

**First Presbyterian Church
Session Meeting
Monday, September 16, 2024**

A Session meeting of the First Presbyterian Church (Greensboro) convened in the Mullin Life Center on September 16, 2024, at 5:30pm. Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield served as moderator. There were 36 elders in attendance and 5 excused absences. In addition to Rev Duffield, attendees included Rev. Newton Cowan, Rev. Matt Bussell, Director of Finance Christine Ciaccio, Director of Worship Anne Albert, and Erwin Fuller.

Welcome

Rev. Jill Duffield opened the meeting at 5:30pm by reading the Session Group Covenant followed by Psalm 113 and a prayer.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made, seconded, & approved with no objections to accept the Consent Agenda:

- From the Clerk: Minutes of the August 19, 2024, stated meeting
- From the Discipleship Office: August 2024 membership reports
- Sadye Bowles written report
- Memorial Tribute for Robert Cullen Rapp Jr.
- Salem Presbyterian Pastoral Care Pastor Contracts for Doug McLeroy and Maria Hanlin

Discipleship

Rev. Newton Cowan welcomed new members Sarah Carr Keeley (White Memorial, Raleigh) and Gillian Smith (Westminster Presbyterian Church) by Letters of Transfer. Charlie Keeley, Daniel Thomas, and Monica Thomas joined the church by Reaffirmation of Faith. A motion was made and these membership changes were approved without objection. The Discipleship Committee offered a small gift to both families present.

Installation of FPC Trustee Responsible for L. Richard Trust

Rev. Duffield read Ephesians 4:1-6, then led the Session through the Commissioning & Installation of Tom Nelson as Trustee responsible for the L. Richardson Trust (attached).

On Boarding

Rev. Duffield introduced Phae Smith, Associate Director of Children and Youth Ministry. Phae led the Session in a game of Identity Crisis to help Session members get to know one another.

Finance

Finance Vice Chair Dave Thompson reviewed the August 2024 financial reports (attached):

- 2024 year-to-date revenue of \$3,005,069 exceeds expenses of \$2,983,645 for a favorable net variance of \$21,425.

- YTD pledged gifts of \$1,891,105 (versus \$2.8M annual objective) are \$159,464 better than expected and \$131,558 worse than prior year. Pledge commitments total \$2,647,280 from 473 giving units.
- August pledge contributions totaled \$232,236, breaking a six month trend of declining contributions.
- YTD expenses remain steady and are \$75,000 better than projected and \$25,000 better than prior year.
- Capital campaign contributions stand at \$1,818,770 through the end of August.

Dave Thompson thanked Christine Ciaccio and her team for great reporting.

Stewardship

Dan Goley, Chair of Stewardship, gave the Stewardship update. Currently, we are at 70% of our 2024 goal of \$2,700,000. The Committee feels confident that we will meet budget. The 2025 pledge goal is \$2,700,000. To support the 2025 stewardship effort, the Committee asked each member of Session to send a hand-written note to at least 5 of the 480 giving units from 2024 thanking them for their previous generosity and encouraging them to continue to support First Pres as we celebrate our 200th birthday. Session members were provided notecards and envelopes already addressed to church members and were asked to mail before October 12, 2024.

Scripture Reading

Graham Farless read 1 Corinthians 10:23-31.

Faith Sharing

Jeff Hatcher shared his faith journey.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Newton Cowan offered Prayers of the People, and both joys and concerns were shared.

Communion Training

Director of Worship, Anne Albert, led Session members through training for plated communion and intinction in the sanctuary.

New Business – For the Good of the Session

Rev. Duffield reminded the Session of the upcoming 200th birthday celebration events, both to be held at the Julian Price House). Deadline for registration is September 20.

- Thursday, Oct 3, 4:30-7pm – Birthday Mix & Mingle (for adults)
- Sunday, Oct 6, following worship – Parade & Birthday Party Picnic (for families)

Rev. Bussell encouraged Session to participate in the Crop Walk on Oct 6 if they are able, and reminded Session of Neil's Meals happening on September 21, 8:30-11am. Members can contact Matt to sign up for either event.

Closing Prayer

Rev. Jill Duffield read Ephesians 3:17b-18. and offered the closing prayer and adjourned the meeting at 7:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendi J. Cimino
Clerk of Session
2024-2025