

**First Presbyterian Church, Norfolk, VA**  
*Session Summary Minutes – April 22, 2013*

**The new members examined and welcomed into our church on April 22 were:**

Andrea Alvord	Anne Corso	Jeff Keeney
Chelsie Black	Tim Griffith	Victoria Morris
Felicidad Bryant	Lindsey Hemelstrand	Nancy Wick
	Scott Hemelstrand	

**After prayer, a quorum was noted with the following members present:**

Carolyn Buzek, Wynter Benda, Jim Dille, Mike Fremaux, Ron Gates, Barbara Haga, Tiffany James, Jon Mann, Jeanne Perin, Cline Reasor, Jim Slaughter, Mike Smack, Jim Gates, Valena Hoy, Jim Wood.

**Guest**

The Session welcomed Richard Short who is retiring from his position as General Presbyter of PEVA. He graciously thanked the Session and Jim Wood for the excellent help he and the church have provided to the Presbytery over the twelve years he has headed up that organization.

**Staying Focused on the Vision**

Copies of the minutes from four of the nine Goals Committees were distributed, and Jim encouraged continued leadership in the months remaining for their work.

**Treasurer's Report – Cline Reasor**

Cline's report began with informing Session that the first \$100K payment toward the principal loan for the chiller/boiler was recently made, a year earlier than it was due. The loan balance is currently about \$138K and will increase soon by \$250K because of the Nursery Remediation Project.

He then presented a comparison chart between last year's to-date Revenue and Expenses.

	March 2012	March 2013	% Change
Revenue	\$523,695.07	\$537,707.17	2.7% increase
Expenses	\$481,139.51	\$504,780.17	4.9% increase

**Preschool Update**

The Preschool FY 2013-2014 budget was presented for a first review before being voted on at the next meeting. Particulars were discussed with the bottom line of the budget being that the projected deficit is \$17,921 and includes a higher than usual discount of 7% (\$65K) in case the classes do not stay at capacity.

**2013 Stewardship Campaign Update**

- Our 2013 projection is \$1,570,550 - we are currently at \$1,502,979
- As of 4/17/13 we had \$181,661 of outstanding pledges

## Clerk Communications & Report

- As the Session members were notified in an earlier e-mail, this quarterly **PEVA stated meeting** is Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at the Community Presbyterian Church in Norfolk from 1:00 to 5:30 PM. The address is 801 Tazewell Street, Portsmouth, VA 23701.
- **Retirement reception** for Richard Short is being held Sunday, April 28, 6:00pm at FPC. RSVP online to register; the deadline is April 22. There is more information on the PEVA website.
- Jeanne read a **thank-you note** from Kathy Stine for the letter and check sent her on her retirement as Media Director.

## Consent Agenda

This month's Consent Agenda was approved, ordered by common consent.

## Pastor's Reports

### Valena -

- The second **Dunamis Training** in Nashville was this past weekend, and Valena with about 20 others from the church traveled there to participate.
- This year's **Confirmation Class** will be ready for examination in May. She proposed the following motion:

***Motion: That Session approves a Called Session Meeting on May 22, 2013 at 6:00pm for the purpose of examining FPC's 2013 Confirmation Class.***

The motion passed unanimously.

### Jim Gates -

- Jim expressed enthusiasm over the diversity of our new members, noting also the adult baptisms that are coming up on the calendar.
- In order to encourage family church attendance among youth and increase overall attendance he requested that the following changes to the Youth Ministry be made for a two month trial period:
  - Since the majority of the youth attend the 9:30 worship hour they will be encouraged to join their parents for the 9:30 worship hour. There will not be a separate youth meeting during that time slot.
  - At the 11:00 time slot the youth will gather for a brief worship time in the Old Fellowship Hall. After worship, Middle School and High School youth will gather separately for *Youth Group* -- this will replace the usual Sunday evening program.
  - Note: Small groups for youth and the Parent Partnership gatherings will not be affected by these changes.

***Motion: That Session approves the above-described changes to FPC's Youth Ministry for a trial period during July and August 2013.***

The motion passed unanimously.

## **Jim Wood –**

- Jim informed Session that a 4<sup>th</sup> family has been moved into the renovated Joy Home in Kenya.
- He noted a very successful Easter with special thanks to Diane Liedman and Luana Hugel for their excellent work decorating the church. He requested that the Clerk write them a letter of thanks.

## **New Business - Membership Roll Update**

Jim Gates reviewed the procedure, approved last year, for keeping the church's rolls current. He then distributed a list of names of members who haven't attended any worship service or made a financial contribution in two years. The procedure stipulates that such members, if they do not respond to a second letter requesting that they be kept on, will be removed from our rolls. Between now and our next meeting when a vote will be taken, Session members were asked to review the list and notify Jim of any of the individuals on the list that they feel should not be removed and why.

## **Personnel**

Barbara Haga's report consisted of the following:

- Fifteen resumes for a new Facility Director have been received and are in the process of being reviewed.
- Barbara explained the situation regarding the impact of the Affordable Care Act on FPC finances, remarking that although the calculated number of FPC employees comes to less than 50, it's close enough that Personnel is figuring our cost based on the Act covering our employees. She noted that regardless of our coverage requirement, a 13% increase in health care costs is expected for next year.
- Barbara then distributed a copy of a proposal submitted by Jim Gates for his four-month sabbatical beginning in August. By way of review, an FPC pastor is eligible for a Sabbatical after seven years of employment – Jim has been on staff as Associate Pastor for the past eight years. Following a brief discussion, the motion below was passed unanimously:

***Motion: That Session approves Jim Gates' proposed Sabbatical.***

## **Closing:**

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:15pm. After prayer concerns were brought forward, Wynter Benda closed the meeting in prayer.

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*Jeanette Perin, Clerk*

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*Rev. Jim Wood, Senior Pastor*