**Trinity Presbyterian Church**

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

**October 15, 2023**

**We Assemble in God’s Name**

**Members Present:** Stephanie Sorge, Moderator; Linda Bradley, Clerk of Session; Jason Brown; Dane Byers; Rick Comstock; Mark Dewey; Mark Facknitz; Kandy Grant; Virginia Healy; Nancy Hopkins-Garriss; and Kim Shank, Associate for Pastoral Care.

**Excused/Absent**: Mary Lou McMillin, Rick Orem, Susie Phend, Patti Warner, Approved. A quorum was present.

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

**Opening Devotion**: Nancy led a devotion and meditation based on the history of Faith and Light Lourdes, that began with an Easter pilgrimage in 1981. The Harrisonburg Faith and Light group supports people with disabilities and meets on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7 at Trinity. Nancy encouraged Session members to attend and closed with the Faith and Light prayer.

**Sharing Joys and Concerns:** Stephanie and Session members shared prayer concerns and joys for members and friends of the Trinity congregation. Other pastoral concern items are contained in the Pastor’s Report on the Session website. Stephanie led a moment of prayer.

**Consent Agenda**: The docket and the minutes from the September 17, 2023 Stated Session Meeting were approved.

**Clerk’s Report:**

1. Communion was observed during online and in-person worship on Sunday, October 1, as previously approved. Communion as an extension of the table was served as previously approved as follows: The Rev. Bill Reinhold and Ginnie Reinhold served two persons at Bridgewater Retirement Community, Mary Lou and Linda served one person at the Phoenix, and Melodie and Kandy served two persons in their home.
2. Trinity member Alice Mason passed away on October 4. A service celebrating Alice’s life was held at Sunnyside on October 9.

**Pastoral Care Associate’s Report**

For Information

1. Kim has spent a busy month getting oriented to her new position! She has made numerous visits to church members in their homes and church, and at Sunnyside, the Phoenix, and Bridgewater Retirement Communities. She has attended the Pastoral Care Team, Reaching Out, and Hearts and Hands meetings, and the Thursday walking group. She has participated in Sunday worship services and made multiple calls and texts to follow up on member needs. She also attended Alice Mason’s memorial service.

Kim also shared a number of pastoral concerns that may be found in her complete report on the Session website.

**Pastor’s Report:**

For Discussion:

1. All Trinity groups (committees, House Churches, Marks Groups) should review the Time and Talent form and let Stephanie know if any changes need to be made. An updated PDF is on the Session Resources page.
2. Stephanie expressed appreciation for the meaningful conversations at last month’s Session meeting. Proposals that were tabled at that time will be discussed at our November meeting, which will be on the second Sunday, November 12, at 4pm.
3. Stephanie summarized current personnel transitions. Kim has jumped right in as Associate for Pastoral Care, and we are so grateful to have her with us. The church office is currently closed on Mondays until we are able to hire a new Church Administrator. We are currently receiving applications for that position. Once we have a new hire, Victoria will work to train that person and then she will start in her new capacity as Communications Specialist. Office coverage will then go back to five days a week, but open an hour later (10-3). If anyone knows of a qualified candidate, please send them to the listing on Indeed: <https://www.indeed.com/jobs?q=administrator&l=Harrisonburg%2C+VA&from=searchOnHP&vjk=340f5cba1c936425>.

For Information:

1. Stephanie recently participated in a roundtable discussion about anti-racism policies. We still haven’t seen much in the way of concrete suggestion here, but hopefully will soon.
2. This week Stephanie will be traveling to Fort Worth for a clergy consultation with the Presbyterian Foundation. She is flying out Tuesday and returning Friday. Kim will be available for Pastoral Care needs.

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
3. Clergy Consultation - October 17-20

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

Misconduct Policy Task Force

No report

**Marks Groups and House Churches**

Reaching Out Kim S

No report

Sanctuary Rick Orem

1. Rick Orem will serve as Sanctuary’s Session Communicator.

Hearts and Hands Linda

1. The group will hold its first meeting for this year tomorrow evening over Zoom and anticipates welcoming a new member.

Backpack Virginia.

No report

Centering Space Mary Lou

For Information:

1. Centering Space is offering a 3-week session on *Turning Tables: Hospitality and Breaking Bread* for November – Mary Lou and Teresa will lead using three chapters from Sara Covin Juengst’s *Breaking Bread: The Spiritual Significance of Food*. They have also adapted a series of weekly meditations that will go out in the Friday email, on our website, and at the beginning of our online worship.
2. Other offerings being discussed include:
3. A study of Systemic Poverty
4. NOTE: Questions have been provided for us to use with candidates. Also, there is an app that can be used to express opinions directly to elected officials.
5. Jan Richardson’s Illuminated Advent” online retreat/ December 3–27.
6. A new fall yoga class

Offering the Centering Space to JMU Students for studying during exam week

1. Luanne Austin offering another Enneagram class as part of her own work using Centering Space on Thursday evenings.
2. A Bonhoeffer study based on Home-Brewed Christianity study – to be led by Rick Comstock and Mark F. during Lent.

Clothes Closet Susie

No report

Guns to Gardens: Susie

For Information:

1. An energetic and enthusiastic G2G group continues to meet with the sub-group teams to plan for its October 22 event. The sub-group teams include Worship, Dismantling and Art, Parking, and Publicity and Allies. There are eight firearms that will have already been inspected by the Harrisonburg Police Department to clear them of any ammunition and to check serial numbers.   The police are very supportive of this event and will have a “silent” presence on the day of the event.

 A general press release will be provided to the media on October 21 on the condition it not be used until after the event.    The Team will work to engage the media one-on-one with an invitation to come to the event and to agree that news in the media will not be published/shown until after the event.  Stephanie Sorge will be listed as the primary contact person for the media.

More detailed information can be found in the G2G report on the Session website.

Turning Tables Kim

For Action:

1. Turning Tables will hold its first dinner on October 22 and requested approval to celebrate communion on that day. Approved.

Valley Interfaith Action Nancy / Rick

1. There will be a candidates’ forum at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren on October 26th. All are encouraged to attend. VIA will meet again on Dec 7 to get commitment from winners of the November 7 election. VIA is conducting a transportation survey that should be completed and returned to Nancy. It will also be put out on table next Sunday after worship.

**Seasonal Teams**

Harvest Virginia

1. A number of activities remain during the Harvest Season:

October 21 - Artists for Ukraine art show and fundraiser

October 27 - Family movie night

October 29 - Church retreat at Massanetta Springs.

ACE: Mark D.

1. Note that the Advent Season will be starting a week early, on Sunday, Nov. 26. There will be an Advent Fair to kick off the season that afternoon.

**Standing Teams**

Matthew 25 Nancy

1. Kandy facilitated a conversation for three break-out groups today to discuss the following three questions:

* What do we mean by stewardship?
* What would be visible to people about Trinity that would make them see what we believe about stewardship and to want to join with us?
* How do we live out the idea that stewardship is what we do with what God has given us?

The entire group then reconvened and shared their thoughts. Kandy will prepare a report for the November Session meeting.

1. It was exciting to have nine house church and marks groups called on September 24. Matthew 25 Team members will contact each group to see how the team might best support them in their missions.
2. The next meeting date will be December 14th at 7 PM by Zoom.

Benevolences Kandy

No report

Building and Grounds

For Information:

1. Some plumbing maintenance was completed recently.
2. The snow stoppers on the Sanctuary roof will be installed this fall.
3. Dane is working with Church Mutual to install the free water sensor they have offered.

Finance Team Linda

For Information:

1. Treasurer’s Report

The Operating Budget Report shows that we had a YTD income of $371,192 as of the end of September – which is 106%f the income anticipated for this time of the year. These figures include $206,317 in general income (pledges, loose offering, building use). We have also received $164,625 in other income YTD (which includes bequests and undesignated memorials). Our actual YTD expenses were $ 272,805 – which is 118% of our anticipated YTD expense.

The Fund Activity Report shows YTD Receipts of $44,558, Transfer In of previous carry-over monies of $48,917, and Disbursements of $45,116. Please check your specific accounts for any extra funds you have received or spent this year! Also review any remaining budget amounts for 2023 and process any expenditures as appropriate before the end of December.

1. Haresh Nag – The $1,000 wire transfer to Haresh was sent and has been received. He has shared photos of his orphans wearing their new rain gear on our Facebook site.
2. Massanetta Springs Campaign – Jeannie will send Sept-Oct Trinity donations to Clayton Rascoe at the end of October. Clayton will share his appreciation for Trinity’s participation during worship on October 22.
3. Stewardship Season – We will have an article on the stewardship campaign for the October Nous. Stewardship materials will be distributed to those attending the congregational retreat on October 29 and mailed to others by November 5. Dedication Sunday will be November 12.
4. Church Mutual Insurance – our insurance company is offering a free sensor to detect water damage. Dane Byers is following through with them.
5. Please contact the Finance Team with preliminary 2024 budget requests by November 1.
6. Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, October 26, 6:30 (Zoom)

Nominating Jason

For Action:

1. There are currently three confirmed nominees to serve as Ruling Elders for the Class of 2026: Bob Schminkey, Dave Carothers, and Amy Lemmons. A fourth nominee is anticipated shortly. The committee requested permission to hold a congregational meeting for purpose of electing elders on November 5. Approved.

Outreach Mark D.

No report

Personnel Susie

See update under Pastor’s Report.

Pastoral Care Patti

1. The team officially welcomed Kim and continued to facilitate extending the table monthly. There is a need for more volunteers. and the team will reach out to all elders and retired pastors again in January about volunteering. It will also add mid-monthly reminders through Sign-Up Genius.
2. The team discussed the need for adding more folding chairs with arms to accommodate and include everyone in all activities in the Church House. It will determine how many chairs we do have on hand and check with Building and Grounds about this request.
3. Providing mugs for welcoming new members has been a joy.
4. In November the team will send care packages and cards to college students.

Presbytery Meetings:

1. The next Presbytery meeting will be held in person at Opequon Presbyterian Church in Winchester on November 4. Mary Lou has been elected to be our Commissioned Ruling Elder, and Mark F. will be the alternate.

Processing the Meeting;

Appreciation was expressed for the meaningful discussion and ways that the Session members interact together.

Next Meeting: Sunday, November 12, 4pm. Virginia will have the devotional.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 5:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Linda Bradley, Clerk of Session Stephanie Sorge, Moderator