



MINUTES OF A STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION

DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2018

LOCATION OF MEETING: DISCUSSION CLASS ROOM

Class of 2018		Class of 2019		Class of 2020	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ed Campbell	<input type="checkbox"/>	D.R. Beeson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike McCalmont
<input type="checkbox"/>	John Grindstaff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jerry Cole	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Charles Parker
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Charles Herndon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emily Jordan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Charles Spears
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jane O'Connor				

Present: X

Absent, excused: Beeson

Absent: Grindstaff, Spears

Minister present: The Reverend Mr. Louis Imsande

Others present: Ms. G. Courtney; Ms. B. Cummings; The Reverend Dr. R. Fifield; Dr. R. McGowan, chair of the Personnel Committee; The Reverend Ms. D. Moore, chair of the Committee on Ministry of Holston Presbytery; Mr. M. Onks, Church Treasurer; Ms. J. Urse, Moderator of the Diaconate

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by moderator Louis Imsande. Mr. Imsande advised those present who are not members of session or invited guests the privilege of 'voice' is granted (only) by the moderator.

The clerk declared a quorum present.

**Opening Prayer and Devotional:**

The moderator opened the meeting with prayer. Mr. Imsande queried those present, 'Do we believe the Scriptures?' Mr. Imsande read from Ephesians 3:20-21, where Paul writes in his ministry to 'God's holy people in Ephesus', <sup>20</sup> *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,* <sup>21</sup> *to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.'* Mr. Imsande reminded that God is able to do more than we can comprehend. Members of session were encouraged to trust God as 'one body' during this time of transition at FPC JC.

**Pastoral Care:**

The moderator led those present in prayer for the concerns of Ellis Linder (now at Duke Medical), Dorman and Betty Stout, Odie Major, all members of FPC JC receiving treatment and after-care for cancer.

**Extraordinary Report:**

The Reverend Dr. Richard Fifield, Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk of Holston Presbytery and The Reverend Ms. Diana Moore, Chair of the Committee on Ministry of Holston Presbytery, apprised members of session of the resources Holston Presbytery will provide to FPC JC during the period of time FPC JC is without an installed pastor. Dr. Fifield distributed to members of session a chart setting forth the suggested timing for 'Planning a Pastoral Transition' while advising The Reverend Dr. Bradley Palmer has been named acting Moderator of the session of FPC JC and liaison to FPC JC from the Committee on Ministry of Holston Presbytery. Dr. Fifield encouraged members of session to 'discern the mind of Christ' as the process of the pastor search moves forward. Dr. Fifield stated he and Ms. Moore will meet with the Personnel Committee of FPC JC to inform them of the process of engaging an Interim Pastor. Dr. Fifield further stated in response to questions from members of session; Presbytery encourages the engagement of the Interim Pastor before the

congregational election of the Pastor Nominating Committee as the Interim Pastor will likely provide insight in the nomination and election process, the membership of the Pastor Nominating Committee must reflect the characteristics of the members of the congregation with regard to age, ethnicity, etc., it is wise to continue 100% of the allocation in the budget for the position of the departed pastor, the Board of Pensions of the PC (USA) imposes a 'vacancy dues' of 12% on the allocation in the budget for the cash salary of the departed pastor.

**Events of Note at FPC JC** for the period January 22, 2018 through February 25, 2018:

- Dismissal:  
None
- Marriage:  
None
- New Member:  
None
- Pulpit Supply:  
The Reverend Mr. R. Alan Chapman (January 28, 2018).
- Sacrament of Baptism:
  - O'Connor, Burgess Bridgforth (February 25, 2018).
  - O'Connor, Louisa Barton (February 25, 2018).
- Translated to the Church Triumphant:  
None

**Approval of the Order of Business:**

The clerk put the question to members of session, 'Do you find the agenda for this meeting to be complete?' Session by consent approved the agenda with a request to amend placed on the floor by Mr. Imsande;

- Session to consider and act on request received from The Reverend Tim Meredith to perform in the Wood Chapel of FPC JC the marriage ceremony of a family friend.

**Review of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting(s) of the Session:**

Session by consent approved as prepared the minutes of the stated meeting occurring January 23, 2018.

**Communications from the Staff to Session:**

No staff report was presented.

**Communications from the Clerk to Session:** The clerk;

- Placed on the floor for session's consideration and action requests for the administration of the Sacrament of Baptism from:
  - Lauren and Benjamin Craven on their son, Andrew Crockett Craven, to be celebrated Sunday, March 4, 2018, during the 11:00 A.M. worship service.
  - Beth and Matthew Fannon on their son Maverick James Fannon, to be celebrated Sunday, May 6, 2018, during the 11:00 A.M. worship service.
  - Jamie and Richard Lowe on their daughter Ava James Lowe, to be celebrated Sunday, March 4, 2018, during the 8:45 A.M. worship service.
  - Tonya Nucci on her son Aiden Pierce Nucci to be celebrated Sunday, March 4, 2018, during the 8:45 A.M. worship service.
  - Julie and Thomas O'Connor on their daughter Burgess Bridgforth O'Connor celebrated Sunday, February 25, 2018 during the 8:45 A.M. worship service.
  - Julie and Thomas O'Connor on their daughter Louisa Barton O'Connor celebrated Sunday, February 25, 2018 during the 8:45 A.M. worship service.

On motion by Mr. Herndon, second Mr. McCalmont, session by unanimous voice vote approved the administration of the Sacrament of Baptism on the dates and at the times requested, as preceding.

- Placed on the floor for session's consideration and action the 'Church Statistical Report 2017' as delivered to the office of the PC (USA). On motion by Dr. Cole, second Mr. Campbell, session by unanimous voice vote received and approved the report as received.
- Advised session the creation of written guidelines establishing the responsibilities of FPC JC and the responsibilities of ministries occupying properties owned by FPC JC in the performance of various daily business activities and maintenance of the properties occupied is delayed.
- Queried members of session on their findings on the search for a member of FPC JC who is willing to lead the planning for the observance and celebration of the sesquicentennial anniversary of FPC JC that will occur during 2019. Members of session advised numerous persons are willing to be a part of a team but no member of session has found a member of the congregation willing to lead the planning for the events.

**Communications from the Senior Pastor to Session:** The Senior Pastor;

- Advised The Reverend Mr. Tim Meredith requests session that he, Mr. Meredith, be permitted to officiate using the facilities of FPC JC the marriage ceremony of a family friend. Mr. Meredith advises neither of the wedding party is a member of FPC JC. The moderator opined approval of this request will require the waiver of two (2) requirements of the wedding policy of FPC JC; that at least one of the wedding party be a member of FPC JC or be closely related to a member of FPC JC; that only the installed pastor of FPC JC may officiate weddings in the facilities of FPC JC. On motion by Mr. McCalmont, second Mr. Herndon, session by majority voice vote waived the two (2) aforementioned requirements and approved The Reverend Mr. Meredith to perform the particular wedding ceremony. On further discussion members of session considering the current absence of an installed pastor on motion by Ms. Jordan, second Mr. Herndon, approved by unanimous voice vote Mr. Meredith to officiate marriage ceremonies at FPC JC until such time an Interim Pastor is placed at FPC JC.

**Communications from the Diaconate to Session:** Ms. Jerry Urse, moderator, reported;

The Diaconate last met January 23, 2018; minutes of the meeting provided.

**Committees of the Session:**

**Glorify:**

GLORIFY Committee: Dr. Jerry Cole, chair, reported;

- The committee suggests session recognize Mr. Mike Grindstaff for his faithful preparation and distribution of the communion elements during the worship service commencing at 11:00 A.M. and Ms. Pat Bond for her faithful service to FPC JC in the repair and replacement of the chrismon ornaments place on the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary.
- The committee reminds those present of the Easter Cantata to be performed by the Chancel Choir during the 11:00 A.M. worship service on Sunday, March 25, 2018, Palm Sunday; this a combined service.
- Mr. Herndon requested the committee give consideration to increasing the number of combined worship services. This to simplify the worship duties of the supply pastors and the interim pastor when placed.

**Grow:**

- GROW Committee: Ms. Emily Jordan, chair, reported;

The committee has not met.

- Preschool Ministry: Ms. Mary Craig Hart, board chair. No report.  
The board of directors last met January 17, 2018; minutes of the meeting previously provided.
- Children's Ministry Team: Dr. Charles Parker, leader, reported;
  - The Easter egg hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 24, 2018, 11:00 A.M. in Fellowship Junction.
  - An update on the programming of the Children's Ministry dated May 22, 2017 previously provided.
- Student Ministry Team: Mr. John Grindstaff, leader. Mr. Imsande reported;
  - The roster of those who will be participating in the mission trip to Alaska is established. The program is seeking (paid) service opportunities for several of the students to offset anticipated expenses.
  - The team last met January 21, 2018; minutes of the meeting to be provided.
- Discipleship Ministry Team: Ms. Emily Jordan, leader. No report.  
The team last met February 7, 2017.

**Go:**

- GO Committee: Mr. Michael McCalmont, chair, reported;
  - Mr. McCalmont updated session on the committee's plans for use of the 'Minute for Missions' segment during each Sunday morning worship service.
  - The committee last met February 21, 2018; minutes of the meeting provided.
- Local Missions Ministry Team: Mr. Michael McCalmont, leader;  
The team last met January 21, 2018; minutes of the meeting previously provided.
- Global Missions Ministry Team: Mr. Michael McCalmont, leader;  
The team last met February 20, 2018; minutes of the meeting provided.
- Community Evangelism Ministry Team: Ms. Jane O'Connor, co-leader, reported;
  - A search is underway for a leader for the committee.
  - The team last met February 2016.

**Administration:**

- Personnel Committee: Dr. Richard McGowan, chair, reported;
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- A communication from the committee to be delivered to staff and members of the congregation was distributed to those present. The document sets forth the position of the committee during the absence of an installed pastor. The committee will function as the de facto 'head of staff' until an interim pastor is in place. The interim pastor will then assume that additional function. This document is attached hereto and is a part of these minutes.
- Members of the committee will attend the weekly staff meetings until an interim pastor is in place.
- Ms. O'Connor encouraged members of session who chair committees or lead ministry teams to frequently communicate with their committee or ministry team staff liaisons.
- The committee last met January 22, 2018; agenda for the meeting previously provided.
- Stewardship Committee: Mr. Charles Herndon IV, chair, reported;
  - The church has experienced numerous performance failures by the current domain used for the FPC JC website. Mr. Herndon placed on the floor for consideration and action by session the committee's recommendation to move the website to another domain. Session by unanimous voice vote approved the committee's recommendation.
  - The committee is putting a system in place to ensure hospital and home visitations with members will continue uninterrupted during the absence of an installed pastor. 'After-hours' coverage will be a priority.
  - The committee last met February 7, 2018; minutes of the meeting provided.
  - Mr. Onks presented the financial report for the month ended 31JAN2018. Session members were asked to communicate to congregation members the importance of members keeping pledges payments current.
- Long Range Planning Committee: Mr. Ed Campbell, chair, reported;  
The committee last met January 31, 2018; minutes of the meeting to be provided.

**Ad Hoc:**

There were no ad hoc committees convened at the time of this meeting.

**Unfinished Business:**

The recommendation from the Local Missions Ministry Team that it be allowed to celebrate the Sacrament of Communion during the monthly Streetside Ministry program was returned to the floor from the stated meeting of session occurring January 23, 2018. Mr. McCalmont advised he has obtained from Mr. Charles Herndon, CRE, and the Reverend Mr. R. Alan Chapman their participation as necessary for the delivery of the communion elements in accord with the requirements of the *Book of Order of the PC (USA)*. Mr. McCalmont stated the committee's recommendation for consideration by session. Session by majority voice vote approved the celebration of the Sacrament of Communion at the monthly Streetside Ministry program.

**New Business:**

None

**Member Concerns:**

- The clerk addressed and clarified concerns that relate to the absence of an installed pastor expressed to him by various members of session;
  - The session of FPC JC adheres to the governance of the 2009-2011 edition of the '*Book of Order of the PC (USA)*'
  - The Stewardship Committee continues its charge to administer the 'business elements' of FPC JC.
  - The Personnel Committee continues its charge to administer the 'staffing elements' of FPC JC.
- Mr. Herndon reviewed the letter received by Mr. Dodd from the accounting firm of Blackburn, Childers & Steagall, PLC, dated January 29, 2018, pertaining to the multi-year audit of the finances of FPC JC. Mr. Herndon advised the firm has been engaged to reconcile the financial accounts of FPC JC.

**Adjournment and Closing Prayer:**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M.; closing prayer by Mr. Imsande.

END of MINUTES

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THE REVEREND MR. LOUIS IMSANDE, MODERATOR

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ED CAMPBELL, CLERK OF SESSION

**THE NEXT STATED MEETING OF SESSION WILL OCCUR TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2018 @ 7:00 P.M.**

ELDERS WHEN UNABLE TO ATTEND A SESSION MEETING ARE TO CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AND REQUEST AN EXCUSED ABSENCE.