

First Presbyterian Church of Houston
Session Agenda – February 16, 2016
6:30PM LC 181

Devotion and Prayer	Marilyn McDonald	10 min
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Omnibus

Approve Minutes of the January Session Meeting and called meeting earlier in February.
 Approve Membership Reports
 Additional Consent Motions (listed in packet)

Committee/Staff Reports

Finance Report	Chris Champion	5 min
Church/School Strategic Planning Team Report	Debbie Hanna	15 min
Building Design/MFAH Report	David Calkins	5 min

Committee/Staff Reports – Executive Session

Property Protection Team (PPT)	Bill Gutermuth	15 min
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Old Business

Restructuring Implementation and Further Study Team (8:20PM)	Bill Heston	60 min
Ministry Empowerment Team Charter and Staff Proposal – Postpone to March	Andrew Stepp	5 min

New Business

FPC Campus Open Carry Policy	Randy Wilson	5 min
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Pastor's Report

Personnel Updates	Jim Birchfield	15 min
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Clerk's Report

Strategic Planning Meeting 2/29 Monday 5:30P.M. in The Attic	David McCarty	5 min
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Prayer and Praise

(9:00PM)		10 min
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Communion and Doxology

5 min

Motion to Adjourn

~9:10pm

Important Dates:

Greater Houston Pastors Prayer Summit	February 22-23
State of the City Symposium	February 26-27
March Session Meeting	March 15
Palm Sunday	March 20
Easter	March 27
Faith and Culture Conference	April 16-17
April Session Meeting	April 19
May Session Meeting	May 17

Global Church Conference

September 23 - October 2

[illegible]

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

January 2016

NEW CHURCH MEMBERS None

DECEASED

Craig, Arthur

Hannah, David

Kendall, Jean

Flake, Muriel

DISMISSED

Ceder, Jennifer Dismissed to Matthews Memorial Presbyterian, Albany TX

REMOVED FROM ACTIVE ROLL

Bleike, Wendy her request Crosby, Linda moved to another church

MEMBERSHIP AS OF December 31, 2015 3170

Gains 0

Losses 8

MEMBERSHIP AS OF January 31, 2016 3162

Worship Services Comparison	Week 1 1/5/14	Week 2 1/12/14	Week 3 1/19/14	Week 4 1/26/14	Week 5 2/2/14
8:15 Worship	159	198	146	198	209
9:30 Worship	235	251	0*	0*	259
10:45 Worship	387	359	359	339	354
11:05 Worship	518	482	329	468	352
Total Worship Att	1299	1290	834	1005	1174

Marathon *
Comb SS attd#
738

* Comb SS
attd# 992

Superbowl

Worship Services Comparison	Week 1 1/4/15	Week 2 1/11/15	Week 3 1/18/15	Week 4 1/25/15	Week 5 2/1/15
8:15 Worship	150	135	144	145	167
9:30 Worship	231	208	145	196	202
10:45 Worship	369	414	302	377	344
11:05 Worship	388	414	344	413	346
Total Worship Att	1138	1171	935	1131	1059

Marathon

Superbowl

Worship Services Comparison	Week 1 1/3/16	Week 2 1/10/16	Week 3 1/17/16	Week 4 1/24/16	Week 5 1/31/16
8:15 Worship	159	159	153	189	204
9:30 Worship	240	214	147	218	205
10:45 Worship	326	278	309	345	333
11:05 Worship	404	500	325	420	344
Total Worship Att	1129	1151	934	1172	1086

Marathon

January 2016

Baptisms:

Infant 2
Adult 0

Weddings: 3

Member Funerals: 2

NonMbr Funerals: 1

MINUTES OF THE SESSION
THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOUSTON, TEXAS
January 19, 2016

The January Stated Meeting of the Session began at 6:30 p.m. in LC181 with a quorum present. Moderator Dr. Jim Birchfield called the meeting to order. Matt Offenbacher provided a devotional and prayer.

Attendance: See the attached Session Attendance Record for attendance to date for this year.

Omnibus

The following motions listed in the agenda were approved as a single omnibus motion without discussion:

- **Approve Minutes of the stated Session Meeting of November 17, 2015 and called meetings of December 15, 2015 and January 12, 2016.**
- **Approve Membership Reports for November, 2015 and December, 2015.**
- **Approve consent motions provided to Session in advance of the meeting:**
 - **From AC: Approval of corporate resolutions authorizing Scott Reamer, Director of Operations, to exercise the spending and investment authority of the Executive Director until the position is filled and authorized.**

Committee/Staff Reports

Finance Committee: Chris Champion, Treasurer, reported FPC in a favorable financial position ending the year with giving essentially on budget and expenses favorable by \$100K; cash is \$800K lower than one year ago, mainly due to property purchases made in the fall of 2015. Budget target base case for FY 16-17 is 7.7M, a target of 5% reduction from prior year; a stress case is being prepared at 10% reduction. The goal is for session review in April and approval of the final version in May.

Church-School Strategic Planning Team: Debbie Hannah provided a decision matrix and calendar for the documents expected to be required for the school to proceed with its expansion project. An open forum for detailed discussion of the plans and documents is scheduled for 4:30PM on the day of the next regular Session meeting, February 16.

Facilities Committee: Debbie Hannah reported:

- **The audio/lighting project in the Sanctuary is progressing;**
- **A team is to be proposed to evaluate options for parking changes to be implemented at the North Lot and/or in the Oakdale island along with a funding request made for surveys and other services.**

A motion was brought forward from new business for the convenience of the Facilities chair:

Moved, that the proposed project to replace the failed bleachers in Grand Hall be approved for immediate action to achieve implementation this summer.

The motion failed by voice vote.

MFAH Report: David Calkins reported that the operating agreement and south boundary access easement agreements are yet to be resolved.

Church Planting Team: Andrew Stepp reported that the team is continuing to listen and gather information from other church planters and planting organizations. In 2015, meetings have been held with PCUSA's 1001 New Worshipping Communities leadership and HCPN leaders. David Lee, an

experienced church planter within Christian Missionary Alliance, EPC, and ECO visited with the team this month. The team is planning to develop a report this spring for presentation to Session in May.

Denomination Relations Committee: Marilyn McDonald referred to the report in the packet on the November 21, 2015 meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant and other news from PC(USA). She requested volunteers for commissioners to be elected by Session in February. The next presbytery meeting is March 19.

A motion was made, seconded and approved for the Session to move into executive session at 7:30 pm. Session returned from executive session at 8:15 p.m.

The Ministry Empowerment Team was moved up from new business for the convenience of the guest speakers. Austin Hermann and Julie Harris presented a draft charter and staff proposal. The presentation was received gratefully, with action to be taken at an upcoming meeting.

Old Business

Sabbatical funding (postponed from November). Bill Heston reported to Session on work since the November meeting to develop a proposal for funding of pastor sabbatical leave as an amendment to the sabbatical leave policy adopted in 2015.

The pastors were excused from the room for discussion by Session, moderated by the clerk, David McCarty.

A motion was made and seconded, that Session shall provide funding for sabbatical leaves. The motion was approved by voice vote.

A motion was made and seconded, that Session shall establish a reserve for sabbatical leave funding, "The Sabbatical Leave Fund", into which general budget funds shall be placed at \$1300/year for each pastor to reach a maximum of \$9100 per pastor in reserve for future sabbatical leaves. The motion was approved by voice vote.

A motion was made and seconded, that Session adopt the amendments to the Sabbatical Leave Policy proposed by Heston (text appended to minutes). The motion was approved by voice vote.

A motion was brought by McCarty to commit the further research of alternative governance models to a team to be recruited by the Advisory Council. Seconded and approved by voice vote.

A motion was brought by AC to approve two new board members for Main Street Ministries, Dan Morris and Sean Keenan. Approved by voice vote.

A motion was brought by AC, to approve members of the Restructuring Implementation Team as Sabrina Espinoza, Dorian Benn, Don Barber, Michael Harada, Randy Schorre, Andrew Stepp, Bill Heston, with the team selecting its chair from among its members. Approved by voice vote.

Pastor's Report:

- **Pledge Sunday will be 3/6.**
- **Search continues for Director of Children and Family Ministries and a new search will begin shortly for Executive Director.**
- **Lead team day retreat on Wednesday for budget strategy.**
- **Pastors Retreat with all FPC teaching elders February 7-8 for future planning.**
- **Houston Pastors' Prayer Conference February 22-23 to pray for the city.**

- **FPC's State of the City Symposium February 26-27; Faith and Culture conference in April; Global Church Conference in October.**
- **Carrie Lelsz –syninx to be drained Tuesday at Memorial Hermann.**

Clerks Report:

- **Prayerful support of church ministries**
- **Encouragement to participate as commissioners to the presbytery.**
- **February 1 called meeting for strategic planning**

Prayer and Praise:

Following corporate prayer for the church and its neighbors, Communion was served by intinction with Rev. Andrew Stepp officiating and elder Lori Johnson assisting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m. with a prayer and the singing of the doxology.

Rev Jim Birchfield, Moderator

David McCarty, Clerk of Session

**MINUTES OF THE SESSION
THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOUSTON, TEXAS
February 1, 2016**

A called meeting of the Session began at 5:30PM in The Attic with a quorum present. Moderator Jim Birchfield called the meeting to order and led the group in prayer.

Attendance: TE's Jim Birchfield, Bill Heston, Jon Crantz, Andrew Stepp; RE's Don Barber, Dorian Benn, Chris Champion, Sabrina Espinoza, Bill Gutermuth, Michael Harada, Julie Harris, Lori Johnson, Cindy Marion, David McCarty, Marilyn McDonald, Matt Offenbach, Dan Taylor.

The following business was defined in the call:

Strategic Budget Review

Session shall act as a committee of the whole to engage in strategic planning for the year, facilitated by a consultant.

Actions of the Session:

The Session acted as a committee of the whole. Guests were given the privilege of the floor: Mary Alford, AC Member-at-Large, Jane Costello, clerk of class of 2014, and elders-elect of the Class of 2019 Cindy Cook, Brent Dorsey, John Going, Chris Herbold, George Mallory, Edet Okon. Mike Bonem was present as a consultant facilitator.

The meeting was held in executive session.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM.

Rev. Jim Birchfield, Moderator

David McCarty, Clerk of Session

Consent Motions

Moved by the Denominational Affairs Committee:

Resolved, that Session elects the following twelve ruling elders as commissioners from First Presbyterian Church Houston to the March 2016 Presbytery: Mary Alford, David Barnes, Martha Barnes, Martha Erwin, Michael Harada, Julie Harris, Scott Jenkins, Charles Lawler, David McCarty, Marilyn McDonald, Matt Offenbacher, Bev Olmstead.

Reports

FINANCE

January 13, 2015

Members Present: Chris Champion, Chris Hill, Matt Malinsky, Steve Oldham, Robert Raney, Russ Schulze, Mark Strange, Debbie Thompson

Staff Present: Jim Birchfield, Susan Aldana

Members and Staff Absent: Michael Casey, Kim Clark, Rebecca Davis

Next Meeting: February 10th at 7 a.m.

The meeting opened with prayer.

Review of Financial Results

The financial dashboard that the Committee received for December 2015 is attached.

Operating and Giving – 7 Month INT 12/31/15

In the first seven months of FY 2016, giving (as reflected in our financials) of \$4,897k was \$137k less than budgeted giving and \$966k less than giving in the first seven months of FY 2015 (primarily due to a non-recurring extraordinary gift in December 2014). However, it should be noted that \$178k of additional funds postmarked 12/31/15 arrived at the beginning of January and will be included in January's numbers. Expenses of \$4,627k were \$301k under budget (primarily attributable to personnel expense). The surplus of \$269k was larger than the budgeted surplus of \$105k.

General Fund Cash Position as of INT 12/31/15

The Church's General Fund cash position was approximately \$2.183 million as of December 31, 2015.

December Giving Review & Impact on FY 2016 Budget

Susan Aldana prepared a giving analysis comparing Fiscal YTD 12/31/15 and Calendar 2015 to the prior two years. Fiscal YTD 12/31/15 and Calendar 2015 giving include the \$178k of additional funds postmarked 12/31/15 which are not reflected in the December financials. Amounts were adjusted to remove a non-recurring extraordinary gift in December 2014. The following points were noted:

-7mos INT 12/31/15 compared to prior years: giving was \$82k more than INT 12/31/14 and \$253k less than INT 12/31/13

-Calendar 2015 compared to prior years: giving was \$64k more than Calendar 2014 and \$187k less than Calendar 2013

-Number of givers has declined but giving has increased

-Number of givers giving over \$100k is fairly consistent from year to year

Based on December's results, Committee felt that no major adjustments to our existing budget will need to be made.

Discussion of FY 2017 Budget Process

Chris Champion led a discussion regarding the start of our budgeting process for FY 2017. Chris presented a Strategic Budget Review of the 2016 Budget. Based on the current challenges facing the Houston economy, Committee felt that it would be wise to consider reducing the budget 5% but also asked for a 10% reduction case to be prepared as well. The final budget will need to be presented to Session in April 2016 in order to be approved by May 2016.

Stewardship

Jim Birchfield led the discussion. The pledge campaign will begin in the middle of February, and the anticipated date for pledge Sunday is 3/6/16. Finance Committee has offered to help support the campaign in any way possible.

Executive Director Vacancy

Jim Birchfield reported that Jennifer Boubel's last day as Executive Director will be 1/18/16. He will be visiting with church leadership regarding the position and conducting a search to fill the position.

Other Items:

-Nehemiah Center's Finance Committee will meet next week to look at its cash / borrowing needs. Goals for end of year giving were exceeded.

-A Litigation Fund Report was reviewed by Committee.

-No facilities update at this time.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 a.m. with prayer.

Robert W. Raney, III
Chair, Finance Committee

Facilities

Date: February 8, 2016

Members Present: Dorian Benn, Mark Carleton, Debbie Hanna, Henry Humphries, Dave Jacobs, Scott Reamer and Jan Whitehead (Presbyterian School)

Summary of Matters Discussed:

1. The committee reviewed the Facilities Dashboard. Discussion was held on Maintenance & Repairs relating to a sump pump that was installed in 2014 which was not invoiced to us until recently. The committee agreed that Scott should discuss with Jennifer whether this should be paid out of the current year operating budget or from some other source.
2. Debbie and Dorian updated the committee on the discussions at the January Session meeting relating to the replacement of the bleachers in the Grand Hall. Session did not feel comfortable at this time depleting the reserve funds, particularly given there is not an urgent need or high usage of the bleachers. Session was aware of the timeframe and the need to complete this

project at this time or wait at least a year for the next window of opportunity to complete the project with the least impact on the school's daily use of the gym space (most of project would be done in summer months when school is not in session).

3. Scott updated the committee on the status of the audio and lighting project in the Sanctuary. The work is progressing on the audio and some of the electrical work. The lighting fixtures will be installed after Easter.
4. Scott updated the committee on the status of the replacement of Chiller #2 which he expects to be installed the third week of February.
5. Scott discussed a preliminary facilities budget for 2016-17. He discussed some ways that he may be able to cut up to 5% of the overall facilities budget. The committee discussed ways the budget might be trimmed more than 5% and concluded that the only ways to do that would be to decrease the contribution to the building reserve, which they felt was not a good idea, or reduce the number of hours the building is open. Scott agreed to share some information on the hours the building is scheduled to be open with events scheduled.
6. The committee discussed 16 Pinedale, a house FPC recently purchased. In past meetings the committee had asked to have the property management company (Olympus Nelson) look at the house. Scott reported that Olympus Nelson felt that it would take between \$10,000 and \$15,000 to make the house ready to rent and that a rent of between \$2,500 and \$3,000 per month could be generated. The committee felt that this would be the best short-term use of the property while keeping it occupied and less prone to vandalism.
7. The committee discussed the playground renovations that the school had recently made and the need for proper usage information to be posted in a sign on the Oodle Swing. Presbyterian School committed to getting the sign made and posted.

WORSHIP

JANUARY 12, 2016

In attendance: Staff: Michael Homan, Carrie Lelsz. Laity: Angel Bales, Sheila Heinle, Mark Potter, Alan Sexton, Chris Wolfe, Sue White, chair.

Absent: Nicole Kenley, Danny Taylor, (Session Liaison).

Call to order and opening prayer, Sue White - 6:00 p.m.

Corrected and approved November 3, 2015 Worship Committee minutes for Session.

Reviewed purpose and goals of Worship Committee.

Pastor for Worship and Music, Reverend Michael Homan

Summary: 1. Good Advent season with a successful Messiah sing-Along and all Christmas Eve services taking place in the Sanctuary due to construction in Grand Hall. It was suggested that new candles will be needed for Christmas 2016.

2. Attendance numbers for each Christmas Eve service: 3:00 p.m. - 602: 5:00 p.m. - 787: 7:00 p.m. - 569: 9:00 p.m. - 477: 11:00 p.m. - 255 for a total of 2,690.

3. The committee shared thoughts and observations concerning the three Christmas services of music in the Sanctuary held on December 20, 2015. The 8:15 a.m. service used the hired orchestra to good effect, along with the Sanctuary Singers, to offer a cohesive service of music on this special music Sunday. The committee suggested that the 9:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services might have included an Advent meditation with the majority of the service taking advantage of the orchestra and Chancel Choir to celebrate the Christmas music theme.

4. The next sermon series is titled: "Faithful Living in a Changing World" with the theme being to be faithful where we are planted.
5. Lija Shaw, Mark Potter, Jon Crantz are working on recruiting more ushers and greeters for training and to make them a more integral part of the welcoming atmosphere at FPC worship services.
6. Lenten services: Ash Wednesday, Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in Sanctuary: Maundy Thursday, Thursday, March 24, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.: Good Friday, Friday, March 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
7. Carrie Lelsz reported that the 11:05 service will move to Fellowship Hall while the bleachers are being replaced. There will be a new set design for the stage, and a new flow for communion will begin January 17, 2016 to make the serving of communion go more smoothly.

Worship Committee Treasurer, Chris Wolfe

Chris reported that \$20,000.00 was spent for Advent season and Christmas Eve services which is under budget by a little over \$14,000.00.

New Business

Angel Bales reported that congregants have asked why the preaching schedule isn't made available ahead of time.

Sheila Heinle suggested that a card or pamphlet be published which is in the pew weekly and available in the Narthex and with Greeters which tells about our Sunday School classes, different services, and any other helpful information for a visitor or member.

Sending prayer, Michael Homan and Adjournment - 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue White, Worship Committee Chair, 2015-2016

WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 2, 2016

In attendance: Staff: Nicole Kenley. Laity: Angel Bales, Sheila Heinle, Mark Potter, Chris Wolfe, Sue White, chair.

Absent: Michael Homan, Carrie Lelsz, Alan Sexton, Danny Taylor, (Session Liaison).

Call to order and opening prayer, Sue White - 6:05 p.m.

Corrected, edited, then approved (electronically) January 12, 2016 Worship Committee minutes for Session.

Reviewed purpose and goals of Worship Committee.

Coordinator for Worship and Music, Nicole Kenley

Summary: 1. Lenten services preview - Ash Wednesday, February 10, will include the Sanctuary Singers with instruments. On Palm Sunday the Chancel choir will present *Requiem for Living* by Dan Forest in the Sanctuary at 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. There will be the traditional Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services in the Sanctuary at 7:30 p.m.

2. Work continues on the sound system in the Sanctuary, the work to also include lighting and painting.

3. Mark Potter pointed out that there is a tear in the carpet in the front of the pews which could cause someone to trip.

4. The Children's choir will present a musical about Jonah on Sunday, April 24, 2016.

5. Nicole reported there are two new Children's choir leaders who are part of the scholarship students from UH.

6. FPC will host the National Guild of Organists conference in June 2016.
7. The fate of the bleachers in Grand Hall remains in flux.
8. The Sanctuary Singers has three new volunteer singers.
9. Carrie Lelsz has had extensive surgery on her spinal cord and is recovering slowly. During her absence, Catie Smith is leading worship at the 11:05 service.

Worship Committee Treasurer, Chris Wolfe

Chris reported that the budget planning process is underway.

New Business

Sue White reported on her meeting with Ann Reed who is responsible for in-home communion through the Caring Ministry. While still in discussion stage, it is hoped that teams consisting of Shepherding Elders, Elders currently serving on Session, and members of Worship Committee or others who are willing to accompany an Elder might go out after communion at FPC to serve communion to our members who "sit beyond the last pew." This will provide more of our homebound members the opportunity to receive communion on a regular basis.

The committee drew up a list of events/activities/services which we would like to see listed on a card to be placed in the pew racks and which worshippers might take home for reference. This list included: 4 Sunday services with brief description. Women's ministries. Men's ministries. Family ministries. Opportunities to become more engaged. Available phone numbers of pastors, key directors and their specific assistants in order for members/visitors to be able to reach someone at church with questions or needs.

Sending prayer, Chris Wolfe and Adjournment - 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue White, Worship Committee Chair, 2015-2016

CONNECTIONS

02/14/16

Staff Present: Lija Shah

Members Present: Alicia Ten Eyck, Linda Cooper, JJ & Kelly Laning, Bonnie Miller, Robert Thomson, Callie Paterson, Nicole Bennett

Session Liaison Present: Julie Harris

Members Absent: Lori Thomson

Welcome/Call to Order

- Lija Shah opened the meeting in prayer.

Updates on Various Connections Ministries: JJ Laning lead the meeting for updates

- Visitors:
 - Visitor gifts are being passed out now to first time visitors. It was suggested that we track how many Java Pura gift cards are being used to capture how many visitors are using the visitor gifts
 - Nicole Bennett was continues to visitor form follow-up. She has been emailing, calling and even meeting with visitors. The idea is to welcome them and connect them to the Director of Connections. She will ask whether they want to be added to the E-weekly emails.

- **Greeters:** JJ and Kelly continue to manage the schedule for greeting at the doors on Sunday mornings. They will be sending an email out to recruit extra greeters for Easter Sunday. We will be doing donut holes and coffee carts again.
- **Ushers:** An usher lead team is being formed to have a leader over each service to help with communication and leadership structure.
- **New Members:**
 - The last new members class in January had 23 people attend and 25 new members joined (from this past class and this one in January)
 - The new member luncheon will be 2/21 at the Alford home.
 - The next New Members class will be run over 5 Sunday mornings from 9-10:30 on April 10th, 24th, May 1st, and May 8th. May 15th will be the joining ceremony.
 - Nicole Bennett would like to start helping with new member follow-up.
 - There will be a new member reunion luncheon on 4/24/2016 in an attempt to follow-up with new members from the past three years. The desire is that this would continue every year so that going forward we would be able to follow-up with new members every year.

New Business

- Lija has been asked to help organize volunteers for the State of the City Conference 2/26-2/27. She sent an email out to the greeters and various church members to ask for volunteers.
- Lija will be volunteering at the Mobilizing Medical Missions conference at Lakewood Church. It will give her great perspective on how a big conference is run in regards to hospitality and volunteer coordination.
- The committee was informed that the budget was sent for review with a 5% cut from last year's budget.

Meeting Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned in prayer.

Permanent Funds

February 3, 2016

Staff present: Bill Heston, Susan Aldana, Nancy Purcell

Members present: Sharon Henry, Becca Herbold, Daniel Knight, Susan Miclette and Bill Marshall

Members absent: Martha Barnes, John Goodgame, John Going, Betty Hundley and Session Liaison Randy Wilson

Guest: John C. Furlow, Jr., Executive VP & COO – Texas Presbyterian Foundation (TPF)

Items discussed:

1. John Furlow presented TPF's annual report of FPC's endowment funds' performance for the calendar year ending December 31, 2015
2. Spend rate – Permanent Funds will make recommendation to Session for the next fiscal year regarding endowment spend rate
3. Status of Glueck/Land property sale (estate gift)

Chair: Susan Miclette

Next meeting: Monday, March 7, 5:30 p.m., FH 251

Denominational Affairs Report for February 16, 2016, FPC Session Meeting

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery of the New Covenant is Saturday, March 19, 2016, at First Presbyterian Church in Conroe, Texas.

Moved by the Denominational Affairs Committee:

Resolved, that Session elects the following twelve ruling elders as commissioners from First Presbyterian Church Houston to the March 2016 Presbytery: Mary Alford, David Barnes, Martha Barnes, Martha Erwin, Michael Harada, Julie Harris, Scott Jenkins, Charles Lawler, David McCarty, Marilyn McDonald, Matt Offenbacher, Bev Olmstead.

Further resolved, that the following two alternates in case of absence of commissioners are approved: Evelyn Smith and Jane Costello

Our Ongoing Mission: Compelled by the love of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we carry the gospel to Houston and to the world.

Our Vision: We are a gospel-centered church seeking to encourage, equip, empower and deploy outwardly-focused disciples who desire to share the good news of Jesus Christ wherever God sends them. We do that as we **gather** together to worship, pray, learn, encourage, and celebrate; as we **grow** into maturity as followers of Jesus Christ through biblical teaching and small group studies; and as we **go** into the world to share the gospel as individuals in our circles of influence and as a body in Houston and beyond.

Our dream is that over the next 10 years (**2024**) FPC will equip 100% of our membership to minister in their circles of influence, plant 10 new churches, equip and send 100 church planters, leaders and missionaries to transform their communities, and invest \$10 million in new funding for new church plants and support new and existing local and global mission opportunities.

Our Focus Statement: Mobilizing missionaries to transform their worlds for Christ.

Our Core Values: At First Pres we (are) ...

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2016

The Advisory Council of First Presbyterian Church of Houston met on February 9, 2016 in the Pastor's Office at 7:30AM. In attendance were David McCarty, Bill Gutermuth, David Calkins, Mary Alford, Chris Champion, Bill Heston, and Jim Birchfield.

Champion opened with a devotional and prayer.

FINANCE: Champion reported giving in January was strongly above budget, in line with last year; a good sign after strong end of year, praise God. Birchfield reported that FY 16-17 budget scenarios are being developed for 5% and 10% reduction in budget, while increasing the emphasis on missions, outward, forward in Vision 2020, following the consensus reached in the January 12 called Session meeting; target timing is to present a draft to Finance Committee in March, a first review by Session in April, and the final version for approval in May.

PPT: AC received a report from the PPT in closed session.

STRATEGIC PLANNING: The called meeting for 2/29 should be the last session on this topic.

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE SOFTWARE PROJECT: The team has strong leadership from Tim Cornelson; one of the two primary options is being piloted; a demonstration is to be set up on this favored solution; budget is being updated for Session approval.

PS/CHURCH TASK FORCE:

- There will be an optional pre-meeting for all Session members led by the task force starting 4:30PM before Session on February 16 for a deeper dive into the PS/FPC relationship. The proposals around the school building project are complex, so this time is intended to bring the Session up to speed for good decision making going forward. Members of Session are strongly encouraged to attend.
- Calkins stated that he would have a building design update as a report for the February session meeting.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: There was no business for the Personnel Committee at this time. Jennifer Boubel was rehired as executive director, with some changes in emphasis in the new job description; the search for the children and families ministry director is progressing with vetting of a short list in progress; replacements for the director of HR and director of evangelism are on hold pending budget discussion – evaluating alternatives.

SESSION AGENDA DISCUSSION: The following issues are on the table for Session and scheduled as follows:

- Ministry Empowerment Team charter and staff proposal – approval (reviewed in January) – February
- Human Sexuality and Marriage Theology Team Updated Report – March
- Concealed Carry/Open Carry Policy – February
- Worship Task Force Report – action (reviewed in October) – February
- Long-term Strategic Planning (follow up to February 1 called meeting) – February 29 called meeting (5:30PM)

PASTOR'S UPDATE: Birchfield's health in fair shape; draft goals for 2016 were reviewed.

CLERK'S UPDATE:

- Ruling elder training for the Class of 2019 will begin February 14.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed in prayer by Champion and adjourned at 11:00AM.

Respectfully submitted,

David McCarty, Clerk of Session 2016