



FIRST PRES

Session Meeting
June 17, 2025 – 6:15 pm

Present: Rev. Dave Steane, Randy Case, Lindy Keffer, Mark Albers, Susan Pattee, Kris Bauman, Bonnie Ortivez, John Moe, Wendy Buckler, Bill Rhea, Shelly Busby, Rev. Dr. Tim McConnell, Elizabeth Roth, Mike Hodges, Mary Frieg, Megan Nilsen, Ken Laura, Pam Moore, Dorothy Alvarez

Excused: Dave Dillard, Kappy Stewart, Bryan Frame, Kirk Cherry, Scott Berry, Rev. Greg Hartnett, Rev. Dr. John Goodale, Rev. Michael Thornton

Guest Observers, Rich Boyle, Ray Wallander, Carol Wallander, Dave Lewis, Joe Dionisio, Mary Kubita

PART ONE: BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER

1. Matthew 28: 16-20 – The Great Commission – the first gathering of the church was worship. What did that look like? Discussion of what it might look like. Were people doubting or how does that look? The primary command that Jesus makes is to make disciples. Make disciples by going, baptizing and teaching. When you are baptized you are identified with Christ, entry into the church, reaching people who are lost and seeing them give themselves to Christ. The disciples are to be teaching to obey. It isn't just what do you know but what you will submit to in knowing Jesus. "You" is not a singular You but a plural word. And they move out in the authority of Christ.
2. Prayer Request and Gather with Prayer.

PART TWO: POLICY AND GOVERNANCE MOMENT

1. Church Governance Models
 - a. Episcopal – Hierarchical Form. Authority flows from top down.
 - b. Congregational – Emphasizes the autonomy of the local church. Congregational voting model – bottom up.
 - c. Presbyterian – Leadership through elected elders. Authority is made collectively through council of elders – both bottom up (elections) and from top down (higher governing bodies).
 - d. What the congregation has responsibility to do - Electing Elders, Deacons, trustees, pastor/associating, nominating committee, calling of pastor to serve or dissolve call, buying mortgaging, transfer or selling property, dismissing the congregation from one presbytery to another within ECO,

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- approving amendments to governing documents, authorizing assisting pastors to be part of session with voice and vote.
- e. What the session has responsibility for – keeping the church accountable for the mission, sacraments are rightly administered, ensure we have a disciple making ministry, elect commissioner to presbytery meetings, role of covenant partners, adopts the annual budget, financial review and published to the congregation, evaluate the congregation's mission and ministry to the presbytery.
 - f. Discussion

PART THREE: DISCERNMENT AND DECISION TIME

1. Omnibus Motion – Reports as Written
 - a. Clerks Report and Minutes
 - b. Treasurer's Report
 - c. Ministry Team Notes – please include the last name of the people in the ministry reports. Working on a standard template for each ministry.
 - d. **Motion to approve Omnibus motion. Seconded. Motion Carried.**
2. Old Business
 - a. EPNC Update
 - i. Pam Moore provided update that Rob Lauer from Agora will meet this coming up Monday and have received applicants and reached out to other names that have been given to us. We will get to look at this list and see what options are out there for our next Executive Pastor.
 - b. First Pres Forward
 - i. The team has concluded the work we asked them to do. We as a session approved the plan presented. Session will now take over the managing of the plan and the process. Session ministry teams will work together on these initiatives. Because the team was approved as a session task force, we have to dissolve this team.
 - ii. ***It is moved dissolve the First Pres Forward Task force, with gratitude and thanksgiving to God for their commitment and dedication, effective June 17, 2025. Kris Bauman Moved. Motion carried.***
 - iii. Discussion on how we can move faster on these things. Especially the healing initiative.

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3. New Business

- a. Lead Pastor Report
 - i. Staff Morale is the highest it has been since Tim McConnell has been on staff.
 - ii. Ministry Operations of Manual is out – James Blount said he has heard churches wanting to do this, but we are the first who have written it down and handed it out.
 - iii. Spirit of Prayer was great – Pastors showed Spirit of leadership
 - iv. Michael Thornton is taking a lead pastor position – first conversation they had was that he wanted to be a lead pastor, 5.5 years later he is doing just that.
 - v. Bryan Frame Resignation
- b. Executive Pastor Report
 - i. Executive Pastor Contract has been signed and recommit to the duration of that contract
 - ii. BCWhird round in July with results coming in August
 - iii. Elizabeth promotion to Executive Ministries Director announced
- c. Advisory Council Reports
 - i. No additional comments or updates to reports
- d. Guest Comments
 - i. Ray Wallander – Hope in healing but need to name what needs to be healed. Most powerful way to rebuild trust through communication and clarity.

PART FOUR: VISION TIME

1. Discipleship
 - a. Do you have a method to make disciples and is it working?
 - b. Mind – intellection
 - c. Heart - emotions or passions
 - d. Body- Will/Habit formation
 - e. How do you define a disciple? An apprentice is trying to like his master. They want to be in the way of life like it's makes. It's not just information distribution but an invitation into spiritual formation in the likeness of Christ.
 - f. Worship is the beginning of discipleship – 4 services, 2 modes – 1500-1700 people

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- g.** Communities/Classes
- h.** Life groups
- i.** Know – Pray – Word - Life
- j.** What are the barriers? Time/Priority; Communication; not clear invitations.
- k.** Tim, Discipleship Team, staff will come together to bring more clarity to what discipleship is and should be.

CLOSING PRAYER AND DOXOLOGY

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