



FIRST PRES

**Session Meeting
May 20, 2025 – 6:15 pm**

Present: Rev. Dave Steane, Rev. Greg Hartnett, Randy Case, Lindy Keffer, Mark Albers, Dave Dillard, Susan Pattee, Kris Bauman, Kirk Cherry, Bonnie Ortivez, John Moe, Rev. Dr. John Goodale, Wendy Buckler, Bill Rhea, Scott Berry, Shelly Busby, Rev. Dr. Tim McConnell, Elizabeth Roth, Mike Hodges, Mary Frieg, Bryan Frame, Kappy Stewart, Rev. Michael Thornton, Megan Nilsen.

Excused: Dorothy Alvarez, Ken Laura, Pam Moore,

Guest Observers, Rich Boyle, Ray Wallander,

PART ONE: BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER

Tim McConnell – Matthew 6:5-13, The Lord's Prayer – This was read aloud and discussion followed. What is prayer? Talking to God. Tim Keller book on Prayer. Break into groups of 4 to pray for each other.

PART TWO: DISCERNMENT AND DECISION TIME

1. Omnibus Motion – Reports as Written
 - i. Clerks Report and Minutes were presented by Clerk Susan Pattee.
 - ii. Treasurer's Report was presented and reviewed by Treasurer Randy Case.
 - iii. Ministry Team Notes – Adjusted a few typos, it was requested to make some sections easier to read for those who might not have the knowledge (e.g. IT).
 - iv.

Motion to approve Omnibus motion. Seconded. Motion Carried.

2. Old Business
 - a. Open Conduct of Session Meetings
 - i. Bill Rhea reviewed the motions coming from the Communications Ministry Team and, with the Moderator's consent, combined items #1 and #3 into a single motion: Motion: **For the purpose of**

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strengthen transparency, trust, relationship and communication between the session and the congregation, the session adopts the following motion: In collaboration with staff and appropriate Ministry Teams, promptly implement more effective and invitational measures to clearly communicate the Session meetings are open to all covenant partners, including timely announcements of meeting dates, times, and locations as well as committing to regularly exploring and implementing creative and effective strategies to strengthen the relationship with the congregation. This would include developing methods for both receiving on going feedback and delivering meaningful updates. As specific initiatives are developed, they will be implemented through appropriate staff and Ministry Team. Motion carried.

- ii. Motion 2 was presented. Discussion. Mary Frieg stated not sure 15 minutes is right since we have limited time. Kappy asked about confidentiality. John asked what the perceived benefit of someone coming directly to session instead of having one on one meetings with individual elder meetings? We move that, for the purpose of strengthen transparency, trust, relationship and communication between the session and the congregation, the session adopts the following motion: At it May meeting, the session will consider and establish a well-defined process for allowing limited opportunities for covenant partners attending Session meetings to provide input, while maintaining appropriate order and focus. 13 yes, 5 no – motion carried.

b. EPNC Profile

- i. Motion to approve the EPNC Profile – Seconded. Motion Carried.
 1. Discussion – grammatical errors, feels impersonal without the full and complete mission statement. Director of Comms will review to add full mission statement and correct any grammatical errors.

c. Recording of Session Meetings for Note-taking purposes MOTION

- i. We move to adopt Otter AI as the platform for transcribing the Session discussions on a three-month trial basis to determine effectiveness and clarity in the minutes. Motion seconded. Motion Carried.
- ii. Discussion – can we put it on the screen for those hearing impaired? We can look at that. The ministry teams can use this as well so make it more consistent. It will summarize everything

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instead of having a full transcript. Is this a helpful too if we are looking at Robert's Rule of Order? Susan says we can format to how we would use it. It would not replace the formal minutes.

d. Review of the First Pres Forward Final Draft

i. Motion to approve the First Pres Forward Final Draft. Motion seconded. Motion Carried

ii. Discussion – room to right out communications. Dave mentioned that the champions stuff could flex some. This is just a framework, and we are approving, and it can be fluid. What is the ask to the congregation on how they are part of the process? Can we add a line that says something about having them be a part of it?

PART THREE: VISION TIME

Tim McConnell - Finding our Driving Motivation (VIP Factor)

Breakout Churches by Thom Rainer. Churches go through a lifecycle – growth – plateau – Decline. You have a body of people being pulled forward in a new direction but the same direction in ministry for new growth. This book looks at the place in the decline to new growth. To get from decline to Big MO they look at six major components. Frist one is Acts 6/7 Leadership- these are leaders that are invested in delegation and not getting credit and invested in the future of the church not their own needs. Next is the ABC moment – Awareness (A), Belief (B), and Crisis (C). Who/What Simul track is the next phrase – getting the wrong people off the bus and the right people on the bus. Next is the VIP factor, then a culture of excellence, and finally innovation accelerators

VIP FACTOR – Vision Intersection Profile. You are looking for the intersection of the community needs, the churches capacity and the lead pastor's passion.

What are the community needs? Gospel, community, mental health, homelessness, financial crisis, isolation, compassion, trust of institution/church, purpose & meaningful work, mentors, peace, beauty, creativity, adventure, Family brokenness, Addiction,

Where does First Pres have the capacity/potential (resources/experience)? Gospel, community, Family brokenness, Mentors, purpose & meaningful work. And so many more within our partnership. We can offer hope.

Lead Pastor Passion – for Tim it is teen suicide, mental health, family brokenness. This is what he has on his heart right now.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. Executive Session for Executive Pastor Contract – Session entered executive session at 8:20 pm.
 - a. HR moves to renew the contract with the TEP for another 6 month period according to the Presbytery policy awaiting the process of the EPNC in order to provide the best possible outcome for the improvement of staff health and culture. The HR team will review and assess the progress of the EPNC and form a succession plan in October and November. Motion Carries.