



SESSION MINUTES

MODERATOR: TIM MCCONNELL

Present: Rev. Dave Steane, Randy Case, Lindy Keffer, Mark Albers, Kris Bauman, Bill Rhea, Rev. Dr. Tim McConnell, Elizabeth Roth, Mike Hodges, Mary Frieg, Pam Moore, Dorothy Alvarez, Dave Dillard, Kappy Stewart, Kirk Cherry, Rev. Greg Hartnett, Rev. Dr. John Goodale, Wendy Buckler, Ken Laura, Bonnie Ortivez, Scott Berry, John Moe.

Excused: Susan Pattee, Shelly Busby, Megan Nilsen

Guest: Marnie Crumpler, Mark Crumpler, Mark Patterson, Chris Divitro, Dave Dillard moved to approve these guests to be present, with voice but no vote. Kirk Cherry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PART ONE: BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER TIME

Tim McConnell – Taught on Luke 3:15-23. Reviewed the book *Formed to Lead* by Jason Jensen. Christian influence is defined as seeking to move people from where they are to where they need to be – where Jesus wants them to be. You might say that the more people you influence the better the leadership, but that is not necessarily true. Healthy leadership of a few can be better than an unhealthy leadership of many. Jesus submits to humility by being baptized in this passage, no words were spoken to him. He was obedient to the will of the Father. A question to ask in leadership – is where are you leading from? God declares three things – You are my Son (identity), You are loved, and delight in Jesus. This is before Jesus has done anything. Jesus leadership shows faithfulness in the father, and everything he does is right on time. He is leading from a place of identity, beloved-ness and delight – which allows him to do what needs to be done.

Prayer Requests- Susan Stevens

PART TWO: FLOURISH INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY (FIT)

Mark Patterson talked about what Flourish Institute of Theology is about and handing the church to the next generation. They are doing things differently than other seminaries. We are in the 21st century and some seminaries are still working off things designed in the 1920s and 30s. We looked at our world and said we have to prepare for ministries in today's world.

Chris Divitro explained the programs that they offer. They also offer a lay leader program and certificate that is 13 classes that is the start of the MA program. Elders are welcome to come by and sit in during class and talk to the students.



PART THREE: DISCERNMENT AND DECISION TIME

Dave Steane

1. Omnibus Motion – To approve written reports.
 - a. Clerk's Reports and Minutes
 - b. Treasurer's Report
 - c. Ministry Team Notes

Motion to approve Omnibus motion as presented. The motion was seconded. Motion Carried.

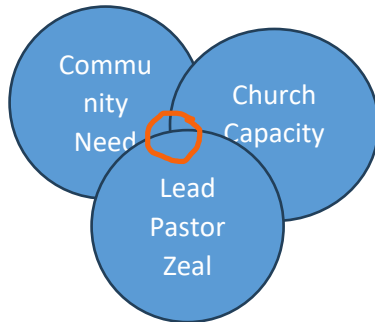
2. New Business
 - a. SYNOD Meeting Commissioners
 - i. Wendy Buckler, Dorothy Alvarez, Susan Pattee, Mike Hodges, Randy Case, Pam Moore.
Ken Laura moved to approve these names as Synod commissioners. The motion was seconded by Bonnie Ortivez. Motion carried.
 - b. First Pres Forward – The FPF plan has been approved and in the process of being implemented. We have uploaded a progress bar on the website which explains where things are and the progress that is being made. Of the 18 initiatives, 5 have been completed, a number of them are in progress, and a small number of them will continue to be worked on.
 - c. Policies & Procedures, Bylaws Updating Plan – A year ago we were moving toward a new policy and procedure manual that was being updated for our new session model. We paused because we started moving forward on First Pres Forward. Since that is done, we are going to start moving on that manual again. We formed a task force to include – Mike Hodges, Kathy Freyschlag, Bonnie Cherry, Gary Shugart. The bylaws don't currently reflect our model. Dave would like to get these updated and approved according to the new structure before concludes his time at First Pres. Nationally recognized attorney, Frank Sommerville, has been secured for this project and it will cost approximately \$3,000. We will bring these updated bylaws to the next congregational meeting, as bylaws need to be voted on the congregation.
3. Nova Church Report – The giving is up, the congregation is now at 100 people, so they are seeing growth, and it has been very encouraging to here.



4. New Member Class – seven members. Dave Dillard moved to accept the seven members. Pam Moore seconded the acceptance of the seven new members. Motion carried.

PART FOUR: Visioning -- Café 225 2.0

Vision Impact Profile (Venn Diagram) –



What is First Pres Famous For?

WAS

Hard place to work
Risk Taking in Ministry
Leader with Woman in Ministry
ESM
Adult/Kids Sunday School
Christ
Get Set
Music Production – Christmas Joy
Recreational Min
Sunday Breakfast
Singles Ministry
Active Kitchen
Café 225
SRM Social Enterprise
Women/Men Business Luncheon
Grilled Cheese Outreach
Co-Dependency Workshop
Greif Workshop
Big Blue
AA/Al-Anon

WILL BE (2035)

Best Christian Workplace
RTB
Faithful Preaching
Deep Discipleship Relationship
Widespread Deep relationship with

Good Conversation Hosts
Every Member Ministry
Deep Community Impact/Outreach
Ubiquitous
Conversion & Baptisms
Authenticity
Intergenerational
Mentoring/Discipleship
Diversity
Vibrant Worship
International Involvement
Welcome to Young Adults/Families
Mental Health
Anti-nihilism (Identity & Purpose)



Evangelical
Christen Life Conference
Global Mission
Kingdom-Minded Church

Good Friday Ecumenical
Church Festival
Snooty
Country Club Church

Cruise Ship
Broadmoor Downtown
Good Preaching
Locked Down
Homeless Ministry
Simply Christmas
Not Diverse
Older Congregation
Few Adult Baptism
Positive City Reputation
Decaf Coffee only

Over the next twelve months what are we doing to reach these things/applying resources?

Prayer – Spirit Led
Deep Connection
Following Him
Unleash the Laity (Eph 4)– Commissioning/sending
Call to Action within Ministry
Discipleship

Tim would love to explore getting 225 back up off the ground where we could platform Mental Health, and community impact. We are going to work with our facilities team to see about getting this up and running.

CLOSING PRAYER AND DOXOLOGY

Upcoming Dates:



FIRST PRES

Session Minutes | First Presbyterian Church
September 16, 2025 6:15 p.m.

- Next Session Meeting: October 21, 2025
- Next Sermon Series: How to Get What you Want (September 14-October 26)
- Communion Dates: October 5 (World Communion), December 7, December 24, January 4
- ECO National Gathering – February 2-5, 2026