**Trinity Presbyterian Church**

**Stated Session Meeting**

**June 23, 2019**

**We Assemble in God’s Name**

**Members Present:** Stephanie Sorge, Moderator; Linda Bradley, Clerk of Session; Dane Byers; Rick Comstock; Melodie Davis; Teresa Harris; Paul Klemt; Dawn Ruple; Frances Sale; Abby Striebig; Bill Wilson; and Rebekah Nolt, Associate for Pastoral Care.

**Absent/Excused**: Chris Carlberg; Becca Lowrance; and Michaela Brino-Dean, Youth Representative. Approved. A quorum was present.

**Call to Order:** Stephanie called the meeting to order with prayer at 3:30 pm.

**Examination and Welcome of New Members**:

We were pleased to receive four new members at this meeting:

Ginnie Reinhold comes from a family of Presbyterian ministers. She has lived in Brazil, Florida, and Virginia. After marrying her husband Bill, they also did mission work in Jamaica, Later, in Roanoke, Bill served part-time as a minister and part-time with the presbytery. Ginnie eventually was ordained as an elder and also completed mission ministry training. She and Bill have a daughter working here at RMH and two grandchildren. They also have a son and two grandchildren in Chicago. Since coming to Trinity, she and Bill have been active in Sanctuary House Church and its VANITA immigrant transportation program. She is also becoming involved in a local literacy program. Ginnie comes to Trinity by Letter of Transfer from the Elizabethtown Presbyterian Church in Elizabethtown, North Carolina.

Adrienne Pannell moved to the Valley with her husband when he began working as a graphic designer for a local firm. She had previously lived Florida and came to Harrisonburg from Philadelphia. After visiting several area churches, she felt Trinity was where she was called to be. Adrienne is already volunteering with the Clothes Closet and Elly Swecker’s Earth Day Every Day Harrisonburg 2020 project. Adrienne comes to Trinity by affirmation of faith and baptism.

Sue and Rick Orem moved to Harrisonburg from DeKalb, Illinois a year ago. Sue grew up in a Congregational church, where her family was very active, and eventually joined the United Church of Christ. Sue was attracted to Trinity because of its focus on social justice. She also found Trinity’s congregation to be very friendly and inviting. She has been active in Christian Education and Stephen Ministry and would like to be involved in a Stephen Ministry program again. Sue was an ESL teacher and also served as the director of ESL program in schools for many years. She has served on a Session and comes to Trinity by Letter of Transfer from Westminster Presbyterian Church, DeKalb, IL.

Rick Orem was raised in the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church and grew up in Minnesota. He eventually became involved in PCUSA. He trained ESLteachers for 40 years as a faculty member at Oberlin College. Rick and Sue’s daughter sings with the Valley 7 with Bryce Hayes, who invited them to attend Trinity. They found Trinity to be very similar to their last church. Rick has served as aa deacon and comes to Trinity by Letter of Transfer from Westminster Presbyterian Church, DeKalb, IL.

In response to questions from Stephanie, Ginnie, Sue, and Rick reaffirmed their profession of faith. Teresa moved, and Paul seconded, that the Session receive Ginnie, Sue, and Rick into membership at Trinity by Letter of Transfer. Approved. Teresa moved, and Dawn seconded, that the Session authorize the sacrament of baptism for Adrienne and receive her into membership at Trinity through Affirmation of Faith. Approved. All present expressed their thankfulness to God for bringing Ginnie, Rick, Sue, and Adrienne into Trinity’s family.

**Devotional:** Bill shared a devotion and prayer on diversity from *God’s Message for Each Day,* by Eugene Peterson.

**Sharing Joys and Concerns:**

1. Numerous prayer concerns and joys for members and friends of the Trinity congregation were shared. Stephanie led the Session in a moment of prayer.

**Approval of Docket**: Approved as distributed.

**Approval of Minutes**: The minutes from the Stated Session Meeting on May 19, 2019 were approved with minor edits.

**Clerk’s Report:** Linda Bradley

1. Communion was served during worship and at Dinner Church as approved on Sunday, June 2. Elders Bill Wilson and Larry Barber later served communion as an extension of the table to two persons at Bellaire and one person at home. Rev. Roxana Atwood and Elder Frances Sale served communion as an extension of the table on Monday, June 3, to one person at Sunnyside. Communion was also served on June 3 to two additional persons at Sunnyside by the Reverends Andy Sale and Jim and Roxana Atwood, as well as Elder Frances Sale.
2. Linda gave a brief report on a Rockingham County Sheriff’s Department workshop on Church Security that she attended on June 20. She will prepare a written summary of this workshop for Session review at its August meeting.
3. Elly Swecker has sent a letter requesting some start-up funding for her New Community Project, EDED 2020 Harrisonburg. Paul moved, and Dawn seconded, that Trinity provide the project with $200 in start-up funds from Session Discretionary Mission Fund. Approved.

**Pastor’s Report and Concerns:** Stephanie Sorge

Motion for Session Action:

None

For Discussion:

1. Kristen Drake, our nursery coordinator, came to speak about using the church to host an after-school program during the school year. It would likely run from 4-5:30 for 8-10 children in Grades K-5. Transportation from Keister and Spotswood Elementary Schools would be provided. She anticipated hiring two staff at $12/hour. The fee would be up to $50/week. The program would follow the city school schedule, and Kristen would carry her own insurance. We’d also need to check on our own insurance. Teresa will meet with Kristen and Mo Gallagher McLeod to discuss licensing issues. To date there has been no discussion about fees for building use with her.

Issues of space conflicts with other activities – AA, Dennis band, Clothes Closet, Kindermusic – were discussed, and it was agreed that the program would probably have to meet in two of the upstairs classrooms. Trinity still has to complete a strong safe child policy.

It was agreed that Kristin and the Session would need to agree on operational guidelines and procedures, upstairs classrooms for the location, licensing that didn’t include a religious exemption, a copy of the licensing requirements, employee background checks, a building usage fee ($50/month suggested), and a safe child policy. The timeline is very short for a fall opening, but we could hold a called meeting before or after worship to give final approval if needed.

1. Stephanie asked for feedback regarding our 10 am start time for worship. Overall, the comments were quite positive, although some concerns about the quality of nurture and the difficulties in scheduling meetings were expressed. It was agreed to continue with the 10 am start time and to look for different ways of restructuring nurture. Seasonal teams are currently talking about creative nurture opportunities.
2. Linda will present new member Quinton Callahan to the congregation on July 21.

Upcoming Dates:

1. June 30 - WILD GOOSE - something new - no worship at Trinity, but people encouraged to go to other places to worship and experience the Holy Spirit among God’s people
2. July 21 – Presentation of new member Quinton Callahan, baptism of Penelope Callahan in worship
3. 2019 Vacation - March 22-29 (Rebekah preaching 3/24); July 4-13 (using the July 4th holiday, and weekend; Bill Reinhold to preach); July 27-Aug. 3 - hymn sing?; still 1 week TBD - potentially December 13-19?
4. 2019 Continuing Education - June 9-15 - preaching conference at Princeton, October 7-13 - Montreat conference
5. Service to the Church: January 2-5, 2020 (Montreat College Conference)

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

**Seasonal Teams:**

**Pentecost**: Melodie Davis

1. Team members: Frances and Andy Sale, Jane Alberico, DeAnne Chenoweth, Karla Irving, Pat Wingo, Melodie Davis, convener.
2. Theme for Pentecost: Living the Fruits of the Spirit

Motion for Session Action:

None

For Information:

1. June 2: Benefit concert for PDA – 80 or so in attendance; raised over $3000 with wonderful music by a wide variety of musicians
2. June 5: Clothes Closet kick-off summer picnic – hot dog roast with 40-50 present including Muhlenberg volunteers, Trinity helpers, and clients.
3. June 9 – Pentecost Sunday – Joyful service with the Swahali-speaking choir including 15-20 children and youth, plus potluck. Probably 80-90 were fed by food from Africa, fried chicken, and other cultures. Andy and Frances planned and led the service with two persons from Faith Community Church. Several of the boys expressed interest in opportunities to continue drumming in connection with Trinity (either w/ Dennis Blackwell or the drumming circle.) Our two new Pentecost banners made by Amy Lemmon and Susan Phend were unveiled.
4. June 16 – Trinity Sunday, beautiful dance by Carolyn Kempfer celebrating creation; message from Stephanie on “Joining the Dance” focusing on the Trinity as Parent, Child, and Holy Spirit.
5. Video messages on Facebook from pastor are planned for summer travelers, and summer travel packs will be coming soon
6. July 7 Sermon: Daring to Hope: Bill Reinhold preaching, former executive presbyter – Melodie Davis liturgist; possible Skype connection with Andy and Frances in Ethiopia

**Marks Groups and House Churches**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

1. The benefit concert on June 2 raised $3,068 for the Pollocksville Presbyterian Church in North Carolina!

**Standing Teams:**

**Pastoral Care:** Frances Sale, Rebekah Nolt

Motion for Session Action:

None

For Information:

1. The training session last month has helped with recruiting elders to participate in extended communion.

**Building and Grounds** Paul Klemt, Dane Byers

Motion for Session Approval:

None

For Information:

1. Dane and Larry Brown met with the city fire inspector, and Larry has done a lot of required repairs – lights, fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, etc. The city official who deals with special permits also came, but he had no documentation of any approval process for the Harbor Room. However, he had found blueprints from 1983 showing our installation of the Harbor Room kitchen. Dane will check out building code requirements from 1983 and what we need to do to bring the room up to code. We must have a permit before any new guests may stay in the Harbor Room, so we will not be able to host anyone for a time. We also will need to purchase a Knox box with a master key at the Fire Department to allow them to open the building in case of an emergency.
2. The bill from Michael Plumbing and Heating for repairing the hydrant water leak is $2,350. There has been a total of $4,000 in plumbing expenses over the last two months.

**Communication and Outreach** Chris Carlberg, Melodie Davis

No report

**Finance Team** Linda Bradley, Rick Comstock

Motion for Session Action:

None

For Information:

1. Treasurer’s Report – The May Treasurer’s Report shows that we have a YTD actual income of $165,915, in comparison with a YTD anticipated income of $99,618– an additional $66,297. This large discrepancy is primarily the result of receiving a $60,000 bequest from the estate of Mary Louise Fisher. This amount has since been transferred to our cash management account. Our YTD actual expenses were $106,697, in comparison with YTD anticipated expenses of $105,560– $1,137 more than anticipated. This gives us an actual YTD positive difference of $59,217. Please contact Linda or Jeannie Klemt with any questions.
2. Linda will meet with representatives from the former Earth Care House Church on July 7 to develop suggestions for using the $10,000 bequest from the estate of Mary Louise Fisher for environmental issues. These suggestions will be presented to the Session for action at a later date.s
3. The review of our 2016, 2017, and 2018 financial records should be completed by the end of June.
4. Linda is updating the Membership module in Church Windows so that giving statements can be distributed at the end of June.
5. The Finance Team will have a retreat in August to review financial operations procedures, possible updating and new furniture for the church office, a year-round stewardship manual, and a yearly calendar of Finance Team activities.
6. The Mission Funding Task Force met again on May 26th and will have a report for the September Session meeting.

**Nominating Committee**

No report

**Personnel Committee:** Larry Barber/Stephanie Sorge

Motion for Session Action:

1. The team asked that the Session extend Rebekah Nolt’s contract through October 31. Dawn Ruple seconded the motion. Approved.

For Information:

1. The Committee is continuing to review applications for the Administrative Assistant position and two interviews are scheduled for this week. Because the Session will not meet in July, it was agreed by consensus that Larry will send a recommendation and contract for the new Administrative Assistant to the Session for electronic approval.
2. Larry is leading a small group that is working on a retirement celebration for Mary in July or August.

**Presbytery Meeting:**

1. Frances was our commissioner at the meeting on May 21 at Massanetta Springs Conference Center. She noted that individual online classes that are part of the CRE program are now open to anyone; persons don’t have to be working toward a CRE credential. It was felt that this could help in preparation for teaching some of our nurture classes.
2. The next Presbytery Meeting will be on Saturday, August 24 at the Moorefield Presbyterian Church. Rick moved, and Teresa seconded, a motion that Linda Bradley be our Ruling Elder Commissioner for this meeting. Approved.

**Processing the Meeting**:

Several Session members suggested that we look into updating our video system at the same time as we are reviewing our audio system. Stephanie noted that our anonymous donor is funding just the audio system. We would need to seek an additional source of funding to upgrade the video system.

**Next Meeting**: Sunday, August **18, (no July meeting)**, at 4 pm. (Paul will have devotions.)

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Linda Bradley, Stephanie Sorge,

Clerk of Session Moderator