

First Presbyterian Church
183 West Main Street
Cartersville, Ga. 30120

Meeting: Session
Type: Stated Monthly
Moderator: Dr Mike Anderson
Date: October 16, 2018 (As Amended 10/30/2018)
Place: Cornerstone Room
Time: 7:00 PM

Elders present

2019: ~~Rich Gaffoglio, Jean Gilliland~~, Mary Gilreath, Perry Rentz, Randy Thompson

2020: Phil Bridges, Tinsley Cline, Brad Hughes, Nancy Kelly, Scott Panter

2021: Craig Clark, Marilynn Devine, Paul Green, Janet Martin, Kyle Russell

A quorum was present. The meeting was opened with prayer by Dr Anderson and then called to order.

Docket Approval: Craig Clark moved to approve the Docket which was Approved Unanimously.

Congregational Care Report:

Mike reported that Robert Reed's Aunt passed away in Kansas. Sandy Howell's mother and Paul Green's aunt Dot Shaw is at Cartersville Medical Center after a fall.

Clerk's Report:

The Minutes from the 9/18/2018 Stated Meeting of the Session on a motion by Scott Panter were Approved Unanimously.

Becky Ferguson has agreed to respond to a 10/3/2018 request from Cherokee Presbytery that we provide the names of FPC elders and deacons who have died during the year along with the dates of their passing so that they can be honored during the Fall Meeting of Cherokee Presbytery on 11/3/2018 at Ray-Thomas Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Perry Rentz provided a revision to the handout he provided to all Session members at our 9/18/2018 Stated Meeting entitled 'Proposal for a Peaceful Upper Room Transition'. The revision dated 9/30/2018 is to his proposed 'Phase Two Plan' regarding the composition of a Search Committee that could become necessary in the future to fill the Upper Room Band Director position. Perry's proposal is a suggestion only and subject to approval by the Session should a Search Committee become necessary. Perry's proposal will be kept on file by the clerk and is available for review upon request.

Board Reports

Deacon's Report: Mike indicated that he thinks the Deacon minutes have been sent out.

Hands of Christ: Scott Panter reported that we still have openings in the Kindergarten and other grades with total attendance approaching 200 students. The After School Program (ASP) due to generous donations over the last 4 years recently purchased a used bus which is now titled to FPC to be used routinely by the ASP but will also be available to FPC.

Preschool Report: No Report

Committee Reports

Hospitality Ministry: Mary Gilreath reminded everyone that the Annual Cookout at Dellinger Park (Pavilion #3) is 10/21/2018. The Fall Festival is coming up. Christmas Caroling and poinsettias to shut-ins are being planned. The Christmas Parade will be 12/6/2018 (Thursday) at 6 PM and FPC will again provide hot chocolate to the crowd.

Worship: Perry Rentz reported that plans for December are being planned. The youth will be involved in several activities (ushers, decorating, liturgists, children's sermon). Christmas Trees will be put up in the upper room, the sanctuary, and the fellowship hall.

Perry provided a 7-Page 'Worship and Music Budget History and Recommendations' handout to the Session members present. The Worship Committee Co-Chairs (Perry and Nancy) see a need to provide oversight to the Music portion of the budget and are suggesting that Music related expense line items be combined in the budget under one Heading (Worship). In addition, more Music expense detail is needed in order to better understand the various types of expenses incurred by Music. Mike commented that Worship and Music in 2006 were under the direction of FPC staff with the Choir Director responsible for the Music portion of the budget. The Worship Committee Co-Chairs have concluded based on their research thus far that (1) Music needs to be moved under Worship, (2) a monthly report of spending under both Worship and Music needs to be provided, and (3) the Personnel Committee should have oversight over Choir Associates. Several Session members requested more time to review the history, the proposed motions, and the recommendations included in this handout.

Randy Thompson made a motion that Music fall under the purview of Worship and his motion was seconded by Perry Rentz. Before the vote, Mike suggested that a motion to Table which would supersede Randy's motion might be more appropriate to give Session members more time to review the handout. Janet Martin then made a motion to Table which was seconded and passed 7-5 with an abstention (Marilynn Devine).

Faith Development: Mike reported that Jean Gilliland due to her absence tonight would email a Faith Development report to the Session.

Mission: No Report

Properties: Craig Clark reported a Work Day on 10/13/2018 with 9 participants that involved fixing drinking fountains, changing some LED lights, locating some Christmas Trees, repairing an HVAC leak on the 3rd Floor, and replacing a dish washer on the first floor of the Education Building. Randy Thompson offered to provide the labor for some odd jobs at FPC on rainy days if Craig would compile a wish list.

Finance: Randy Thompson provided a Revenue & Expense Report as of September 30, 2018 (the 75% point of our calendar year) which showed that revenues are at 68.45% of the revenues budgeted, and expenses are at 76% of the expenses budgeted resulting in a \$55,230 deficit. We have not drawn on our Line of Credit and we are still on track to complete the year in the black without having to tap our Line of Credit (LOC). Becky Ferguson is currently researching why General Benevolence is at 120.38% of the amount budgeted. Scott Panter reminded the Session of the recent Lynn Looney bequeath of an unrestricted \$100,000. At the end of the year, Randy said this bequeath will be used to pay down our debt. If the LOC needs to be tapped, Becky would notify Mark Bridges before calling the FNB of Dalton to transfer loan funds.

Personnel: No Report

Old Business:

Youth Elders and Deacons: Mike referred the Session to a handout distributed at a previous meeting entitled 'Being A Youth Elder What, How, Who and Why'. The prospect of FPC youth serving as officers came up this past year during FPC Officer Nominating Committee meetings. Mike told the ONC at that time that he would gather information so that the Session could consider our youth as church officers in time for the Class of 2022 to be nominated by the 2019 ONC. The handout suggests that a youth officer (Elder and/or Deacon) should be a rising high school junior that would serve a one-year term and would serve in addition to the 15 adult members of the Session and/or Diaconate. These youth officers would go through the same training as adult officers and would have a vote. Renee Shields could be the ONC liaison to identify potential youth officer candidates.

After a significant amount of discussion, Scott suggested that we ask Beth Gaines to speak to the Session on this subject. Mike offered to invite Beth to speak to us. The 2018 ONC held its first meeting on 4/19/2018 so the Session would need to act on this initiative during the first quarter 2019.

New Business:

FPC Vehicle Update: Scott Panter reported that we currently own 6 buses and 1 van. Each vehicle was purchased for the After School Program (ASP) but is also available to FPC for other purposes. The Cartersville School System (CSS) gave the ASP a 72-Passenger Bus about 3 years ago. The CSS also gave the ASP a 25-Passenger Yellow Bus that has been modified to a 20-Passenger Bus which has never been used. Family Promise also gave the ASP a van. Since the ASP only needs 4 buses, we have 3 surplus vehicles that need to be sold (Van, 15-Passenger Bus, and 20-Passenger Bus). Scott requested the authority to sell our 3 surplus vehicles and to use the funds to replenish some of the funds used by the ASP to purchase the newest bus last week at a cost of nearly \$29,000.

Randy Thompson made the motion to give Scott Panter the authority to sell the 3 surplus vehicles and put the money in the budget of the ASP which was Approved Unanimously.

Digital Disciples Workshop: Mike attended a meeting last week at Columbia Seminary sponsored by the Synod about how to better utilize the FPC Facebook Page. The goal is to do a better job utilizing the FPC Facebook page. The idea is that social media could be a 'Digital Front Door' to the church. Using Facebook Live, we could have as many watching our service online on Sunday as we physically have at church. There would be no appeals for money although the 'donate' button is an option on our Facebook Page. Real-time prayer requests could be taken during a live broadcast. We currently have an internet connection and a camera in the Upper Room so we are going to explore Facebook Live there first. There is no cost to FPC. We may also explore getting an internet connection or WiFi booster in our sound room near the sanctuary. Mike suggested that when our members and friends see a post from the FPC Facebook Page, they should be encouraged to like it, comment on it, or share it. We have had about 2,000 people per month that visit our Facebook page. We currently post an inspirational piece on Mondays, post pictures of people on Tuesday, post on B90 on Wednesdays, Renee puts youth items on Thursdays, and we promote the Sunday services on Fridays and Saturdays. First Church Marietta and Sam Jones UMC are using Facebook Live. Perry Rentz suggested that we consult Brandon Bowen about the legal/privacy aspects of this initiative.

November Session Meeting Date: Mike asked if we wanted to move the Session November meeting date from 11/20/2018 (the Tuesday before Thanksgiving) to an earlier or later date and the consensus was to meet as scheduled on 11/20/2018.

Cherokee Presbytery Leadership Conference: Brad Hughes, Janet Martin, and Jean Gilliland will be attending this conference at Silver Creek and Mike will be a presenter.

Motion to Adjourn: A motion by Craig Clark to adjourn was Approved Unanimously.

Closed in Prayer: Dr Anderson

Next Stated Meeting: November 20, 2018, 7:00 PM, Cornerstone Room