

**Trinity Presbyterian Church**  
**Stated Session Meeting (Zoom)**  
**December 21, 2025**

**We Assemble in God's Name**

**Members Present:** Stephanie Sorge, Moderator; Linda Bradley, Clerk of Session; David Carothers; Stephanie Gardner; Yogi Gillette; Karla Irving; Mary Colleen Knapp; Amy Lemmons; Mary Lou McMillin; Bob Schminkey, and Lauren Strawderman.

**Excused/Absent:** Susie Phend and Ginnie Reinhold. A quorum was present.

**Call to Order:** Stephanie called the meeting to order with prayer at 3:00pm.

**Opening Devotion:** Amy led the opening devotion based on a reading from Richard Rohr, "Prayer Just Happens and Sometimes You Are There", and closed with prayer.

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

**Sharing Joys and Concerns:**

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

**Clerk's Report:**

- 1) Communion was observed during online and in-person worship on Sunday, December 7, as previously approved. Rev. Bill Reinhold and Ginnie Reinhold served Communion as an extension of the table to one person at Bridgewater Retirement Community. Karla and Mark Facknitz served Communion as an extension of the table to one person in his home.
- 2) A celebration of life for Marjorie Mauck was held at Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community on December 5.

**Finance Team**

1) **Treasurer's Reports:**

The Operating Budget Report shows that we had a total general income of \$283,827 as of the end of November 2025 – which is approximately 120% of the general income anticipated for the year. This figure includes pledges and loose offering. In addition, we have received \$7,730 in building use, interest, and undesignated memorial gifts. The Fund Activity Report shows a current balance of \$187,418.34. Our actual expenses were \$358,056 – which is 113% of our actual 2025 budgeted expense.

Our Balance Sheet at the end of November 2025 shows:

Edward Jones Investments:

Whitmore Endowment Account	\$ 77,364.29
Mission/Outreach Endowment Account	\$267,497.08
All Non-Endowment Accounts	\$390,089.82

#### Truist Accounts

Checking	\$ 39,864.98
Money Market	\$ 5,598.11

<u>Total Assets as of 11/30/25</u>	<u>\$780,414.28</u>
<u>Total Liabilities as of 11/30/25</u>	<u>\$ 52,693.77</u>

## 2) For Action:

- a) The Finance Team requested approval of the draft 2026 budget. This budget includes a projected income of \$302,703 in actual and anticipated pledges, building use, and loose offering. It projects expenses in Column J totaling \$353,604, resulting in a potential shortfall of \$50,901. Comparison figures for 2025 are found in Column H.

The proposed budget reflects changes in staffing structure, 2.8% COLA increases, merit increases as appropriate, and required Board of Pensions increases. It also indicates some reduction in mission. In January, the Finance Team hopes to present a narrative budget perspective that identifies other percentages of the operating budget that also reflect Trinity's commitment to mission and outreach. After discussion, the motion was approved.

- b) The team requested approval of a \$1,000 gift to Victoria in recognition of, and appreciation for, her exceptional service during her employment at Trinity. This amount would come from cash reserves. Approved.

## For Information:

- 1) The review of our 2024 financial records is in process and expected to be completed before December 31. The report will be provided at the January Session retreat.
- 2) Trinity has received a \$5,000 grant to help support our team visiting Nabarangpur in India after Christmas. It is anticipated that additional funding from the Synod will also be available after the holidays.
- 3) The team wishes to share in confidence that, at its December meeting, it prayerfully discussed possible options to assist one church member with his current financial concerns. It also began exploring ways to support him in developing and sustaining a long-term solution to his expenses and living situation. Please know that the team will confidentially continue these discussions and hopes to provide the Session with additional information and possible recommendations at the January Session retreat. In the meantime, the team asks that the Session hold this member and his needs in prayer.
- 4) Next meeting date; Thursday, January 15, 6:30pm (Zoom)

## Pastoral Care Associate's Report

Barbara Bowman

In her brief time as pastoral care associate covering Heather's parental leave since mid-November, Barbara has been busy familiarizing herself with the congregation and the workings of Trinity. She has visited people in their homes, in the hospital, in retirement communities, at Trinity and has even enjoyed a couple lunch dates.

She is impressed with how gracious and inviting the congregation has been as she finds her way in this position. She has continued to lead two groups Heather started that meet monthly: a Grief Circle with four participants that has met twice and a Spiritual Direction Group with three participants meeting once thus far.

The Pastoral Care Team, with Mary Lou's leadership, has been instrumental in assisting her in knowing the needs of the specific congregants. The team, along with Pastor Stephanie, has been very understanding and supportive as she begins to understand the history of the congregation and relationships there within.

While she remains an active member of her own church, Parkview Mennonite, she has attended and plans to attend Trinity twice a month until this temporary position terminates January 28, 2026.

Since mid-November, she has worked between 10-15 hours per week. Her time has been fairly evenly divided among pastoral care visits, calls, emails and messages; preparation for and participation in the two pastoral care groups identified above; and keeping the weekly prayer list up to date including, at least, weekly communication with Pastor Stephanie and Mary Lou and the Pastoral Care Team.

### **Pastor's Report**

Stephanie

#### **For Discussion and/or Action:**

- 1) The Session Retreat will be held at the Virginia Cottage at Massanetta Springs on January 24, (10-4 ))
- 2) The Congregational annual meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, January 25. Approved.
- 3) Elder training was held on Sunday and Monday, December 14 and 15., including Boundary training for Donna Barber, Mark Facknitz, Lizzy Healy, and Rollin Johnson. They will be examined at our meeting in January, and ordained and installed in worship on January 25.
- 4) Lauren, Stephanie G., Dave, Bob, and Yogi volunteered to assist Stephanie as servers for communion on Christmas Eve.

#### **For Information:**

- 1) Other items on the radar (placeholders):
  - a) Structures (Google Doc for ongoing notes) -  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bzlvPHSmfgI4df\\_-UzA9aRJdnQfQiwUIV1gelm9PZFA/edit?tab=t.0](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bzlvPHSmfgI4df_-UzA9aRJdnQfQiwUIV1gelm9PZFA/edit?tab=t.0)
  - b) Do we need to re-establish standing teams for Nurture and Fellowship? (We already have a functional Fellowship Committee, although it is not established in our current structure)
  - c) Do we need an Outreach team, or is that effectively being accomplished in other places?
  - d) What are the roles of Marks Elders, and do we still need them?
  - e) What falls between the cracks within our current structures? (building a google doc for this)
  - f) [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bCMDHpn2dWlri5f\\_Ao-TSC-q6XNm9bFJyEIEPbS05yA/edit?tab=t.0](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bCMDHpn2dWlri5f_Ao-TSC-q6XNm9bFJyEIEPbS05yA/edit?tab=t.0)
  - g) Are there adjustments that need to be made to our other committees? Seasonal teams? Especially in the post-COVID reality?
- 2) Reminders of coverage for December:
  - a) December 21 - Bob
  - b) December 21 - Longest Night service - 7 pm - Lauren -

- c) December 24 (Christmas Eve service at 5pm) - Susie
- d) December 28 - Stephanie G.
- e) Session Devotional (December 21) - Amy

Calendar Dates:

- 1) 2025 Vacation - March 28-April 5, June 24-28 (3 office days plus her “weekend” of Friday-Saturday), July 4-12, August 1-9, Nov. 21-25, with the 26-28th off for Thanksgiving and her usual days off
- 1) 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

Nancy, Bob, David

No report

Grounds for Hope Task Force

Mary Lou

1) The team will meet on January 14 at 3:30pm. More information will follow.

Marks Groups and House Churches

Reaching Out

No report.

Sanctuary

Ginnie

No report

Backpack

Lauren

No report

CarePortal

Lauren

No report

Centering Space

Mary Lou

1) A nurture study on Neurodiversity will begin on January 18 and extend into February. Teresa Harris is coordinating it.

2) A retreat is being planned for Sunday afternoon: February 22 from 2:30-7:00pm. More information will be forthcoming, but save the date.

Clothes Closet

Susie

No report

### Hearts and Hands

- 1) Hearts and Hands has completed 50+ small prayer squares to be given to the children by the group traveling to the Nabarangpur Mercy House. The squares were blessed during worship this morning.

### Nabarangpur Mercy House

- 1) The group visiting Nabarangpur – Rick Comstock, Mark Facknitz, Teresa Harris, Rollin Johnson, and Stephanie Sorge – was commissioned during worship this morning. They will leave on December 26 and return on January 8.

### Valley Interfaith Action

No report

### VANITA

No report

### Seasonal Teams

#### ACE

Stephanie

No report

#### Lent/Easter

Mary Colleen

- 1) The team will meet on January 19 to start planning. More members are needed.

### Standing Teams

#### Benevolences

Amy

No report

#### Building and Grounds

Yogi

No report

#### Matthew 25

Mary Colleen

No report

#### Nominating

Stephanie G.

No report

#### Pastoral Care

Mary Lou

- 1) The team met on December 1. The team signed and sent out December birthday greetings. A new design will be worked on for the coming year. Barbara shared prayer concerns and updated the weekly list. Cards for Trinity 'shut-ins' and college students were put in the Commons for signatures on Sunday, December 7, and then sent out. The team discussed the make-up of the team for 2026. Most of the team will continue to serve. Lauren has agreed to chair the team moving forward.

#### Personnel

Bob

- 1) Bob shared the updated custodian check-list. He will review it with Yogi, then with custodians.
- 2) Bob shared a letter from Heather Ma resigning as Associate for Pastoral Care. The team recommended that we continue Heather's pay and benefits through her parental leave, ending February 14, ask Barbara Bowman to extend her employment for 6-12 months, and initiate a search for a permanent replacement. Approved. Heather's resignation will be shared with the congregation on December 28, with thanks for her many gifts and blessing her in her new calling. [Note: Since our meeting, Barbara has agreed to extend her stay on at Trinity as Associate for Pastoral Care for 6-12 months. She will not be available in February, but will assume this position beginning in March.]

#### Nurture

Susie

No report

#### Fellowship

Mary Colleen

No report

#### Outreach

No report

#### **Processing the Meeting**

- 1) The following items were identified to communicate to the congregation:
  - a) The annual congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, January 25th. The meeting will be offered in a hybrid format.
  - b) Session approval of the proposed 2026 budget and development of a narrative budget presentation.
  - c) Ordination and installation of the new class of Ruling Elders during worship on January 25.

Next Meeting: Session Retreat, Saturday, January 24, 9:30-4:00pm, at Msassanetta Springs. Bob will have the devotional.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 4:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Bradley, Clerk of Session

Stephanie Sorge, Moderator