**Trinity Presbyterian Church**

**Stated Session Meeting (Zoom)**

**April 13, 2025**

**We Assemble in God’s Name**

**Members Present:** Stephanie Sorge, Moderator; David Carothers; Stephanie Gardner; Yogi Gillette; Karla Irving; Mary Colleen Knapp; Mary Lou McMillin; Susie Phend; Ginnie Reinhold; and Bob Schminkey.

**Excused/Absent**: Linda Bradley, Clerk of Session; Amy Lemmons; Lauren Strawderman. A quorum was present.

**Also Present**: Malaya Esguerra-Johnson, Rollin Johnson, Maria Paz Esguerra, Rachel Grimsby, Tracy Stakely, Cheri Stakely, Bella Stakely, and Jennifer Sieck to be received as new members of Trinity during Order of the Day. Elliot Sieck, participant in Explorer class. Kathy Gillette to present the Clothes Closet report.

**Call to Order**: Stephanie called the meeting to order at 3:30pm with prayer. Bob Schminkey was elected to serve as Clerk *pro tem* for this meeting.

**Order of the Day- Reception of New Members**:

Malaya Esguerra-Johnson (Baptism)

Rollin Johnson (Reaffirmation of Faith)

Maria Paz Esguerra (Reaffirmation of Faith)

Rachel Grimsby (Reaffirmation of Faith)

Tracy Stakely (Letter of Transfer)

Cheri Stakely (Letter of Transfer)

Bella Stakely ((Letter of Transfer)

Jennifer Spiek (Letter of Transfer)

Those coming by Reaffirmation of Faith and Letter of Transfer were asked the constitutional questions and a motion to welcome them as members of Trinity was made and approved. Malaya was presented a Bible, and everyone was presented with a Trinity coffee mug. Malaya will be baptized on Sunday, April 20. We determined that a time to present folks to the congregation would be arranged.

**Opening Devotion:** Mary Colleen led our opening devotion**.**

**Consent Agenda**: Today’s docket, excused absences from this meeting, and the minutes from the Stated Session Meeting on March 16, 2025, were approved.

**Clothes Closet:** :Moved to here in the docket to accommodate Kathy Gillette’s schedule.

For Discussion/Input

1. The team requested thoughts about how long we need to have extra people available on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Numbers have definitely been lower this year than for the same time last year. See information in the tables below. We have not had any instances of ICE presence, although one evening recently HPD did pull into the parking lot and turn around.

It is obvious that fewer people are coming out, and we believe it is because of fear. Discussion ensued regarding having an extra person to assist people in case of a visit by ICE. We decided to stay the course and continue to have a Trinity person available if needed in a crisis. We hope we can impose on Mark Dewey to do this a couple of times.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| YEAR | # of AM  Volunteers | # of PM  Volunteers | # of Families | # of Clients | First Time  Attending | Attended Previously |
| 1/3/2024 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 12 | 1 | 4 |
| 1/10/2024 | 5 | 11 | 10 | 20 | 5 | 5 |
| 1/17/2024 | 6 | 5 | 10 | 29 | 4 | 6 |
| 1/24/2024 | 8 | CLOSED FOR | FUNERAL |  |  |  |
| 1/31/2024 | 8 | 4 | 10 | 19 | 4 | 6 |
| 2/7/2024 | 10 | 5 | 13 | 32 | 3 | 8 |
| 2/14/2024 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| 2/21/2024 | 10 | 4 | 20 | 40 | 11 | 9 |
| 2/28/2024 | 10 | 4 | 15 | 19 | 7 | 8 |
| 3/6/2024 | 10 | 4 | 10 | 14 | 4 | 6 |
| 3/13/2024 | 9 | 3 | 19 | 58 | 3 | 16 |
| 3/20/2024 | 8 | 4 | 15 | 31 | 2 | 13 |
| 3/27/2024 | 5 | 4 | 14 | 25 | 1 | 13 |
| 4/3/2024 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 22 | 1 | 8 |
| 4/6/2024 | 9 | SWITCHOVER | DAY |  |  |  |
| 4/13/2024 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 20 | 27 |  |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| YEAR | # of AM  Volunteers | # of PM  Volunteers | | | # of Families | # of Clients | First Time  Attending | Attended Previously |
| 01/01/2025 | CLOSED | FOR | HOLIDAY | | |  |  |  |
| 01/08/2025 | CLOSED | FOR | SNOW/ICE | | |  |  |  |
| 01/15/2025 | 5 | 5 | 8 | | | 14 | 5 | 3 |
| 01/22/2025 | 8 | 4 | 9 | | | 10 | 2 | 7 |
| 01/29/2025 | 69 | 4 | 9 | | | 13 | 2 | 10 |
| 02/05/2025 | 9 | 4 | 9 | | | 13 | 3 | 10 |
| 02/12/2025 | SNOW |  |  | | |  |  |  |
| 02/19/2025 | SNOW |  |  | | |  |  |  |
| 02/26/2025 | 3 | 4 | 16 | | | 23 | 6 | 10 |
| 03/05/2025 | 4 | 8 | 9 | | | 16 | 6 | 3 |
| 03/12/2025 | 7 | 3 | 15 | | | 20 | 2 | 13 |
| 03/19/2025 | 4 | 5 | 11 | | | 14 | 4 | 7 |
| 03/26/2025 | 4 | 6 | 12 | | | 15 | 1 | 11 |
| 04/02/2025 | 4 | 5 | | 7 | | 14 | 2 | 5 |
| 04/04/2025 | 3 | PREP | SWITCHOVER | | |  |  |  |
| 04/05/2025 | 14 | SWITCHOVER | DAY | | |  |  |  |

**Clerk’s Report:**

1. Communion was observed during online and in-person worship on Sunday, April 6, as previously approved. The Rev. Bill Reinhold and Ginnie Reinhold served communion as an extension of the table to one person at Bridgewater Retirement Community. The Rev. Roxana Atwood and Linda Bradley will serve communion as an extension of the table to one person in her home on April 14.
2. Phil Boucher passed away on March 18 and a celebration of his life was held at Trinity on March 23. Alta Mercer, a long-time friend of Trinity, died at Sunnyside on April 4.
3. Adam Ware and Caroline Kempfer-Ware’s infant daughter, Emily, was baptized during worship this morning, April 13.

**Finance Team**

Treasurer’s Reports

1. The Operating Budget Report shows that we had a total general income of $110,239 as of the end of March 2025 – which is approximately 171% of the general income anticipated for the year. This figure includes pledges and loose offering.  In addition, we received $5,737 in building use, interest, and undesignated memorial gifts. The Fund Activity Report shows a current balance of $175,502. Our actual expenses were $114,824 – which is 138% of our actual 2025 budgeted expense.

Our Balance Sheet at the end of March 2025 shows:

* Edward Jones Investments:
* Skip Whitmore Endowment Account $ 71,756.23
* All Non-Endowment Accounts $651,718.81
* Truist Accounts:
* Checking $ 45,893.75
* Money Market $ 5,401.93
* Total Assets as of 3/31/25          $**774,770.72**

1. 2025 Budget – Updates
2. Kim will be leaving Trinity on April 15. We agreed with the Personnel Committee recommendation that Trinity will continue to pay her through April 30 in recognition of her much appreciated service to Trinity over the last several years.
3. Stephanie will be switching her Board of Pensions plan to “member plus children”, which will also reflect a decrease in the total BoP line item.

For Action

1. Mission Endowment Procedures: The team requests Session approval of the specific procedures for implementing the new Mission Endowment that Session approved at its March meeting. This document defines the calendar dates for transitioning to a rolling three-year average of the fund balance to determine the start date and amounts to be available for identified mission and outreach projects. It also affirms the Session’s responsibility and role in administering the fund. After discussion, these procedures were **approved**.

For Information

1. The team has prepared and submitted recommendations to update offering basket procedures for the House Steward guidelines.
2. The team is pleased to report that the burn surgery for one of Haresh’s orphans took place on Tuesday and the young boy is recovering well. This surgery was supported by the $2,500 from our cash reserves that Session approved last month. Mark is continuing preliminary talks with Haresh about his needs and wishes to help support his work with the orphans so that we can continue our own discussions at future meetings.
3. The team met with Michael Swinson at our April meeting for the annual review of our Edward Jones investments. Michael didn’t recommend any specific changes at this time, noting that although we have lost a small percentage of value since the beginning of the year (1.5% in our advisory accounts and 2.4% in our other accounts), this is a smaller percentage than other similar organizations that are investing with Edward Jones. We have some CDs that will mature over the next few months and can be renewed. He stressed that diversification is the key during these uncertain financial times, and our current portfolio represents that diversification.

Next Meeting Date Thursday, May 8, 6:30pm (Zoom)

**Pastor’s Report** Stephanie

For Discussion and/or Action:

1. There was discussion around the Guidelines for House Steward. The new version will be available on the Session website for approval of a final version at the next meeting.
2. Follow-up items from the Session retreat that will be addressed during a future Session meeting

include:

1. the “cents ability” initiative (formerly 4 Cents-a-Meal)
2. Closing and Calling Sundays
3. Organizational structures, need to reinstate Nurture and Fellowship Teams, purpose of Outreach Team, role of Marks Elders, Seasonal Teams

For Information:

1. The Explorers’ Class went well. We had a total of 14 participants.
2. Stephanie has been working with other local pastors to plan for the 3rd annual ecumenical Earth Day worship on April 27 at 9:45am. She requested volunteers who would be willing to usher (pass baskets) or serve communion with her.
3. Four Signal app groups have now been set up: Advocacy- alerts for calls, letters, or other advocacy opportunities as they arise; Immediate Needs - immediate needs, including volunteering, such as transportation for VANITA; Events- community events that would be of interest; and LGBTQIA+ Support**.** The links are on the Session website, and they haven’t gotten much use. Session members are encouraged to participate.
4. So far there are no leads for Kim’s replacement. Applications are encouraged!

5) The Harrisonburg Rockingham Social Services District has invited us to participate in their ongoing work to prevent child abuse and neglect through a new project, their CarePortal ([www.careportal.org](http://www.careportal.org)). There was discussion around Child Abuse Prevention Month and the invitation to attend a meeting on April 29. Mary Lou will plan to attend on our behalf.

Calendar Dates:

1. 2025 Vacation - March 28-April 5, July 4-12, August 1-9, June 24-28 (3 office days plus my “weekend” of Friday-Saturday)
2. 2025 Continuing Education - May 5-11 and October 20-26 - Princeton both weeks

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

Misconduct and Policies Task Force

No report

Grounds for Hope Task Force Mary Lou

1. Malcolm Cameron has received estimates for the parking lot improvements. Two other estimates are being sought.

Marks Groups and House Churches

Reaching Out

No report

Sanctuary

1. The group shared a brief lament about the immigration status of our Honduran friends.

Backpack Virginia

1. The two programs are averaging 41 bags each week. Keister has been given some personal care items and there are plans to give more.

Centering Space Mary Lou

1. Centering Space hosted a Spring Refresh and Renewal Retreat on Sunday afternoon April 6. Ten people registered, along with four leaders and a community member encouraged by Kim.
2. Liz Forney led a “Second Saturday Expression: Navigating the Wilderness- Cultivating Resources for Unexpected Terrain on Saturday, April 12. The workshop offered the opportunity to explore both contemplative and creative activities as well as an introduction to the Labyrinth as a spiritual practice.
3. Yoga classes continue April 22-May 27. There is still time to register.
4. Beginning the week of May 4, we will offer an 8-week study of Andrew DeCort’s book: *Blessed Are the Others – Jesus’ Way in a Violent World* – a study of the Beatitudes. Please let Teresa Harris know if you are interested in participating in this study.

5) Trinity will have a wonderful free concert on the afternoon of the 27th!

Hearts and Hands

No report

Valley Interfaith Action

No report

Seasonal Teams

Lent/Easter Mary Lou

No report

Pentecost

1. The theme will be Summer of Surprises! The team is hard at work with the planning. For the Pentecost Offering, it was recommended that our portion (40%) will go to CWS to support their work with unaccompanied minors. Approved.

Standing Teams

Benevolences

No report

Building and Grounds Yogi

1. Church Mutual Insurance has denied our claim.
2. Bartlett Tree Service has removed several dead trees on our property, including the large dying sugar maple near the playground.

1. Fine Earth has removed or trimmed bushes and plants near the building.

Matthew 25

No report

Nominating

No report

Pastoral Care Mary Lou

1. The Pastoral Care Team took time at its April 7 meeting to express our appreciation for Kim Shank and her ministry with us at Trinity.
2. Bob Schminkey, chair of Personnel, joined us and led us through a discussion of Kim’s job description, asking us and Kim to reflect on what had worked well and what might be tweaked.
3. We signed postcards for 17 members/friends of Trinity who have birthdays in the month of April. We also sent a get-well card to Janet Slough, a member of the team who is suffering from a broken back.
4. With Kim, we reviewed members of the congregation who are home-bound, care-takers, under medical care for various conditions, and/or grieving. Members of the team agreed to check in on specific congregational members and stay in relationship with them – in the absence of a Pastoral Care Associate.
5. For Easter, we will send gift cards to our college students and remember our most home-bound members with a card and a small treat. NOTE: Echo Striebig is graduating from VCU the weekend of May 10/11.

Personnel Bob

For Action:

1. The Personnel Committee requested that the Session approve a covenant between Trinity and the Rev. Mark Dewey to serve as a Mission Partner Chaplain, beginning April 1, 2025. **Approved.**

Nurture

No report

Fellowship Mary Colleen

1. Fellowship has been talking about restocking kitchen with new or nearly new pots and pans. After discussion, it was agreed that a notice will go in the Nous asking for donations of new or nearly new kitchen equipment.

**Processing the Meeting**

The following items were identified to communicate to the congregation:

1. New Members!
2. Covenant with Mark
3. Looking for someone replace Kim!

**Sharing Joys and Concerns:**

Stephanie and others shared prayer concerns and joys for members and friends of the Trinity congregation, and Stephanie led a moment of prayer.

**Next Meeting:** Sunday, May 18 at 4:00pm at Trinity. Ginnie will have the devotional.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 5:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Bob Schminkey, Clerk of Session *pro tem* Stephanie Sorge, Moderator

Attachment:

1. Mark Dewey Mission Partner Covenant