

MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION MEETING
First Presbyterian Church, Kerrville, Texas
July 28, 2026

Present: Elders Gary Crozier, Jeff Cunningham, Melanie Houdeshell, Pam Jucknies, Max Lane, John Mallory (via Teams), Clay Mitchell, John Ruth, Cheryl Sieker, Tammy Toll, and Jeannette Vaughan

Pastors: Jasiel Hernandez Garcia and Susan Shaw-Meadow

Clerk: Mary Ellen Summerlin

Guests: Eldon Sheffer, chair of Planning and Training Committee,
and Rev. Gini Norris- Lane, commissioner to General Assembly

Excused: Rick Assunto, Frank Dunlap, Amy Lightfoot, Josh McAlexander, and Mike Wilson

Moderator Jasiel called the meeting to order at 5:33. Susan Shaw-Meadow led a devotional based on a modern psalm prayer by Jerry Webber in his book,
Fingerprints on Every Moment: 40 Psalm Prayers in Contemplative Voice.

The agenda was adopted with two corrections: the Congregational Meeting will be August 9 rather than August 8, and the special meeting for August 19 to receive the Haythorn report begins at 6 rather than 5 p.m. It will be in this room with Trace Haythorn on zoom.

The minutes of June 29 were approved as distributed. The clerk reported:

Communion:

Communion was served by intinction July 5, 2026, at the 10:15 a.m. worship service in the sanctuary.

Extended communion

Randi Van Winkle and Irene Caldwell served: Kit Morris, Carl Schulse, and Jerry and Linda Ransom
Donna Jewell and Christine Chandler served: Gene Hutzler, Waldean Groff, and Alice Lerp
Todd Vaughan and Kristie Schlechte served: June Begeman, Peggy McCullough, and Martin Noyd
Lynn Epperson and Lisa Cashiola served: Paulita Rodriguez, Ann and Don Turner
Shannon Tuschak served: Graydon and Judy Vaught

Correspondence: a thank you letter and receipt for the Christmas Joy Offering of \$2815
Proceedings of the 49th Annual Meeting of the Presbyterian Historical Society of the Southwest

Baptisms: Nickolas Lynn, infant son of Jazlynn and Aden Lynn, great-grandson of Josyph Andrew who performed the sacrament assisted by Susan Shaw-Meadow July 26, 2026

Transfers Out: none

Deaths: Jerry Ransom, July 18, 2026. The family requested a short memorial reception after worship which was held on July 26.

Melanie gave the treasurer's report. In answer to a question about grants, she and Jasiel explained that the Community Foundation grants are reimbursements. The church has distributed almost \$2,000,000 in Community Fund flood relief and rebuilding grants during the past year.

The consent agenda was accepted unanimously. Jasiel asked Mary Ellen to read two motions for Session approval.

The motion to approve Mary Ellen Summerlin and John Wehmeyer to sign checks for the church passed unanimously.

The motion to approve the list of committees to oversee designated funds was approved unanimously.

Tammy Toll, chair of CCP, moved approval of a Change Fundraiser to be held during the month of August. It passed unanimously.

Eldon Sheffer, chair of the Planning and Training Committee, submitted the updated Standards of Procedure for approval. The vote was unanimous.

Susan reported on the children's activities this summer, and plans for back-to-school events in August.

Jasiel reported on the upcoming information luncheon for the congregation August 2 following worship to present the details of the proposed sale of the chapel, manse, and YES Center. He reviewed the asking sale price of \$1.9 million, and the Session's approval of the Task Force's negotiating as needed to a minimum of \$1.7 million. Jeff suggested that all Session members respond to concerns they may hear by encouraging everyone to attend the information luncheon. John Ruth, a member of the task force, also reminded everyone that there will be designated email for questions and concerns that will follow the luncheon for several days.

Jasiel reported that the church's own flood donations are nearly expended. The Flood Task Force met last week and decided to prioritize needs of church members and people known to church members who have experienced loss from this year's flood with the remaining funds. So far we have distributed \$62,000 in response to this year's flood. The Community Foundation has decided to move the offices of all the case managers to Light on the Hill. Amy Havis, FPC grants director, and Denee Nelson, Community Foundation caseworker, will continue to distribute temporary housing grants from our church building.

The report from Trace Haythorn has been received by the Personnel Committee acting as the staffing task force. One person has been interviewed for the position of interim youth coordinator for the coming school year. Tomorrow Jasiel will conduct the funeral of the infant granddaughter of Caitlin Sandlin, our former CCP director.

Jasiel will be in Florida over the weekend fulfilling his commitment, postponed by this year's flood, to preach and report on our flood relief efforts to the church in Ft. Myers who sent us a generous donation last year.

Gini reported on her experience as a commission to the General Assembly this summer in Milwaukee. Her committee dealt with efforts to address the needs of many congregations to reduce their costs for the health insurance and pensions of installed clergy. A task force was appointed to study and make recommendations. Another thorny problem followed the closing of the World Mission Division and the use of "employee covenant" provisions that appear to have violated the church's decision to abolish non-disclosure agreements. A commission was appointed to investigate and to make sure that money donated for world missions is spent appropriately through the successor organization. They will also reconsider how the church should administer its world mission efforts.

Co-moderators were elected at the end of the assembly this year: Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero and Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer. Marta is from Tres Rios and Kris is from Eastern Iowa. Gini was inspired by the 96 young adult advisory commissioners, and she thinks the PC(USA) has a strong future with such committed young people. Gini and Marta co-authored an overture to provide for oversight by members of Congress for private, for-profit detention centers for people accused of immigration violations which were adopted. The 2028 General Assembly will be in Puerto Rico.

Controversial issues which may raise questions among our own members include the affirmation that Israel's actions in its war in Gaza meet the legal definition of genocide. Gini pointed out that members of Congress has urged the church to speak, that legal scholars had explained the definition of genocide, and that the testimony of Palestinian Christians had weighed heavily upon the commissioners. The resolution passed with a large majority. The GA also affirmed Israel's right to exist, that it is not antisemitism to hold governments to account, and condemned both antisemitism and islamophobia.

The GA also affirmed the provision of medically necessary, evidence-based gender affirming care. This action has been mischaracterized on social media. It has long been the position of the church that medical care decisions should be made by patients and doctors. This resolution also passed easily.

Finally, there has been mischaracterization of the overture intended to affirm monogamy for clergy. The overture was so poorly drafted that it was ruled out of order. A new study on family structure was approved.

Finally White Christian Nationalism was determined to be an error in theology.

In answer to a question Jasiel said he had been contacted by some congregants concerning some of these controversial issues. The Session agreed that, rather than publishing a summary of the GA, all will use the information Gini has shared to respond to concerns they may encounter.

With thanks to Gini, Jasiel closed the meeting with prayer at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Summerlin, Clerk of Session

Jasiel Hernandez Garcia, Senior Pastor