**Trinity Presbyterian Church**

**Stated Session Meeting (In-Person and Zoom)**

**August 20, 2023**

**We Assemble in God’s Name**

**Members Present:** Stephanie Sorge, Moderator; Linda Bradley, Clerk of Session; Dane Byers, Rick Comstock; Mark Dewey; Mark Facknitz; Kandy Grant; Virginia Healy; Nancy Hopkins-Garriss; Mary Lou McMillin; Rick Orem; and Susie Phend.

**Excused/Absent**: Jason Brown and Patti Warner. Approved. A quorum was present.

**Guests Present:** Karen Leigh and John and Ann Speer, to meet with Session to join Trinity.

Larry Brown to discuss potential project proposal.

**Call to Order:** Stephanie called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

**Opening Devotion**: Dane led a devotion based on Matthew 6:25-40 and Stephanie led the group in the opening prayer.

**Consent Agenda**: Today’s docket and the minutes from the June 25, 2023 Stated Session Meeting were approved. There was no Session meeting in July.

**Order of the Day**:

1. Reception of New Members:
2. John and Ann Speer. Ann shared their family history of church involvement, including membership in the First Presbyterian Church and later Highlawn Presbyterian Church in Huntington, WV. Both Ann and John were active in church activities and also as spokespersons for the Covenant Network for many years. They are pleased to find a welcoming church home here at Trinity. Rick O. made, and Virginia seconded, a motion to approve John and Ann for membership in Trinity. They will be coming by letter of transfer from Highlawn Presbyterian Church, Huntington, WV. Approved.
3. Karen Leigh. Karen has also found a supportive home here at Trinity, encouraged by her close friend Jenny Bolt. She has recently become active in the Centering Space Marks Group. Rick C. made, and Susie seconded, a motion to receive Karen into membership. Karen will be coming by letter of transfer from Bridgewater Presbyterian Church. Approved. Karen, Ann, and John will be introduced to the congregation at a future worship service.
4. Proposal for Consideration by Trinity Session:

Dane and Larry Brown presented a report and recommendations for ensuring Trinity’s focus on stewardship and providing active management and oversight of reserves and committed endowment funds for many years. After extended discussion, their recommended motions were tabled for vote to the September Session meeting, giving individual members more time to consider the proposal before voting.

**Clerk’s Report:**

1. Communion was observed during online and in-person worship on Sunday, August 6, as previously approved. That day the Rev. Bill Reinhold and Ginnie Reinhold served communion as an extension of the table to two persons at Bridgewater Retirement Community. Kandy and Melodie served communion to one person at LifeCare in New Market.
2. Jenny Bolt was baptized during worship on July 23. Rick C. presented her to the congregation and will serve as her sponsor.

*Kandy made, and Mary Lou seconded, a motion to extend the Session meeting until 6:30 and to deal with action items first. Approved,*

**Pastor’s Report:**

For Action:

1. Joe Hinshaw submitted a proposal for upgrades to improve our livestreaming and sanctuary sound. In addition, the liturgist wireless mic and the pulpit mic need to be replaced. He also recommended installing some sound buffers around the piano. The price would be approximately $3,000 and would be charged to the technology line item in the budget. Approved by consensus.
2. Lizzy Healy has made an application to serve as a YAAD at the 2024 General Assembly. Stephanie has also applied to served as a TEC at General Assembly. She asked that Presbytery prioritize Lizzy as a YAAD if there is concern about having more than one person represented from one congregation. Both applications were enthusiastically approved by consensus.

For Information:

1. House Churches and Marks Groups should be contacted about the September 3 closing. They should provide a representative to share in the liturgy and lead the closing. If they want any photos to be included on a slide, those will need to be sent to the church office by the end of this week.
2. Discussion items related to ushering/greeting and the location of the October Session meeting were postponed until next month.
3. Stephanie has jury duty August 22-September 14, which may impact her availability over the next few weeks.
4. Other information items are contained in the Pastor’s Report on the Session website.

Upcoming Dates:

1. 2023 Vacation (subject to change) - March 10-18, June 26-July 2, July 24-30, 1 week TBD
2. 2023 Continuing Education - May 8-14, June 9-16

**We Celebrate Both the Present and Our Vision for the Future**

Misconduct Policy Task Force

No report

**Marks Groups and House Churches**

Reaching Out Gwen Carr

No report

Sanctuary Rick Orem

No report

Hearts and Hands Linda

No report

Backpack Virginia.

For Action:

1. Backpack program distribution will begin again the first week of September at both Keister and Bluestone Elementary Schools. The Backpack program budget has reduced after subsidies during Covid have been stopped. The team recommended beginning a “soft” fund raiser for the program through October using emails to congregation, our community Facebook page, and announcements during church. Dane noted that carry-over funds currently in the Fund Activity Report will be used up before the end of the year. Approved by consensus.

For Information:

1. In July, Backpack program members, in conversation with Tamara Grant, decided to do all fundraising through Trinity alone and not through the Harrisonburg Education Foundation. Linda raised the question of the extra responsibilities on Finance Team members if there is a considerable number of checks to be processed. It was decided to review this concern over the next couple of months.

Centering Space Mary Lou

See report on Session website.

Clothes Closet Susie

See report on Session website.

Guns to Gardens: Susie

See report on Session website.

Valley Interfaith Action Nancy

No report

**Seasonal Teams**

Pentecost

See report on Session website.

Harvest Virginia

For Action:

1. The Harvest Team requested to host a second Artists for Ukraine fundraiser at Trinity on Saturday, October 21, from 2:00-5:00pm. This would be in collaboration with Dr. Robert (“Bob”) Bersson, who has been coordinating Artists for Ukraine events in the Harrisonburg area, since the war began in early 2022. The format would be very similar to last year’s event. It would be advertised and open to the public. Attendees would be invited to purchase various artworks of local creators. There might be live music by local Ukrainians and baked goods available as well. The event would only open up the sanctuary, commons area, and hallway between the two.

This year, the team would like the funds to go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, which has an active International Disaster Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Disaster Relief program for Ukraine: <https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/ukraine/>. Approved.

**Standing Teams**

Benevolences Kandy

No report

Building and Grounds

For Action:

1. Our custodial staff is unable at this time to clean the building. They should be able to resume their work sometime next month. The team requested Session authorization for additional funding to hire a cleaning service until our custodial staff is able to return to work. We won’t know the new price for a temporary cleaning service until Tuesday morning. Authorization to go ahead with hiring was approved by consensus.
2. A line dancing group is requesting to use the Sanctuary for their dance classes on Thursday afternoons, starting at two times a month and possibly building up to once a week for about an hour per session. They plan to use their own speakers and music, so no use of the tech room will be needed. However, there is concern about wear and tear on the floor, based on a past dance group that had used the Sanctuary and tore up the old flooring. At the mention of this, the group leader requesting the space said she could make sure everyone wears soft shoes or just socks. The group has filled out the paperwork and is awaiting a response of approval or disapproval. After discussion, it was approved to offer the group the use of the Commons, but not the Sanctuary.

Finance Team Linda

1. The Operating Budget Report shows that we had a YTD income of $323,017 as of the end of July – which is 104% of the income anticipated for this time of the year. These figures include $158,692 in general income (pledges, loose offering, building use). We have also received $164,325 in other income (which includes bequest from Bolling Nalle). Our actual YTD expenses were $230,042 – which is 128% of our anticipated YTD expense.
2. The Fund Activity Report shows Receipts of $35,535, Transfer in of previous carry-over monies of $48,917, and Disbursements of $40,098. Please check your specific accounts for any extra funds you have received or spent this year!
3. So far Trinity has received $14,978 in actual individual donations for the Massanetta Springs *Building for All* campaign. Jeannie has sent this amount, plus Trinity’s initial $10,000 pledge amount, to Clayton Rascoe. She will periodically send additional individual contributions as they accumulate, and will send our proportionate share of the challenge match at the end of the year.

See remainder of report on Session website.

Matthew 25 Nancy

See report on Session website.

Nominating Jason

See report on Session website.

Outreach Mark D.

See report on Session website.

Personnel Susie

1. Gwen Carr has accepted a full-time teaching position beginning this fall.  After much discernment, she has decided to resign effective August 31st. The Personnel Team will review the current Personnel Policy document and the job description and will offer any additions and/or corrections to the document before advertising for the position.  We are really going to miss Gwen!!!  It was suggested that we plan a recognition of her service to Trinity for the whole congregation.

Pastoral Care Patti

No report

**Sharing Joys and Concerns:** Session members shared prayer concerns and joys for members and friends of the Trinity congregation, and Stephanie led a moment of prayer.

Presbytery Meetings: Kandy

1. Future meeting dates are Tuesday, August 22 (Zoom) and November 4 (in person at Opequon in Winchester). Nancy was elected in May to be our Commissioned Ruling Elder for the August 22 meeting. Rick C. will be the alternate.

Next Meeting: Sunday, September 17, 4pm (in-person) Mary Lou will have the devotional.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Linda Bradley, Clerk of Session Stephanie Sorge, Moderator