a prayer, and Graeme left the meeting.
- Strategic Planning Team (SPT) Tollgate—Leslie McDow: The SPT has completed all but one listening session; the last will be on April 24. The team has placed an emphasis on being consistent with these interviews. Following the final interview,

the team will meet as a group to discuss results, then compile notes and decide how to form a survey for the larger community.

- Application to be supported as Inquirer—Rebecca Harvard Barnes: See documents attached to this report (Call Story; UPSemC Matching Grant Information). Rebecca shared her journey to the decision to attend divinity school, from her volunteer work as a youth advisor many years ago to her current paid work at Mt. Bethel Presbyterian Church, serving in a wide variety of ministerial functions there. She plans to attend Union Theological Seminar at Charlotte, NC, a part-time program, beginning in September. She is also working with New Hope Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry as an Inquirer. Rebecca seeks our support as a member of FPC, as an Inquirer, to be a seminarian with UTS-Charlotte.

Mindy provided additional information: This is a two-step process: 1) Inquirer, with support of FPC's Session; and as an Inquirer with presbytery; 2) Candidate, which will be approved at a presbytery meeting. After one is a candidate for about year, then one is eligible to be ordained if receiving a call. We as a church are asked to support the Inquirer financially as well as emotionally and spiritually. Union's financial support plan asks that the church contribute 1/3 the cost of the program. We will discuss the financial pieces later.

Session members asked follow-up questions of Rebecca.

Marilyn, Brent Curtis, and Rebecca's daughter Maryn all offered their support of Rebecca.

*Lenore Champion moved to receive Rebecca as an Inquirer and to pledge our support. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.*

#### STAFF REPORTS

##### **Mindy**

- Many FPC members participated in Holy Week services celebrated with sister congregations (Maundy Thursday with Covenant Presbyterian and Good Friday with St. Philip's Episcopal). Easter was wonderful.
- Has been participating in many memorial services.
- Officiated a wedding.

- Submitted her grant application. Expressed her appreciation to the Session for their support.
- Attended the CAN affordable housing meeting, along with many FPC members. Mindy summarized some of the results of that meeting. The plans considered in particular affect the parking lot between FPC and St. Philip's.
- Has been working with many different groups within the congregation, and doing officer training with Marilyn.

### **Marilyn**

- See report.
- Asked elders who are rotating off to stay involved. There are many opportunities to serve, including support of our educational ministry.
- Distributed articles for the May Faith and Community Series: *Can We Talk about Guns?*

**Sam is teaching a class tonight. Cherrie and Susan will give reports in June.**

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

**A. Christian Education** – Lenore Champion, Caroline Rourk, Brent Curtis

See report. Lenore added: The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday inter-generational Sunday School classes are fun and special. Next year there are only two months with 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays, but the program may be expanded.

**B. Finance and Investment** – Al Arrowood, Carol Carson

No report.

**C. Personnel** – Gray Wilson

No report; although the committee met earlier in the month.

**D. Property** – Chris Brown, Barbara Buckley

See report. Chris added:

- Baker will start work on roof replacements within the next two weeks.
- Updated on the lease of the church's apartment, followed by a brief question-answer session.

**E. Service and Mission** – Jane Williams, Libby Gulley

See report. Jane added: The committee considered a new non-profit idea, the home-share program, which will be working through churches and with DCIA. People who have extra rooms in homes will be matched with people who are less than 30% average median income who need a room, renting at less than \$250/month. The

committee voted to take \$1000 out of the Lenten match to assist the launch of this program. Jane also promoted a lunch-and-learn on 5/14/18, featuring an individual who has deep knowledge of Palestinian issues.

F. **Stewardship** – Miriam Morey, George Bernhardt

See report. Miriam highlighted items in the report. George added that he, Mindy, and Cris will participate in a stewardship retreat in Montreat, one of fifteen churches from around the nation, and the only church from NC. A pastor and two committee members have pledged to attend this meeting and the one next year.

G. **Worship and the Arts** – Jerry Postema, Alice Raney

See report. Jerry added: Communion suggestions will be assembled soon and presented to Mindy at the next meeting.

H. **Diaconate Report**

See report.

NEW BUSINESS

- July Presbytery Meeting – Election of Representatives Tuesday July 24. No one volunteered to attend this meeting. Mindy asked people to check their calendars and consider volunteering at the June Meeting.
- Special Presentation – Marilyn and Mindy  
Marilyn and Mindy recognized the outgoing officers, speaking about each one and presenting them with a souvenir mug with the PCUSA logo.

REMINDERS

- Called Meeting Sunday, April 29 to receive new members, at 10:15 a.m.
- Next stated Session meeting: June 4, Carol Carson will lead the devotion.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting closed with prayer by Mindy Douglas at 8:33 pm.

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

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Christyn F. Klinck, Clerk

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Rev. Mindy Douglas, Moderator

Approved by Session: \_\_\_\_\_