



FIRST PRES

Session Meeting
April 15, 2025 – 6:30pm
Acting Moderator: Dave Steane

Present: Rev. Dave Steane, Rev. Greg Hartnett, Randy Case, Lindy Keffer, Dorothy Alvarez, Mark Albers, Dave Dillard, Megan Nilsen, Susan Pattee, Kris Bauman, Kirk Cherry, Pam Moore, Bonnie Ortivez, Ken Laura, John Moe, Rev. Dr. John Goodale, Wendy Buckler, Bill Rhea, Scott Berry, Shelly Busby, Rev. Michael Thornton

Excused: Rev. Dr. Tim McConnell, Elizabeth Roth, Mike Hodges, Mary Frieg, Bryan Frame, Kappy Stewart

Guest Observers: Dave Lewis, Rich Boyle, Ray Wallander, Carol Wallander

1. Call to Order Dave Steane
 - a. Guests introduced. Session acknowledged their welcomed presence without voice or vote.
2. Roll Call and Quorum Susan Pattee
3. Devotional & Opening Prayer: Isaiah 43 Dorothy Alvarez
4. Robert's Rules of Order Primer Dave Steane
 - a. pp. 31-32 of Session Packet – Robert's Rules Cheat Sheet
 - b. Per ECO Constitution 1.0602 "Meetings of the Session," Robert's Rules is our standard governing procedure.
 - c. Discussion affirming the value of this tool.
5. Session Officers Dave Steane
 - a. **Move to Approve Omnibus Motion # 1**
 - i. *"Omnibus" is a collection of non-controversial items to be voted on as a slate.*
 - ii. **Seconded** - Discussion around duties of the Clerk. - **Motion carried.**
6. Reports Susan Pattee
 - a. Clerks Reports and Minutes Randy Case
 - i. Discussion about the future format of Minutes and the current lack of alignment with Robert's Rules directives. Clerk, Moderator, and Executive Pastor will continue work on this.
 - b. Treasurer's Report

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- i. Review of Financial Report (p. 30) and Finance/Stewardship Team Report (p. 20).
 - ii. Two significant designated gifts being considered for capital projects (elevators & sanctuary doors).
 - iii. Still replenishing reserve and maintaining zero debt.
 - c. Review of Ministry Team Notes
 - i. *Facilities Team* additional note – HVAC is out in the sanctuary because of squirrels. Additional HVAC improvements throughout the building being considered. ~\$600k Complex process with state requirements/audit/etc. HVAC has been hindering ministry in recent years (unusable spaces).
 - d. Kris Bauman - Motion to approve the reception of the reports and March 2025 Session Minutes – Seconded - Motion carried.
7. New Elder Testimonies
- a. Scott Berry
 - b. Wendy Buckler
 - c. John Moe
 - d. Bill Rhea
 - e. Dorothy – Motion to pray for incoming elders – Dave Dillard prayer
8. Session Structure & Elder Ministry Team Assignments
- a. Move to approve Omnibus Motion #2 (Session Packet p. 82) Dave Steane
 - i. *We can pull apart the omnibus motion if anyone is uncomfortable with the slate.*
 - ii. Lindy Keffer called for a splitting up of #3 and #4.
 - b. Motion #4: to approve Ministry Team elder assignments and Trustee designation for the 2025-6 term as listed on p. 82 of Session Packet – Seconded – Discussion about the role of Trustees per First Pres bylaws and the Facilities/IT and Finance/Stewardship teams working more closely together.
 - c. Tabling the #4 discussion until #3 is solved.
 - d. Motion #3 - Approve the elimination of the Invitation & Engagement Ministry Team from the Session Model and assimilate the major components into Discipleship, Worship & Production and the Executive Office. –
 - i. Discussion around who champions the strategies behind these areas and the front end of the discipleship pathway, specifically around “CRM” and guest engagement/Next Steps. What gets dropped if we move this direction? What got dropped with



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Jennifer's departure that needs to get picked up? What never has been picked up?

- e. Moved #3/#4 back to omnibus motion #2 - **Move to approve Omnibus Motion #2 – Seconded – Motion Carried**
- f. Dave Steane - Motion to form an ad hoc committee comprised of relevant voices (Discipleship, Comms, HR, Tech, Family, Worship, etc.) to solve I&E issues including: *CRM strategy, Sun AM parking/greeters/ushers, life safety, prayer team, front desk, name/data capture, Comms plan & drip campaigns following data capture, Discover First Pres, Membership, wayfinding for “new here,” etc.*
 - i. Dave Steane as Moderator of Committee PLUS Randy, Lindy, Bill, Susan, Wendy & additional voices to be assigned by Dave.
 - ii. **Seconded – Motion Carried**

9. First Pres Forward Update

Kris Bauman

- a. Mission Central is active. We still have ministry teams digging into the initiatives, brainstorming, etc. Still waiting for more engagement so the team can bring everything together into one overarching plan with assignments, timelines, etc. Next FPF team meeting Apr 23rd. --- Moving towards to a handoff to Session teams and congregational presentation.
- b. Many around the table are sensing a real sense of urgency as the congregation has been waiting a long time for results. Possible need for FPF or Session to call a “First Pres Forward” Townhall/update. FPF to pick this up on the 23rd to direct the next steps.
- c. We are anticipating a FPF communication from Tim McConnell in the coming week. (*Correction: Congregational update will follow the April 23rd First Pres Forward Meeting*)
- d. Randy – **Motion to see a “First Pres Forward Update” Town Hall meeting by May 15th – Seconded – Motion Carries.**

10. New Business

a. Cuba Partnership

Dorothy Alvarez

- i. We have been in partnership with First Pres Havana for decades. This has been a beloved partnership, however the pastoral leadership has changed and the new pastor is no longer interested in a partnership. An attempt to engage with another church would put a burden (government scrutiny/target) on that congregation.
- ii. Moving towards closing this partnership with deep sadness.
- b. Bill Rhea – Motion distributed by paper (*Change the location of Session and advertise Session meeting dates/times/location with specific language around how attendees might engage*)

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- i. Discussion around language.
- ii. Bill - Call to Question
 - 1. 11 “yes” and 8 “no” – Call to Question Fails
- iii. Dave Dillard – Motion to refer this motion to the Communications Team with Bill Rhea as a consultant. – Seconded
 - 1. Amended: “...Bill Rhea, and Session Moderator as consultants.”
 - a. Motion Carried

11. Old Business

- a. Motion to Record Session Meetings
 - i. Tabled until May meeting.

Dave Steane

12. Close in Prayer - 9:31 P.M.

Dave Steane

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