

MINUTES OF THE SESSION

Stated Meeting

First Presbyterian Church, Durham, NC

Monday, June 4, 2018

STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION

Called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mindy Douglas

Carol Carson led the devotional, beginning by sharing a gift from her mentor: a framed passage from 1st Corinthians—Paul’s writings about many gifts. Carol reflected: the diversity of gifts comes from the same Giver, and are a variety of gifts for the common good; William Barclay hones in on Paul’s idea to stress the central unity of the church, but not uniformity; and gifts are given are not for the glory of individual members, but for the good of the whole. Carol then opened the meeting with prayer.

PRESENT—A quorum was present, including:

- Moderator Mindy Douglas, Pastor
- Sam Miglarese, Associate Pastor
- Cherrie Henry and Susan Dunlap, Parish Associates
- Christyn Klinck, Clerk
- the following Elders, representing a quorum:

Class of 2019

George Bernhardt

Barbara Buckley

Libby Gully

Delia Kwon

Karen Romines

Gray Wilson

Griffin Momsen-Hudson

Class of 2020

Carol Carson

Brent Curtis

Andy Henry

Tyler Momsen-Hudson

Alice Raney

Cris Rivera

Class of 2021

Kim Abels

Tom Bacon

Chris Brown

Lenore Champion

Raymond Mbah

Diane Prosser

Excused absences: Leah Graves, Jane Wettach

Other absences: Dewey Lawson, Sigfried Fullenkamp

Marilyn Hedgpeth, Associate Pastor, is away for the week. Sarah Finbow, Youth Minister, was unable to attend due to illness.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: *It was moved, seconded and passed that the agenda be approved.*

ORDER OF THE DAY—7:05 p.m.

- Examination of New Members Kirk Huslage and Erin McClain, by transfer of letter.

Mindy introduced Kirk and Erin. Session members introduced themselves.

Kirk and Erin introduced themselves and shared their faith journeys. They will join on Sunday June 10, 2018. It was moved, seconded, and passed that they be received as new members.

- Applications to be an Inquirer:
 - Examination of John Curran as an Inquirer, and appoint a liaison from Session

Mindy referred the session to the two documents (Call Story and Biographical Statement) submitted by John in preparation for this meeting. Mindy introduced John to the session, and asked John to share some of his life story and his call.

John commented that FPC has played a big part in his call to ministry. Through his time of discernment, he feels his call is primarily to social justice, a ministry that includes all, with no exceptions. Mindy reported John will start at Chicago Theological Seminary in the fall. John requests our assistance with prayers, sponsorship, and some financial support. Andy Henry volunteered to be John's liaison.

It was moved, seconded and passed to receive John as an Inquirer and to appoint Andy Henry as a liaison to the session.

- Rebecca Harvard Barnes— Appoint liaison from Session
Barbara Buckley volunteered to serve as Rebecca's liaison from the session. It was moved, seconded, and passed to appoint Barbara Buckley as liaison for Rebecca.
Cherrie Henry offered to assist Andy and Barbara in their roles as liaisons to these Inquirers.

CONCERNS/CELEBRATIONS

Mindy shared celebrations, including Marilyn and Hedge's 40th anniversary, and Sarah and Pete's 7th anniversary. Concerns included Franklin Sesay's recent death in Sierra Leone and Jane Jordan's death on May 23, at almost 98 years old.

CONSENT AGENDA: *It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the Consent Agenda.*

The Consent Agenda as approved includes:

- A. Reception of minutes
 - 1. Stated Session Meeting April 23, 2018
- B. Reception of committee minutes and Diaconate Report – Diaconate Report, 4/23/18; Christian Education, 5/14/18; Finance and Investment, 5/22/18; Stewardship, 5/18/18; Service and Mission, 5/14/18; Worship and the Arts, 5/14/18.

STAFF REPORTS

Mindy

- Welcomed Sam back to session meetings, after teaching a course this spring.
- Has enjoyed officer training, ordination, and installation. Officers who have not yet been ordained/installed will complete the process in the fall.
- Was honored to officiate at the memorial service for her uncle.
- Is working with Strategic Planning Team.
- Is working with staff on a review of church membership.
- Spent the last two weeks in June in Montreat for Worship and Music Conference as a member of the planning team. Has attended this conference almost every summer since she was 8 years old.

Marilyn

- See report. Mindy drew attention to the Great Big Church Family Festival, and Marilyn's request for volunteers. Sign-up is online.

Sam

- Is glad to be able to attend session meetings again.
- Is at the helm during transition in leadership of his office at Duke University.
- Has been serving as chair of the nomination committee for Presbyterian Campus Ministry at Duke, and is happy to report that campus minister Libby Boehne is ready for ordination.

Cherrie—Report on young adult fellowship group:

- Meet monthly, usually a pot-luck.
- Supported participation in Durham's Gay Pride parade but were unable to participate as a group. Also participated in the UNC GLBT student fair.
- First-ever camping trip, at Camp New Hope.
- Active participants in church life: six young adults on session and diaconate; four who are candidates for ministry; Sunday school teachers; youth advisors; lead worship; etc.
- Some young adults beginning to have babies.
- Working on challenges of aging together and life changes, identifying potential new members as they visit and join church, discerning a supportive organizing principle.
- In addition, is excited to attend General Assembly as a New Hope Presbytery commissioner, and is sitting on the Committee for Preparation for Ministry.

Susan Dunlap—Report on older adult ministries, care teams, and community activities

- Teaches four classes in the Divinity School and coordinates the MDiv/MSW program.
- Works with older adults (Daytimers, Women's Circle). Also visits older members with Maxie Honeycutt and Elinor Hess.
- Care team organizer—the "spark plug." Four care teams established this year.
- One of the FPC representatives to Durham CAN; especially interested in the issues around the parking lot between FPC and St. Philip's Episcopal Church.
- Will be going to Baltimore for leadership training and organizing.
- Works at Urban Ministries of Durham as chaplain, three times a week.
- Involved in the Religious Coalition for a Non-violent Durham; is starting to get involved with families of victims, including leading grief groups and a retreat.
- Active on a Presbytery committee.

Sarah Finbow

- Mindy reported that Sarah has been working on summer events; getting youth trips together. Middle school trip is mid-July; high school trip towards the end of July.

Clerk's Report

- *Motion: Members listed on the list "Membership Changes 5-15-18" to be moved to inactive status or transferred, as specified on the list.*

Discussion: Christyn drew attention to the list of members suggested by the Membership Committee for transfer or to be moved to inactive status. Mindy added details about the process the staff and committee have gone through to identify these members, and mentioned that they are continuing to review the roles. Many people on the list are adult

children of members or have moved away many years ago. Parents of adult children are being contacted to inquire about the status.

Cris commented: This process is very helpful to the Stewardship Committee in their work. *The motion to move the members on the list passed unanimously.*

- Devotions sign-up: Christyn passed around the list of meeting dates so elders could sign up to lead devotion.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. **Christian Education** – Brent Curtis, Kim Abels

See report. Brent added: Thank you to Lenore who is rotating off as committee co-chair. He also noted that David Smith has been teaching the Lectionary Class for 25 years. David was recognized by that Sunday School class for his leadership.

B. **Finance and Investment** – Carol Carson

See report.

Finance has two motions:

- *Motion: Approve the revised Consolidated Statement of Investment Policy (CSIP)*

Carol summarized history of the CSIP. This year, the committee completed an annual review (as called for in the document). The committee minutes report on what is changed and what is not changed in the CSIP, in addition to some housekeeping items. After discussion clarifying some of the policies and definitions in the CSIP, Mindy called the vote. *The motion passed unanimously.*

- *Motion: Approve that FPC provide \$607 per academic term to support the seminary education of Rebecca Harvard Barnes at Union Presbyterian Seminary (UPSem) in Charlotte for the period of one year, renewable annually following an annual review with session, and dependent upon maintaining good academic standing at UPSem-Charlotte.*

Mindy noted that this follows up on our April meeting, when the session met with Rebecca Harvard Barnes and approved support of her as an Inquirer. The motion is for FPC to provide what she needs per agreement with UPSem. Two churches support her, and we are sharing support with Mt. Bethel Presbyterian Church. Mindy called the vote, and *the motion passed unanimously.*

C. **Personnel** – Gray Wilson

Gray gave an oral report. The committee met in May and discussed minor changes to the personnel policy which will be brought to session later. They are also planning for next year's budget.

Gray informed the session of Sarah Finbow's resignation, distributing her note to the session and explaining that the congregation would be informed on Monday, June 5 through a letter from Sarah. Sarah's husband Pete has received a promotion which will move them to New Jersey, closer to Sarah's family. Sarah will stay with FPC through the end of July, when the youth will conclude their summer trips.

Mindy distributed a proposal, which had been reviewed by the Personnel Committee, for hiring a new youth minister by August 1. See the proposal attached to this report. She answered questions about the proposal. The position will be advertised nationally.

Gray added that the Personnel Committee has discussed the proposal and is comfortable with it. They have not voted on it yet.

After a brief discussion, Gray moved and Barbara seconded a *motion to approve the search committee, to be composed from among these candidates:*

Lenore Champion, former chair of C.E., youth advisor

Brent Curtis, chair of C.E., youth advisor

Leslie McDow, parent of Laura McDow

Laurie Williamson, parent of Jack Williamson

Griffin Momsen-Hudson – youth

Charlotte Maxwell - youth

Marilyn Hedgpeth, staff

Alternates: Li-Chen Chin, Dawn Carsey, and Celia Dickerson

The motion passed unanimously.

D. **Property** – Chris Brown, Celia Dickerson, Andy Henry

See report. Chris added that the letter delivered to the apartment tenant specified that the apartment be vacated by August 1, 2018. The committee is asking for proposals about how to best use the space in the future.

E. **Service and Mission** – Libby Gulley, Tyler Momsen-Hudson

See report. Libby drew attention to the reports from two subcommittees: the Racial Equity Committee, which has defined proposals for the coming year, and the new World Mission Committee, which will hold its first meeting soon.

F. **Stewardship** - George Bernhardt, Cris Rivera

George reported on the Stewardship Renewal Conference in Montreat, which he, Cris Rivera, and Mindy Douglas attended. Their comments include:

1. At the conference they took a detailed look at how things are done, concluding that what we did last year was a successful way to approach stewardship. With some modifications, the committee will conduct a similar campaign this year.
2. There is a need for continuity in stewardship campaigns, and they are excited about making a multiple-year commitment to work on stewardship at FPC. George and Cris will co-chair for up to three years. They have developed a timeline, starting with last month's meeting. The timeline and a report from the conference are attached to the Stewardship Committees minutes for May.

G. **Worship and the Arts** – Alice Raney

- *Motion: Approve the proposed communion dates for 2018-2019, listed in the document "Communion Dates 2018-19" attached to these minutes.*

Dates were recommended to the committee by the staff. This proposal has weekly communion during Lent. After a brief discussion, *Mindy called the vote, which passed unanimously.*

NEW BUSINESS

Nomination of elders to the Nominating Committee: *It was moved and seconded that Tyler Momsen-Hudson and Carol Carson will represent the session on the Nominating Committee. The motion passed unanimously.* Tyler volunteered to chair the committee.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Election of representatives to next Presbytery meeting: *It was moved, seconded, and passed that Chris Brown and Brent Curtis will represent the First Presbyterian of Durham at the July 24, 2018, meeting of New Hope Presbytery, with Gray Wilson as an alternate.*

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting closed with prayer by Mindy Douglas at 9:00 p.m.

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 – July 23, 2018. Alice Raney will lead the devotion.

Christyn F. Klinck, Clerk

Rev. Mindy Douglas, Moderator

Approved by Session: _____