

**Session Meeting Minutes**  
**First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio**  
**Approved at the February 10, 2025 Session Meeting**

Officers' dinner program:

The Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller described the foundational aspects of our new strategic plan, *The Next10*.

Session meeting: All elders were present. Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller, Jr., Moderator, was the only pastor-member present.

Staff members present: Hank Cherry, Tom Dooling, Hector Flores, Janet Slayden, Sheila Figueroa, Pam Ray. A number of Covenant Partners attended.

- I. Call to Order in Covenant Hall at 7:15 p.m. Bob Fuller
- II. Opening Prayer Bob Fuller
- III. Approval of the Agenda Nancy Cross  
The agenda was approved with slight changes. Ben McCaleb asked for next month's agenda to include a report on the Session's previous referral to Personnel.
- IV. Clerk's Report Nancy Cross
  - A. Consent Docket  
The consent docket was approved.
  - B. Communications  
There were no communications received.
  - C. At the suggestion of Kim Smith, the Session drew names from a bag in order to pray for an individual elder this month.
- V. Moderator's Report Bob Fuller
  - A. The "public" phase of our strategic plan, *The Next10*, has begun.
  - B. The Confirmands sat together in Traditional Worship this past Sunday. Bob enjoyed observing them engage in worship and encouraged us to look for ways to connect people to the Word of God.
  - C. The "Z Talks" with Rev. Dr. Richard Gibbons of FPC Greenville, SC, guest preacher and lecturer, are February 7-8<sup>th</sup>. Bob encouraged everyone to attend the Friday night dinner, Saturday morning time for the Session with Dr. Gibbons, and Sunday worship.

- D. Rev. Dr. John Kaiser and Rev. Dr. Paul Kacsur are now at work, as is Lindsay Selli in her new position of Director of Missions.
  - E. The Session was reminded of the upcoming ECO National Gathering, January 27-29 at Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas.
  - F. The Session was reminded of the upcoming Session Retreat February 28 and March 1.
- VI. Strategic Planning Activation Team Reports Pam Ray and Morris Camp
- A. Pam reminded the Session that they had received the document on progress monitoring and next steps.
  - B. New pastoral positions—Pam met with the Personnel Committee and conferred on the process of receiving input, developing job descriptions, and receiving approvals.
  - C. Leadership alignment—the team has identified resources from ECO and is in process of gaining access and sharing information.
  - D. Discipleship—Pam and Morris met with the Adult Ed and Discipleship Committee. A discipleship pilot is underway in Men's Ministry and will be expanded to include women's groups. The Outreach Team has helpful perspectives on discipleship as a transformational way of life.
  - E. Unity in worship—January 26. Bob has worked on the liturgy and order of worship. Publicity is ongoing.
  - F. Pam offered “shout outs” in gratitude for several elders with recent significant contributions to the church’s ministry: Lynn Thompson, Adam Sharpe, and Martha Maynard.
  - G. The Session, at Pam’s direction, prayed with one another, in pairs of those usually attending the Modern Service and those usually attending the Traditional Service. We shared our hopes and desires for this unified worship.
  - H. Morris reported that we are getting close with a candidate for the Executive Director position. A called meeting of the Session will likely be required. Morris described the process and timeline followed.
- VII. Committee Reports
- A. Property Committee Allen Casey
    - 1. The church has closed on the Braun property.
    - 2. Allen referred to a handout on our tables, showing location of several parking lots across McCullough from the church. These lots are owned by Grace Lutheran, and FPC has an opportunity to make an offer on them all. The Property Committee asked to gauge our interest in pursuing these properties. After discussion, the following motion was brought by Trebes Sasser, seconded by Charlotte Milner: **That the Session approve authorization for the Property Committee to pursue a contract at not more than [redacted] per square foot on the three Grace Lutheran parking lots and bring it to the next meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

3. Members of the Session voiced a desire to hear from the Foundation soon.

B. Zbinden Study Center Committee

David West

A gift was received by the Zbinden Study Center. In accordance with the donor's wishes, it will be invested with the FPC Foundation. David made the following motion on behalf of the committee: **That the funds received from the donor be transferred to the FPC Foundation to invest, per the donor's instructions. Passed unanimously.**

C. Stewardship and Finance

Bill Sirakos

1. Bill made a motion on behalf of the committee: **Move to approve the final November 2024 financials. Approved unanimously.**

2. Bill reported on the 2024 year-end financials.

a. A stock gift of \$31,000 was not included in the December preliminary financials.

b. Overall 2024 deficit, accounting for incoming gifts, hirings that did not occur, and spending controls, is about \$250,000. It was the consensus of the Session that the Session's preference would be to fund the 2024 deficit from the Operating Reserve as opposed to reducing Benevolences to make up the shortfall. It was noted that Benevolences at 20% of giving is the Session's policy.

c. The Session discussed overall financial and budgeting strategy, as well as trends in giving and pledging.

d. The historic tax credit sale will produce about \$205,000 in 2025 revenues.

e. Bill shared information about the budget process and the decisions Stewardship and Finance and the Session will be making soon.

f. **Bill made a motion: that the Session ask the FPC Foundation to reimburse FPC's unrestricted fund for the purchase of the Braun property. Seconded by Ed Moore, the motion passed unanimously.**

VIII. The meeting was adjourned with prayer offered by the Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nancy Scott Cross

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Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller, Jr.

Clerk of Session

Moderator