

MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION MEETING
First Presbyterian Church, Kerrville, Texas
August 25, 2026

Present: Elders Jeff Cunningham, Frank Dunlap, Melanie Houdeshell, Pam Jucknies, John Mallory (via Zoom), Clay Mitchell, John Ruth, Cheryl Sieker, Tammy Toll (via Zoom), and Jeannette Vaughan,

Pastors: Jasiel Hernandez Garcia and Susan Shaw-Meadow

Clerk: Mary Ellen Summerlin

Guest: Carra Gray, Director of Engagement

Excused: Rick Assunto, Gary Crozier, Max Lane, and Amy Lightfoot

Pastor Jasiel established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 5:32. Mary Ellen led the opening reflection and prayer, based on Esther 4:12-14. The agenda was approved with two additions, the Andrews baptism and the All-Church Yard Sale.

The clerk presented the minutes of three meetings: the regular Session meeting of July 28, the special Session meeting of August 19, and the Congregational meeting of August 9 (which had been approved previously by e-vote). All three were approved unanimously.

Mary Ellen reported the service of communion at the worship service of August 2 and extended communion served as follows:

Kit Morris by Donna Tait and Verna Benham

Gene Hutzler and Waldean Groff by Paulette Graves and Eunice McCoy

Martin Noyd and June Begeman by Susan Carver and Bryce Umfress

Paulita Rodriguez by Don Priour and Donna Brewton Priour who also visited
Cora Belle Nunn

There has been one member death, Warren Ferguson, who died August 2 and whose funeral will be in our sanctuary September 5 at 2:30.

She asked elders to begin considering acting as commissioners for the next Presbytery meeting October 16 and 17 in San Antonio. Jasiel will have to miss this one as he is conducting the wedding of Will Cowden, a child of the church, that Saturday.

Mike Wilson explained that there are no financial reports this month due to the updating of systems at the bookkeeping service and also in house. He and Jasiel both reported that the church's financial position is stable.

Carra Gray reported plans for the All Church Yard Sale September 7. (hand-out attached) She encouraged all committee chairs to make plans for participation as they are contacted to participate in clearing out the chapel and manse preparatory to the sale of those properties. In answer to a question about Hospitality decorations and supplies, Jasiel announced that the room formerly used as a staff lounge for the preschool will become the main storage space for committee needs. The Session voted unanimously to approve this fundraiser.

The Session voted unanimously to approve the report of the Nominating Committee and set the date of the Congregational Meeting to elect new officers on September 13 following worship. The nominees are: : ELDERS (5): John Wehmeyer, Todd Vaughan, Ann Reynolds, Jean Weber, Audrey Mitchell. DEACONS (6): Max Stecker, Patricia McDowell, Mike Laymon, Sam Baublitt, Hilary Mosty, Donna Priour. TRUSTEE (1): Edgar Wallace. YOUTH ELDER (0): None this year. A very promising youth elder is only a sophomore this year, so the committee will recommend her to next year's ONC. Max Lane, our current youth elder, whose term would normally expire at the end of the calendar year may be willing to continue serving through May, 2027, when he graduates from high school.

The Session unanimously approved the wedding request for Zachary Jones, a child of the church, and Hannah Rainey on Sept. 19. This will be a rental of our venue only as they originally planned to be married at Schreiner Park. Zachary's grandparents are active members of the church. No extra fees will be charged.

The Session unanimously approved a fundraising luncheon for the YES Center on October 18. Concern was raised about its potential competition with the annual stewardship campaign. Jasiel advised that the YES Center needs to raise about \$5000 for the spring semester from grants and donations. The YES Advisory Committee does not expect to raise any large portion of that from the luncheon.

The Session unanimously approved the baptism of Liberty Sue Jean Porter, the great-granddaughter of Jean and Josyph Andrews, on a date this fall to be determined by staff. Rev. Josyph Andrews will administer the sacrament assisted by one of our pastors.

Pastor Susan began her report by addressing the "elephant in the room," that is, the possible termination of her contract. She admitted that though it was no surprise that it should be recommended by the consultant, eliminating the position is for her difficult and sad. She asked that the Session remember there are always real people in the positions they must adjust. She said she will welcome continuing discussion about staffing reorganization and will "continue to show up as Pastor of Faith Formation." Pam praised Susan's contributions with us as "a beautiful job." Susan then departed the meeting.

Pastor Jasiel reviewed his conversations with Susan emphasizing our commitment to be transparent and directly, Susan's wise decision to confront the awkwardness of her situation directly, and her big contribution to stabilizing the children's ministry in her time with us.

He requested and was given approval by the Session to conduct the wedding of Will Cowden and Rita Calvert at Camp Lucy in Dripping Springs. He has been counseling with the bride and groom. Will's father is an active member of the church.

Pastor Jasiel reported that we have completed our flood case management grants from the Community Foundation and returned the remaining overhead money to them. We continue to administer the temporary housing grants with two staff members paid by the grant: Amy Havis and Denee Nelson. Also donations for repairs of the Children's Corner classrooms have totaled about \$49,000 including gifts from members and from other churches stimulated by the synod disaster relief director. Total estimated costs are \$100,000.

Jasiel will be absent Sept 18 through 20 while serving as keynote speak at a retreat in Georgetown and attending the Presbyterian Pan American School board meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was focused on possible action plans summarized in a Potential Next Steps document Jasiel had drafted and distributed (attached). The section on Staff Operations required no Session input to implement. Later, when a better event intake process is finalized, amendments to the Standards of Procedure will need to be made. The Staffing Restructure section drew many questions and comments. A specific change beginning Sept. 1 will reduce, at her request, the Administrative Assistant's position to two days a week. As long as the flood grants continue, the Grants Administrator will cover the front desk for the other two days. Longer term the elders discussed the possibilities of using volunteers in a reduced role, mainly answering the phone and greeting/directing walk-in traffic. Jasiel invited further feedback to be directed to the Personnel Committee.

The Session agreed by consensus to request the ONC to restart the recruitment of an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and report at the next meeting. Consensus also developed that the Personnel Committee should offer broad suggestions to the APNC but leave the crafting of the job description to that new committee. And the Session agreed to launch a task force to develop and evaluate ideas for re-organizing the music ministry at the next meeting. Jasiel will identify members of the Worship and Music Committee and the Finance Committee along with one or more choir members.

Under the Church/Committee Operations section Jasiel reported that the current state of the Children's Corner Preschool is alarming. Many teachers, under pressure from the prolonged displacement from the flooded classrooms, parents, and church members are all dissatisfied. Amy Manchester is leading in the response to complaints, but the situation is very serious. Restoration of the classrooms is scheduled to begin this week and to last 4 to 6 weeks. Tammy reported that CCP is underwriting several hours a week of Amy's time, but Jasiel also reported that Amy runs out of hours every week. Restructuring the position of Business Administrator to a full time Director of Operations is a high priority.

Discussion of the Discernment Questions and Sequencing Questions including the best way to look at financial considerations clearly revealed the need for more attention at future meetings. Recognizing that bringing the congregation into the conversation and

sharing progress as we move into the process of acting on needed changes, the Session asked Jasiel to bring a congregational communication plan to the next meeting.

Finally, the Session agreed to meet again September 8 at 5:30 to continue the work. Pastor Jasiel closed the meeting with prayer at 7:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Summerlin, Clerk of Session

Jasiel Hernandez Garcia, Senior Pastor