

Trinity Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) Valdosta, GA

Stated Session Meeting Minutes

16 November 2025

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Britanny DiGiammarino (Clerk)	Mark Ferguson	Jeff Bickers
Beth Reid	Zirkia Snyman	Doug Maxwell
Glennie Wicks	Grant Wright	
Bryan Wright		

Moderator	Jennifer Shepherd
Clerk	Britanny DiGiammarino
Members Present	Glennie Wicks, Jeff Bickers, Grant Wright, Bryan Wright, Doug Maxwell, Mark Ferguson, Zirkia Snyman, Beth Reid, Britanny Digiammarino (Clerk), Jennifer Shepherd (Moderator)
Members Excused	No absences.

1. Devotional & Opening Prayer

A quorum being present, the Moderator called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM and opened with a devotional from *Pawverbs for Cat Lovers*, titled "A Longing Fulfilled" (Proverbs 10:28).

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. ***A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded; the motion carried by voice vote with no discussion.***

The Clerk noted the omission of October Minutes approval on the agenda. ***A motion to add approval of the October Minutes to the agenda was made and seconded; the motion passed by voice vote.***

3. Approval of October Minutes

The minutes from October were presented. ***A motion to approve the October Minutes was made and seconded; the motion passed unanimously by voice vote without discussion.***

4. Consent Agenda

4.A Finance Report

Finance reported that the previously discussed motion to move funds into a money market account had been withdrawn at the last meeting, and no new motion was introduced at this meeting. The Finance Committee recommends revisiting this option at the next Session meeting.

The Food Pantry budget currently reflects a deficit due to temporary reliance on outside vendors during Second Harvest's unavailability and the approved freezer purchase of \$849.

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Despite the deficit, the Food Pantry holds approximately \$8,000 in designated funds to offset deficits at year-end.

Because the finance report did not originate from a committee, it required action from the floor.

A motion to approve the finance report was made and seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with no further discussion.

4.B Christian Education & Worship Proposal: Sexual Abuse Healing Group (Early 2026)

The Worship & Christian Education Committee recommended forming a Sexual Abuse Healing Group beginning in early 2026. This ministry is a guided support/discussion group—not therapy—and would provide a resource currently unavailable in Valdosta. Necessary documentation, confidentiality covenants, and reporting procedures are already prepared, and Trinity’s insurance covers this ministry.

The group will be limited to 10–12 participants and will meet on Saturdays when the church is not in use. Facilitators will be April Rentz (Child and Family Guidance/DFCS) and Brittany DiGiammarino, with referrals made through Jeff Bickers. A question was raised about whether this ministry falls within Brittany’s paid responsibilities or should be considered independent work; the DCE noted this determination is at the discretion of Session.

Because this recommendation originated from committee, no second was required.

The motion to establish the Sexual Abuse Healing Group Ministry passed by voice vote with no further discussion.

4.C Christian Education & Worship Proposal: Discontinuation of KOW; Quarterly Children’s Events

The committee recommended discontinuing weekly Wednesday KOW (Kids of the Way) programs due to low weekday availability among families and replacing them with quarterly Friday or Saturday gatherings. Comments included a desire to return to weekly programming once attendance grows.

A motion was made to approve the committee’s recommendation. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. Standing Committee Reports

Finance

Report received.

Worship & Education

Report received.

DCE Hourly Report received.

Care, Share & Missions

Verbal report received; written report to follow via email.

Building & Grounds

The committee recommended accepting the quote of \$12,013.21 for exterior brick repair on the Youth Extension wall. Work is expected to take 3–4 weeks. Approximately \$10,000 is available in line item 850.23 (Grounds) to support this expense.

A motion from committee to accept the repair quote of \$12,013.21 passed unanimously by voice vote with no discussion.

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6. Old Business

Continuing Discussion: Reflections on the Future (see October agenda)

Session revisited discussions on committee restructuring. Worship Committee members expressed concern about being dissolved, noting their longstanding ministry and desire for continued recognition. Concerns were raised about blending Worship and Christian Education, given differing gifts and interests. The DCE noted plans to involve youth in Christian Education, and Session recommended increasing communication about committee membership needs.

A recommendation was made to restructure the Worship Committee as a sub-committee under Building & Grounds, functioning as a work group without needing its own moderator. The Building & Grounds moderators would include Worship reports within their monthly reports. A suggestion was also made to issue certificates of appreciation to current Worship Committee members.

A motion to create the Worship Committee as a sub-group under Building & Grounds was made and seconded; the motion passed via voice vote with no discussion.

7. New Business

7.A Outreach Opportunities

Session discussed the need for strengthened outreach—particularly at Valdosta State University (VSU) and Moody Air Force Base—to increase visibility and invite new members. It was suggested that this work fall under the Missions Committee, with volunteers attending community events to introduce Trinity’s ministry.

A Session member volunteered to contact VSU regarding the next “Happening” event and will report back. The DCE is reaching out to the Moody Chaplain to explore partnerships and extended an invitation for the Chaplain to preach at Trinity.

7.B Commissioner’s Report – Glennie Wicks

Highlights from the November 1 presbytery meeting included:

- Offering designated for Near Eastern School of Theology
- Recognition of pastors’ anniversaries and receipt of Necrology
- Blessing for all 2025 moderators
- Continued presbytery focus on Acts 27
- Presentation delivered by Brittany on behalf of Trinity
- Closure of New Hope Presbyterian Church, with its building transferred to the Korean Presbyterian Church and ultimately returning to FRP; NW Cluster churches will discern future use
- Reception of the 2026 FRP Budget
- Creativity Fund awarded to First Presbyterian Church, Columbus for a hot-plate drive-through ministry

A motion to receive the Commissioner’s Report was made and seconded; the motion passed unanimously by voice vote with no further discussion.

8. Reminders & Upcoming Events

- **Greening of the Church – November 23**
- **First Sunday of Advent – November 30**
- **Children’s Christmas Party – December 5, 6:30–8:30 PM**

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9. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded; the motion passed by voice vote. The meeting concluded with prayer at 3:31 PM.

Next Stated Meeting: December 21 at 2:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brittany DiGiammarino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brittany DiGiammarino
Clerk of Session

Worship and Education Committee Report

1. Proposal: Sexual Abuse Healing Group

Recommendation: The Worship & Christian Education Committee unanimously recommends that Session approve the formation of a Sexual Abuse Healing Group, to begin in early 2026.

Details:

- Status: Seven participants have already expressed interest.
- Leadership & Support:
 - Brit — Group lead
 - April Rentz — Social worker trained in trauma care (co-mediator)
 - Cindi Gallahan — Volunteer present for hospitality/support
 - Rev. Jeff Bickers — Guidance on legal and ethical matters, referrals
- Compliance: All legal and insurance requirements have been confirmed.
- Target Date for First Session: January 2026

Voting: Session Action required.

2. Proposal: KOW Program Changes

- **KOW: Committee recommends discontinuing Wednesday KOW due to time constraints and limited effectiveness.**
- It will be replaced with Quarterly Saturday Children's Programs open to the community.
- SMASH: Continues on Wednesdays, supplemented by a new Quarterly Youth Sunday held Sunday afternoons.

Voting: Session Action Required

3. Elder Training 2026

- Led by: Sid Leak
- Open to new Elders and anyone wanting a refresher.
- Compensation remains \$75 (same as last year).
- **Voting:** Committee approved

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4. Youth Sunday (Sunday Afternoons 1-2 Hrs)

- Frequency: Once per quarter.
- Open to all Southern Cluster youth and community youth.
- Includes in-depth Bible study and a mission project.

5. Quarterly Children's Program

- Open to Southern Cluster and community families.
- Held Saturdays, 8:00–11:00 AM (or until 12:00 PM).
- Features activities, service projects, Bible lessons, and games.
- Parents may drop off children (ages 3–12; nursery-age still under consideration).

6. Messy Church (Brainstorm Only)

- Messy Church is an intergenerational worship experience featuring storytelling, crafts, games, and shared meals.
- It is aimed at families who do not typically attend traditional worship.
- Could offer as an additional worship service on every 5th Sunday.
- Needs 4-6 Volunteers who rotate leadership areas.
- Could integrate elements into quarterly children's program.

7. Young Adult Ministry (Update)

- The committee is exploring partnership with First Presbyterian.
- Potential study: "Jesus as King."
- Possible participants include David, Glennie, and Angelina, Joely.
- Brit working with Jane Shelton and David Carter. Jane is asking TRE David Carter to lead some of the sessions.

8. The Pines Outreach (Update)

- Current challenges include transportation limitations and lockdowns.
- Suggestion: Trinity volunteers visit The Pines instead of transporting residents.
- Options include circle meetings, devotionals, small-group visits, story-time with the children.
- Frequency: Monthly or quarterly.

9. Scouts Collaboration

- January idea: Can-Crushing Party with the Scouts.
- Coordination is ongoing between Brit and Melissa.

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10. Additional Educational & Outreach Ideas

Build relationships with homeschool groups and Scouts.

Explore new adult education offerings:

- - iPhone/technology class (similar to Deb's past offering)
- - "End of Life" seminar repeat
- - Parenting workshops or faith-based family classes

Appreciation project: Youth to bake cookies for all GVHSA families to thank them for providing the donated swingset.

11. Children's Christmas Party – December 5

- Six families confirmed.
- Activities: Christmas-tree Rice Krispie treats, keepsake ornaments, pizza, and The Grinch.
- Open to church and community families.
- Parents may stay or drop off children with a signed waiver.
- Time: 6:30–8:30 PM.