

**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATED SESSION MEETING – APRIL 27, 2009**

Present: Pastor Stephen Smith-Cobbs, Associate Pastor Rebecca Messman and Clerk of Session/Elder PJ Miller. **A quorum of Elders was present:** Dixon Boulware, Andy Burnham, Chris Dancy, Deb Fowler, Esther Johnson, Vernon Joyner, Gene Lucas, Barbara Mason, Tom Mawson, Jerry Nolte, Doug Reas, Donny Scholl, Tom Stangl. **Elders excused:** Teresa Dunbar, Scott Fridy, Don Fuller, Amy Litteral, Rick Montandon, James Ochoa, and Charlotte Wales. **Others present:** Deacon Rep. Stacy Cox and the Confirmation Class: Bobby Rae Allen, Matthew Conley, Jackson Dancy, Lia Fleming, Rachel Harhan, Jake Killian, Katie Kolar, Patrick McInnis, Connor Milner, Jimmy Rice and Olivia Savage. Supporting the Confirmands were Betty Eidemiller, Stephanie Kolar, Sue Rice and Patrick Harhan.

Moderator Pastor Stephen Smith-Cobbs called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. in Room #11. This was followed by introductions of the members of the Confirmation Class, Elders/Deacon, Pastors, and guests, the opening prayer and lighting of the Christ candle.

Elder Chris Dancy led the devotional.

OMNIBUS MOTION

It was moved and passed to accept/approve the following:

1. Pastor's Report

Congregational Life

- Led staff meetings at 10:30 every Tuesday.
- Led the 7:00 a.m. Thursday morning prayer services, along with Rebecca Messman.
- Met with the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee on April 26.
- Met with PJ Miller and Rebecca Messman on March 12 to plan for this month's session meeting.
- Attended a summer Sunday School planning meeting with Carroll Bastian and Rebecca Messman on March 31.
- Helped lead the confirmation class on April 5.
- Met with Ron Smith to prepare loan application paperwork to help pay for our roof replacement.
- Helped moderate the Moderator's Meeting on April 13.
- Led Chapel Time for the preschool on April 24 and 25.

Worship

- Helped coordinate delivery of Holy Communion the week before Easter to the homes of homebound TPC members. Rebecca Messman and Elder Chris Dancy went to Carolyn Sifers and Barb Barrett. Parish Associate George Forner and Elder Pat Forner went to the homes of Libby Bennett and Susan Raczkowski. The members I was to take communion to were either able to come to worship on Easter (the Hutchinsons and Michael Fudge) or wished me to come later in May (Jim and Anita Shattuck, Sr. and Mary Baker).
- Along with Rebecca Messman, officiated at the celebration of Holy Communion during worship on Maundy Thursday, April 9, and on Easter Sunday, April 12, at both the 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. services.
- Helped lead worship for the Good Friday evening service on April 10.
- Officiated at the wedding of Robert Burns and Erin Spath on April 25 at Trinity.
- Along with Rebecca Messman, officiated at the baptism of Viviana Claire Chirico on April 5 at the 11 a.m. service.
- Assisted Rebecca Messman and Christ Care Leaders Ken Ogden and Nancy Wilson in commissioning Christ Care Small Group Leaders on April 26.
- Led worship every Sunday along with Rebecca Messman.

Mission

- Attended and spoke at The Closet's 35 Anniversary Reception on April 4, representing not only Trinity, but all the churches that have had relationships with The Closet.
- Continued to serve on the Board of Directors of the Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic.

- Attended the Lunch for the Soul on April 15.
- Attended a breakfast meeting with Rebecca Messman and members of the Service and Mission Committee and Rev. Donald Marsden and Alexander Kharitonov of the Narnia Center in Russia on April 15.

Pastoral Care

- Met with members and potential new members of Trinity in their homes, at the hospital, over the phone/email and over coffee and meals for pastoral counsel and care giving, and for pre-marital sessions.
- Met with the Christ Care Leadership Team on April 6.
- Attended the funeral of member Mart Martin's mother in Bush Hill on April 8.

Presbytery

- Attended the meeting of the National Capital Presbytery March 24 and the called meeting of NCP on April 21.
- Continued my service serving as the chair of the Worship and Theology Committee of National Capital Presbytery.

2. Associate Pastor Report

Worship:

- Rejoiced in leading worship during two glorious Easter Sunday Services
- Attended the 50th Anniversary celebration on April 12th – also an incredible moment for the church
- Preached at the Maundy Thursday worship service and led a foot-washing service afterwards
- Participated in the Good Friday service
- Led worship along with Rev. Smith-Cobbs most Sundays. Preached on April 19th. Administered the Lord's Supper on April 5th
- Assisted in the baptism of Viviana Claire Chirico in worship on April 5th
- Led the Thursday morning prayer service every other Thursday in the chapel

Congregational Life:

- Intentional about prayer, reading and time of spiritual replenishment (one day solo silent retreat at Day Spring Retreat Center the Tuesday after Easter)
- Gave pastoral care to members of Trinity and people from the community in the hospital, in their homes or in my office, as well as conducting premarital counseling
- Supported the ministry of the Deacons
- Co-led and coordinated ChristCare Group Leader Training:
 - o Equipper planning meetings every other Monday
 - o Thursday training sessions from 7-9:30 pm
 - o Taste of ChristCare Events (after both services on April 26th) and ChristCare commissioning during both worship services
- Attended all committee night on April 6th, including meetings of youth advisory committee, Service and Mission, and Christian education committees
- Attended the moderator meeting on April 13th to plan for the upcoming months of programming
- Continued to teach the Confirmation Class along with Stephen Smith-Cobbs, Phil Cox, and Betty Eidemiller
- Met with the staff of Trinity every Tuesday
- Coordinated the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday (Many thanks to Yvonne Knowles and Kathy Joyner for providing "mom eyes" and logistical support)
- Attended the orientation for the Godly Play Palm Sunday workshop

Mission:

- Led “Lunch for the Soul” – our Hispanic outreach ministry (worship service and lunch) - along with Edwin Andrade every Wednesday. Averaging **60-80** day laborers every week.
 - o Full worship team in place including an incredible piano player and guitarist from Floris United Methodist, a bilingual worship leader, and a crew to setup and break-down the screen and sound system
- Led a workshop in Chambersburg, PA for Eastern Region (our synod) of Association of Pastors and Christian Educators about immigrant outreach programs
- Worked with the Youth to increase participation in missional service by supporting fund raising for WorkCamp. Many thanks to Doug Reas who coordinated the “Rent a Youth” program that raised nearly \$500.
- Continued to coordinate Work Camp and Week of Hope enrollment and planning

Youth Ministry:

- Along with the Youth Advisors, coordinated weekly programming tennis night “Love/Love,” a night about “ego” centered versus Christ centered living called “Flock and Flair” (also bringing back the famous pink flamingoes), and finally “Clue and Clueless” a night where the youth learned clues about each other’s lives while also learning about things that many people are clueless about: cancer and hunger (Thanks to Kristin Yost for sharing about Compassion Child)
- Planned the Spring Youth Retreat (with paintball) to Concord Retreat Center in Yellow Spring, West Virginia
- Participated in the bi-weekly meetings of the Youth Director Search Committee (6 applicants; 2 interviews scheduled in the coming weeks)

Presbytery:

- Continued to work with the Committee for Preparation on Ministry and the Social Justice committee
- Met with clergy colleague group
- Participated in spiritual direction under the guidance of Rev. Margee Iddings
- Attended the April 21st called meeting of National Capital Presbytery; table facilitator for the Bible Study and discussion component

3. The Clerk moves approval of the minutes of the March 23, 2009 Stated Session Meeting.

CLERK’S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk reports the following births:

Declan Connor Arnold on April 9, 2009 in Tallahassee, Florida, son of Tracy and Jerry Arnold, grandson of members Diane and Glen Bayless.

Amelia Lynn Navarro on April 8, 2009 in Fairfax, Virginia, daughter of members Amy and Mark Navarro and brother of Jack Navarro.

Sophia Rose Hayo on April 16, 2009, daughter of Suzanne and Chris Hayo, granddaughter of member Donna and Clyde Vick.

It was moved and passed to accept/approve the following membership changes:

Remove from rolls by letter of transfer (G-10.0302b.(1):

#2121 GILLEY, Mr. Brian Alan

#2140 GILLEY, Mrs. Melissa A. Strausburg (Brian) both to Vienna Presbyterian Church, Vienna Virginia

#2747 WHITE, Mr. James Nesbit

#2748 WHITE, Mrs. Maura Bayless, (James) both to Floris United Methodist Church, Herndon Virginia

Membership as of March 23, 2009 = 753 **Membership as of April 27, 2009 = 749**

DEACONS REPORT – Stacy Cox

- Information regarding Easter worship services was posted in the Washington Post Fairfax, Loudon Easterner, and Loudon Extra editions.
- There currently is a problem with uploading sermons to the Trinity website. The Community Nurture and Communications Committee will work on resolving this issue.
- The Congregational Care Committee will create a Neighborhood Ministry program proposal to present to Session in the upcoming months.
- The Social and Fellowship Committee is still concerned about the high rate of product usage (examples: 500 garbage bags used in a month and 1000 plates used in 2 weeks). Additional funds may be requested for the budget of the Deaconate. The form which groups need to complete to identify/track supply needs is now available on the Trinity website.
- Visitors and New Members committee has made improvements to the visitor table in the narthex. Greeters have been recruited for the table specifically. The visitors' booklet has been revived and is being updated. Copies of the Voice are available at the table.
- Visitors and New Members Committee will ask Session to host the Confirmation brunch on May 31st. The May deacon representative will bring a sign-up sheet for this event to the May Session meeting.
- The next Deacon's meeting is scheduled for May 12th in the Chapel.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Christian Education – Teresa Dunbar

- Registration for Trinity members has begun for Vacation Bible Camp July 27 – 31. The congregation responded favorably to requests for volunteer teachers and center leaders.
- A Teacher Appreciation Luncheon is planned for May 17 following the 11:00 worship service.
- TPC has agreed to participate in a pilot program teaching one lesson of Augsburg's new Spark curriculum to 2-year-olds through 5th graders before May 10. The Committee voted to continue with the Augsburg Witness curriculum for the 2-year-old through 5th grade classes for the 2009-2010 Sunday School year. The Committee will review other curricula for use for the 2010 – 2011 year, including Augsburg *Spark* and the revised Presbyterian *We Believe*. The 6th-7th-grade class will continue using the Presbyterian Old and New Testament Survey curriculum in alternate years. The teachers of the 9th - 12th grade class will use lessons from ThoughtfulChristian.com and will be consulted regarding whether they also wish to continue using *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum.
- Sunday school classes will make decoration/gifts for the Confirmation Class breakfast on May 31. CE Committee will provide cake for the reception following the 10:00 worship service and will purchase gifts from the congregation.
- The Godly Play session on Palm Sunday for 3-year-olds – 5th graders was a success. The Committee appreciates the Werners' leadership.
- The DISCIPLE class retreats are June 6 and June 12-13, and the recognition service for graduates is June 14 during the 11:00 service. At least one DISCIPLE I class will be offered beginning Fall 2009. A meeting is scheduled for August 16 to introduce the study to interested members of the congregation and to plan for advanced and/or beginning classes based on participant and facilitator interest.

2. Nominating – Tom Mawson

The committee will meet to fill the vacancy created with Rick Montandon's departure to Iraq, as well as consider candidates for the next class of Elders and Deacons.

3. Service and Mission - Esther Johnson

- The Service and Mission Committee regrets to inform the Session that Trinity failed its goal of tithing 10% of pledged income for 2008. We spent slightly more than 8% on mission work last year.
- The following Service and Mission requests for payment were not paid:
 - \$4500 to the Reformed University of Colombia for theological scholarships
 - \$5000 to the Haiti Education Foundation
 - \$2500 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for hurricane relief
 - \$ 500 to Alternative Gifts International
 - \$ 500 to Oakseed Ministries
 - \$ 138 to Trinity's Pastor's Discretionary Fund

\$13,138 TOTAL UNPAID MISSION

4. **Worship** – Chris Dancy

- There will be a joint meeting of the Worship Committee and the Visioning Task Force on Sunday, May 3rd, at 7:30pm, at Trinity Presbyterian, room TBD.
- In a change from the published schedule, communion will be served in the pews on May 3rd, by intinction on May 31st, and in the pews on July 5th. We will return to the published schedule in August.
- Reminder that May 24th is the start of the summer schedule with a single service starting at 10 a.m., and that May 31st is Pentecost, the traditional joining Sunday for our confirmands.
- Youth Sunday is June 7th.
- We return to the regular two-service schedule on Sept. 13th.

5. **Youth Committee** – Doug Reas

- The Youth have been busy raising money for Week of Hope and Work Camp for this summer. Doug Reas has headed up the Silent Auction assignments:
- Rent-a-Youth:
 - Trinity Youth completed four of their Rent-a-Youth projects this month:
 - Lia Fleming and Katie Kolar baked a fabulous batch of cupcakes for Yvonne Knowles.
 - Jimmy Rice, Jake & Josh Killian, and Patrick Boulware helped Stacy and Rick Montandon with lawn mowing. Special thanks to Dustin Tritt for providing mowing and trimming equipment. (We only destroyed one lawnmower, a chainsaw and a digital camera.)
 - Lia Fleming and Stephanie Williams coordinated pet sitting for Stacy and Rick's dog Holly.
 - Rachel Harhan led the way to organize a crew to help Dave and Joan Gillard with mulching.
- All in all, Trinity Youth were extremely industrious with service projects for our congregation members. We thank everyone who has generously supported Trinity Youth both financially and in their prayers. We are looking forward to our mission work this summer.
- There will be 3 meetings for those who are going to Week of Hope/Work Camp: 5/17, 5/31, and 6/14. Week of Hope has one slot open; Work Camp has several.
- Flamingo Flocking is the next fundraising activity up; starting the first week of May, flamingos will be looking for "resting places" around the Herndon/Sterling/Reston area. The information and forms are to be in the May VOICE, or you can contact Barbara Mason for more details. Posters have been made to advertise this fundraiser. Also, t-shirt design for this year's theme, "Powered by God, Driven by Faith" is moving right along.
- Adults going on the Spring Retreat met on Monday, 4/20, to coordinate drivers, programs, and

paintball. Many thanks to Joan Gillard for stepping up and going on the retreat. Female advisors were all busy doing other things (like honeymooning) that weekend.

- Jake Killian and Lia Fleming are going to do Minutes for Mission to encourage more youth to attend the retreat. The Fall Retreat at Meadowkirk has already been scheduled for Sept. 11-13, 2009.
- Steve Gillard and Nancy Willis are going to encourage members to become Youth Advisors next year, Steve on 5/10 and Nancy on 5/31. Hopefully there will be a Youth Minister in place soon.
- Also in the works is the Relay for Life team. Erin Spath is our captain this year with Pam Cox as her number one helper. The car wash fundraiser is planned for May 17th, right after the 11:00am service. It has been advertised on the Herndon Relay website, so hopefully we'll get more cars that need to be washed. Anyone can be a member of the team - it's not limited to youth. Other groups from the church can form their own teams; friends are always welcome. Our fundraising goal for this year is \$2,500.00. Anyone who would like to donate online can do so - go to herndonrelay.org, click on "View Teams," scroll down to Trinity and click. There is an icon on the right hand side of the team page that will allow donations to the team. Offline donations are also welcome.
- Jacque Scholl is working hard on the Youth Sunday program. Trinity Tribe, Junior High and Senior High youth are encouraged to participate.
- Trinity Tribe worked hard in April stuffing the Easter eggs for the Easter Sunday egg hunt as well as dying Easter eggs for the Embry Rucker Shelter

5. **Property Report** – Dixon Boulware

- Requests for proposals to replace the roof have been sent out to 25 companies. It is expected that there will be a good number of them to review.
- The Outdoor Workday is scheduled for May. There was discussion about investigating the cost of an irrigation system for the front of the Church to maintain landscape work. It was presented that a system should be fairly reasonable since there is already water and power available.

6. **Capital Campaign** – Betty Nolte

- For the first quarter of 2009 the capital campaign had interest income of \$165.81. Members contributed \$10,000 toward roof replacement.
- During the 2008 the Capital Campaign loaned operations \$20,000 due to tight cash flow. As of March 31, 2009, these funds are still owed to the Capital Campaign.
- As of March 31, 2009, the Capital Campaign had \$107,961.61 in assets including the \$20,000 due from operations. There was \$1,047.04 in checking and \$43,924.56 in a money market account. Funds held in CD's are as follows:

<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Rate</u>
September 12, 2009	27,990.01	3.25%
May 15, 2009	15,000.00	2.64%

- The funds from a CD that matured in February 2009 was deposited in the money market account, so that they would be available as needed for the pending roof repair.

7. Financial Report – Jerry Nolte/Susan Rice

Income Statement March 2009:

	<u>MTD Actuals</u>	<u>MTD Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>YTD Actuals</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Revenue	80,529.22	62,366.41	(18,162.810	183,769.62	182,696.29	(1,073.33)
Expenses	55,787.65	60,698.16	4,910.51	167,321.77	183,060.01	15,738.24
Unbudgeted Items	2,000.18	-	2,000.18	9,659.91	-	9,659.91
Net Income	26,741.75	1,668.25	25,073.50	26,107.76	(363.72)	26,471.48

Balance Sheet:

Current Assets	64,625	Liabilities:	44,865
Fixed Assets	<u>3,990,982</u>	Equity	<u>4,010,742</u>
Total	4,055,607	Total	4,055,607

Update: There should be a proposal at the May 18 Stated Session Meeting on the proposal for a bank loan to replace the roof and refurbish the wooden exterior doors.

INFORMATION

- Please sign up with Elder Chris Dancy to serve communion on May 3, May 31 or July 5, 2009.
- **Kitchen Use Task Force Report** – Pastor Smith-Cobbs expects to have the first meeting of all groups in May and will report back on progress in determining how best to move forward with insuring safety and efficiency while using the Trinity kitchen.
- **50th Anniversary Committee Report** – Pat Nobles
Trinity’s 50th Anniversary celebration got off to a good start on Sunday, April 12, with a reception featuring “birthday” cakes and distributing history booklets and cards listing the schedule of “returning” ministers and the other planned events.
Contact members of the Committee if you have any questions.

- Pastor Smith Cobbs informed Session that Rick Montandon is being deployed to Iraq. The Session accepted, with deep regret, his resignation, effective immediately.

- **Summary of the March 24, 2009 Stated Presbytery Meeting** - Doug Reas

GENERAL PRESBYTER’S REPORT—Rev. Wilson Gunn

Rev. Gunn revisited the history of one of the presbytery’s efforts several decades ago at a new emergent ministry. He suggested that a creative vision and hope for a successful future could be thwarted by lack of critical foresight. Rev. Gunn noted, in the ‘Jesus economy’ there is always a guaranteed return and nobody ever loses. Financial realities of an erroneous project during a down economy are a sober wake up call.

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL—Rev. Jeff Krehbiel

Rev. Krehbiel indicated that ideas around the new way of being presbytery such as gatherings centered in worship and theological reflection with business integrated in the meetings rather than the reverse, discerning how to take care of business in that model, and possibly fewer stated meetings and more called meetings, among other things would be considered at the May or June presbytery meeting.

MISSION COORDINATION COMMITTEE—Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill

Rev. Lawrence Hill (Warner Memorial PC) drew attention to a recent mailing on One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) that included a DVD and other supporting materials.

WORSHIP

The worship service was organized and conducted by those involved in campus ministries in the Washington, DC area, among them Rev. Holly Ulmer, Lakesha Bradshaw, Rev. Carol Merritt, and Denise May.

NCP BOARD OF DIRECTORS—Rev. Jeff Krehbiel

At the January presbytery meeting, several proposed actions recommended by the Board of Directors of NCP, Inc., related to Meadowkirk were received for first reading. On behalf of the Board, Rev. Krehbiel (Church of the Pilgrims) made a motion to postpone further action on the proposed actions on Meadowkirk. He explained that the new Council recognizes the gravity of the very complex issues regarding Meadowkirk. Council has focused its attention on the situation and has taken steps such as the creation of a special task force comprised of Elder Cindy Bolbach (First PC, Arlington), Elder Dick Eagan (Vienna PC) who serves as the liaison to the Meadowkirk Board, Rev. Carol Merritt (Western PC), and Rev. Jeff Krehbiel, to advise Council. Rev. Krehbiel also reported that a consultant has been engaged by the task force and all options are being reviewed. In light of the work and review that is being done, Rev. Krehbiel moved that a special meeting on Meadowkirk finances be called for Saturday, April 18, at 10:00 a.m., location to be determined. Following some discussion on the floor, presbytery approved the motion to call the question. Presbytery subsequently approved the motion to postpone further action until the called meeting on April 18. The Moderator gave the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

- **Summary of the April 21, 2009 Called Presbytery Meeting – Pastor Smith-Cobbs**

It was a different kind of presbytery meeting that was held on April 21. The floor of Stone Hall at National Presbyterian was full, not of the usual long tables in rows, but of round tables in the center of which was a table that was the Lord's Table with the communion elements, chalice and plates, and a baptismal bowl sitting on it. At this presbytery meeting, we were gathered around the Lord's Table instead of sitting at the foot of the Stated Clerk's table.

The purpose of the meeting was to decide how our presbytery would respond to a proposed amendment to the Book of Order that had been approved last summer by the General Assembly meeting in San Jose, California. This amendment would have stricken the "fidelity and chastity" section of G-6.0106b which prohibits the ordination of gays and lesbians. In the past, the Presbyterian Church (USA) has continually maintained the ban on the ordination of gays and lesbians, while the National Capital Presbytery has generally voted to allow the ordination of gays and lesbians usually by margins of around 60% to 40%. This issue has come up numerous times over the last several decades, in such uniform fashion that it seemed the same people got up to speak each time with the same arguments being repeated on both sides.

After the General Assembly approved the proposed amendment last summer to go to the presbyteries for a vote, our presbytery's Theology and Worship committee began to plan for a different kind of special called presbytery meeting when this amendment would be considered. This led to the design of the called meeting which basically followed the "Service for the Lord's Day" order in the Book of Common Worship (and also in our worship bulletins at Trinity). We opened with gathering around the word with prayers and the singing of hymns, then heard the word as we were led in a Bible Study of Romans 14-15 by Rev. Dr. Jack Haberer, editor of *The Presbyterian Outlook* – during which we had small group discussion at the round tables where the commissioners were seated. We then had a break for dinner which was served family style at the tables and over which those at each table discussed questions about faith such as "What is it about Jesus Christ that makes your faith come alive?" After dinner, we responded to the word with the debate and discussion of the proposed amendment, finally concluding the meeting by celebrating Holy Communion.

The vote taken by National Capital Presbytery was 222-102 in favor of the amendment, that is, in favor of removing the prohibition against gay and lesbian ordination. However, nationally, if one more presbytery votes against the amendment, the amendment will be defeated. Please see the article from

The Presbyterian Outlook that is attached in the email sending this report for more background on the issue.

Besides our pastors, Trinity was represented at this meeting by Elders Don Fuller, Jimmy Ochoa, and Tom Stangl. Elder PJ Miller had planned to attend but was unable to be present due to jury duty.

Below is a link to an article from *The Presbyterian Outlook* that summarizes well where things are nationally with regard to the proposed amendment regarding the current prohibition against the ordination of gays and lesbians in the PC (USA):

<http://www.pres-outlook.com/component/content/article/44-breaking-news/8719-fidelity-chastity-ordination-standard-remains-in-place-in-pcusa.html>

- Pastor Messman shared that she and Rev. Andrade attended the Social Justice Banquet during which the joint Hispanic outreach ministry was honored.

There being no further business, it was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. The meeting was closed with the sharing of Joys and Concerns, the Lord's Prayer and the singing of the Doxology led by Pastor Messman.

Respectfully submitted,

PJ Miller, Clerk of Session