

First Presbyterian Church, Norfolk, VA
Session Summary Minutes – May 20, 2013

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

Tiffany	Hansen	Bill	Kluttz	Lisa	Lockett
Josh	Jenkins	Maclean	Kluttz		

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

Carolyn Buzek, Jim Dille, Mike Fremaux, Ron Gates, Barbara Haga, Tiffany James, Jon Mann, Jeanne Perin, Jim Slaughter, Mike Smack, Lloyd Taliaferro, Eunice Whitehurst, Jim Gates, Valena Hoy, Jim Wood.

Joint Meeting of Deacons and Session

Session then moved to First Hall to meet with the FPC Deacons to hear their report for the past year. The new structure, now in effect and based on response teams, is going very well and is felt to be very effective in meeting the needs of the congregation, both more thoroughly and more quickly. Grace Weedman, our Parish visitor, is a key person in this effectiveness. She makes the initial contact with one of the “on-call” deacons as she becomes aware of a need in the membership.

Guest

Ken Miller, FPC’s Minister of Administration, joined the Session Meeting as a guest and provided Session with the Treasurer’s Report in the absence of Treasurer Cline Reasor.

Staying Focused on the Vision

- Jim Gates moved up the deadline for the completed work of the Goals Committees to early August.
- Mike Fremaux, representing the Goal II Committee, *Be Shaped in the Image of Christ*, distributed a draft of a Spiritual Growth Survey developed by the committee. He asked Session members to take the survey anonymously and to offer feedback for improvement; the committee’s plan is to use it to evaluate the progress of FPC in achieving Goal II: that 26% of the worshipping membership would fall in the “Impacting” portion of the growth map.

Treasurer’s Report

- Ken reported on the church’s finances and presented a comparison chart between 2013 and last year’s to-date Revenue and Expenses.

	April 2012 YTD (18 Sundays)	April 2013 YTD (17 Sundays)	% Change
Revenue	\$730,818.24	\$692,760.10	5.2% decrease
Expenses	\$662,535.43	\$667,339.64	0.8% increase

The year-to-date spending is basically flat with last year, and we have a healthy balance of funds in our general operating account. Revenue is running a bit behind 2012, most likely due to the fact that we had one less Sunday in 2013 vs. 2012. As always, we are encouraging all committee chairs to be cautious in their spending. We will continue to monitor the church’s revenue and give further guidance at next month’s session meeting.

- **2013 Stewardship Campaign Update**
 - Our 2013 current member pledge goal is \$1,570,550 and the new member goal is \$91,004. We are currently at \$1,560,641 in total pledges.
 - Through the 2nd of May our new members have given \$14,367 which compares to \$9,143 last year.

Clerk Communications & Report

- The Digest from the April 23rd PEVA Stated meeting was distributed.

- Jeanne Perin also distributed a letter with information about the Forums being held by the PEVA Transition Team, which is tasked with selecting an Interim General Presbyterian.
- After discussion of Page Weaver and Deanna Nisbet's outstanding work with the Deacons as Moderator and Vice Moderator, respectively, it was requested that the Clerk write thank-you notes to both of them.

Consent Agenda

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

Pastor's Reports

Jim Gates –

- The Faith Statements of the four confirmands were distributed, and Session members were encouraged to attend the dinner Wednesday when the young people will be examined and welcomed into church membership.
- Jim then noted a need for a Congregational Meeting in order to vote in the new deacons, elders, and one trustee and moved that it be set for June 9 at 10:45. This was ordered by Common Consent.

Valena –

- Valena announced that our next Stated Session Meeting will be held on June 10 instead of June 17, which is the day after the Massanetta Springs Retreat weekend.
- She then introduced a new Sermon Series for the summer, *Come to the Water*, based on the Gospel of Matthew.
- Her role as "Calendar Keeper" for the church has been a busy one with the many activities going on in the church this spring.

Jim Wood –

- Jim praised the quality of activities being offered by the church and reiterated the challenges presented in coordinating the busy calendar.
- Moved and ordered by Common Consent was the approval of six new youth leaders: Andrea Alvord, Katie Dray, Joel English, Katarina Gray, Iesha Shipp, and Maggie Waite.
- Jim noted that Shirley Roberts is retiring from many years of coordinating the donation of Sunday morning flowers each week. She will be honored during an upcoming Sunday service, and Jeanne Perin will send a thank-you.

New Business

- **Preschool Budget**

After having a month to review next year's Preschool budget, Session voted yes on the following motion unanimously:

Motion: That Session approve the Preschool FY 2013-2014 Budget.

- **Proposed Change in MOPS Programming for 2013/2014**

A handout from Hunter Johnson was distributed with the details of starting a daytime MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) program, attended by the current mothers and children who can switch to day hours. The Thursday evening program will continue with those working mothers who aren't able to switch, possibly moving to Wednesday night to take advantage of that evening's childcare.

Motion: That Session approve the proposed change in MOPS programming for 2013/2014.

The motion passed unanimously.

- **Student Loans**

Barbara Haga submitted the following list of people receiving interest-free student loans recommended by the FPC Student Loan Committee, chaired by Joel English. The resulting motion for Session is below and was approved by Common Consent:

Applicant Name	Award
Aguirre, Daniel	\$4,000
Mazzola, Samantha	\$8,000
Brandt, Ann Hallsey	\$13,000
McDonald, Madison	\$5,000
Jones, Alexandra	\$5,000
Robinson, Connor	\$4,000
Total Request	\$39,000

Motion: That Session approve the above loans recommended by the Student Loan Committee.

- **Roll Removals**

The list of names for membership removal was distributed a second time and a vote was taken to send removal letters to each one on the list. There being no discussion, it was ordered by Common Consent.

Personnel – Barbara Haga

- After checking the legalities for Ken Miller’s housing allowance, Personnel passed and is submitting the following motion for Session approval. There being no discussion, it was approved by Common Consent.

Motion: The Session approve the \$22,000 of Ken Miller’s salary be designated as a housing allowance for 2013.

- Barbara then informed the Session of staff changes:
 - Gary Lennon has been hired as FPC’s new Facility Director and will begin May 28.
 - Danny Markham will be filling in for Susan Sechrist when she goes on maternity leave later this summer.
 - Mark Summer is our new Chancel Choir Bass Section Leader.

Closing:

After prayer concerns were brought forward, Carolyn Buzek closed the meeting in prayer at 8:00pm.