

**First Presbyterian Church
Session Meeting
Monday, February 16, 2026**

A Session meeting of the First Presbyterian Church (Greensboro) convened in the Garden Room on February 16, 2026, at 5:30pm. Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield served as moderator. There were 28 elders in attendance and 1 excused absence. In addition to Rev. Duffield, attendees included Rev. Newton Cowan, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care, Dr. Erin Bowers, Associate Pastor for Christian Formation, Tim Millisor, Director of Property and Operations, Christine Ciaccio, Director of Finance, Matt Bussell, Associate Pastor for Outreach, Kate Pierce, Jack Harrington and Erwin Fuller.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield opened the meeting at 5:30pm. Rev. Duffield read Psalm 28:6-8 and offered a prayer, followed by a reading of the Session Group Covenant.

Consent Agenda

No changes were proposed, and the consent agenda was approved by acclamation.

- From the Clerk: Minutes of the January 26, 2026, stated meeting
- From the Discipleship Office: January 2026 membership reports
- Committee Reports: Adult, Children and Youth Formation and Outreach Reports

Time to Connect

Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield and pastors led small groups. Session elders answered two questions. If you had to sum up the gospel in a word, phrase or sentence, what would it be? How can we embody and enact these words, phrases and sentences? Be specific.

Property

Tim Millisor reports Blum Construction created a map of Green St. work area 1. The map shows what sections they are currently working on and what sections have been completed. They started putting up work area 3 on the columbarium side. The weather the past month has been so cold that it was warm enough to grind but not warm enough to put mortar in. They were able to start mortaring last week. Mortar has to cure for 28 days and then they will clean it. As they have been removing mortar, cavities have been discovered. This increases the amount of mortar needed. Another 8 folks have been certified in addition to the current 10.

Assessment of capstones - sections chipped out, replaced, then sealed. More than was in allowance was found. Blum is going to present options of cost. It is possible to use the contingency of \$1.1M.

Mid-level guttering examined, no holes found, will be cleaned. The \$400k for protection of organ bid has actually come down to around \$200k. The extra \$200K will be moved to contingency.

Correspondence

Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield gave an update on the Statement Session agreed to make. The group has met twice in person. Nothing to share yet.

Scripture Reading

Hugh Williams read John 21:9-17

Faith Sharing

Brian Pierce shared his faith journey.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Erin Kesterson Bowers offered Prayers of the People, and both joys & concerns were shared.

Finance

Dave Thompson, Chair of the Finance Committee reviewed the January 2026 financial reports (attached).

- Mr. Thompson acknowledged his committee for their hard work as well as Christine Ciaccio, Director of Finance
- Projected \$238K loss end of December
- A letter was sent to College of Elders in December and we finished year 2025 with \$68K loss opposed to the projected \$175K loss. Elders gave \$85K as a result of request.
- Actual pledge income in December about \$120K more than projected
- Session approved budget with \$231K loss
- Anticipated money from Brooks Foundation is looking confident, potential \$120K can put towards deficit, Neil's Meals and property emergency
- \$400K less on income in January - may be due to two Sundays lost due to weather
- Still seem to be on target for what we projected in January

Stewardship Committee

Tom Gillespie reports pledges are about the same as this time last year. The committee's next step is to contact 50 or so people who pledged last year but have not turned in their pledge cards for this year. The HR Committee and Finance Committee together with our senior pastor recommended the creation of an ad hoc committee consisting of representatives from Property, Finance, Stewardship, Worship, HR Committees and select others with gifts and talents in property and marketing. This ad hoc committee would actively explore options for how we might use our property to generate revenue for the operating budget. Motion from Stewardship committee to create ad hoc committee. The motion passed by majority vote.

Appointments Committee

Leigh Jones reports the Appointments Committee has been meeting weekly since January - slate the 2026-2027 Nominating Committee. Five elders who agreed are Andrew Spainhour, Anne Wagoner, Alice Moore, Rob Peddrick and Paul Parker. This comes from committee and does not require a second. Passed by majority.

Outreach

Florence Gatten reports on the Salem Presbytery Meeting on February 10th held at St. James Presbyterian in Greensboro. Florence reports great unity. A new moderator for the Salem Presbytery was voted in, Rev. Matt Bussell. St. James was formed in 1867 and is led by Dr. Phanta Lansden. Attendees from our church were Florence Gatten, Tom Gillespie, Rob Peddrick and Tamara Slaughter.

A new staff model to be adopted to hire two full-time presbyters. Getting people who are collaborative. Unifying endowment funds will finance this change. Addressing the serious lack of spiritual energy was the major focus. Two of the four meetings will focus on leadership development. Next meeting is on May 12th.

Rev. Hannah Ostlund was accepted into Salem Presbytery and extended the call to First Presbyterian Church Salisbury.

Opportunities for involvement: "Evicting the American Dream" documentary on Racial Equity Equipping. February 22, a vigil for Wyatt Outland in Alamance County. March 21, Matthew 25 Coastal Carolina Vision Conference in Sanford.

FPC elders Tom Gillispie is on the STORM committee and Andrew Spainhour is on the HR committee.

New Business – For the Good of the Session

Rev. Jill Duffield reminded Ash Wednesday service is Wednesday at led by Dr. Erin Bowers.

March 1, there will be a congregational meeting.

Tim Cook announced March 11 will be the spring blood drive.

Closing Prayer

Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield offered the closing prayer and adjourned the meeting at 6:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Martin
Clerk of Session
2025-2026