

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SESSION
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO
AUGUST 11, 2025

**OFFICERS' DINNER PROGRAM: New Covenant Partners;
Ordination and Installation of Officers**

All elders were present, save S. Guy, and J. Wood. Staff Present were: Moderator: Reverend Doctor Bob Fuller, H. Cherry, H. Flores, S. Simpson, J. Slayden, S. Figueroa, J. Kaiser, L. Selli, and L. Ortiz.

I. Call to Order Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller

II. Opening Prayer and Devotion Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller

Bob's theme was "Pray like Crazy." He talked about the power, privilege, and necessity of prayer for this Session. Bob encouraged us to pray for our church (some members by name), our other church leaders, one another, our community, the country, and ourselves. Prayer pillows for the knees of each member were passed out and used during a season of prayer at the close of his devotion.

III. Approval of the Agenda Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller

The agenda was approved unanimously, but beforehand Bob touched on his plan going forward for short reports from each committee chair during future meetings, which will begin in September:

When providing reports to the Session, please provide the Session with the following information:

1. Did the committee meet since the last meeting of the Session?
2. What was discussed, what actions were taken?
3. What motions does the committee make for the consideration of the Session?
4. Has the committee received or responded to business referred to it by the Session?
5. When is the next meeting of the committee?

IV. Clerk's Report Tripp Stuart

a. Conflict of Interest Forms were passed out for Signatures

- b. Consent Docket: approved unanimously *en masse*.
 - 1. Approve Minutes of previous Session meetings
 - 2. Approve Changes to Church Register
 - 3. Receive Minutes of previous Session Committees meetings
 - 4. Receive Minutes of previous Deacon meetings
- c. Communications of thanks were received from Pars Theological Center and The Antioch Partners for donations we distributed to each.
- d. Tripp thanked all our guests in the audience that came to support the Session.

V. Moderator's Report:

Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller

Bob thanked our covenant partners for attending because our goal is transparency. He challenged us to a new level of discipline in debate, and respect and love in our deliberations as we go forward. Humility, winsomeness, kindness, and yes, brevity, should be our bywords. He reported that the presbytery is actively seeking names for our presbytery-prescribed Transitional Pastor, whom we will help choose, and that Bob's period of leave will be during the first two months of 2026.

We need to revisit our strategic plan and re-enculturate and revitalize it. Many aspects of our "Next 10" overlap and complement the plans that the presbytery has for us. The presbytery has given us permission to begin forming Associate Pastor Nominating Committees. Those positions will be Associate Pastors of Outreach and Spiritual Formation. Another goal will be to continue increasing young adult leaders in all aspects of the church. We will examine and define our operating procedures and plans for leadership of our church, and we will function under ECO's guidance that church leadership will only be appropriate for those who fulfill all the requirements of Covenant Partnership, including regular worship at FPC, and giving financially and participating in the life of the church.

Bob will form a personal advisory team to support and challenge him in terms of spiritual health, mental health, and professional development. This will be a purely personal team and will not be involved in any decisions of the church.

The Session created the Leadership Nominating Committee for an initial term of one year only, and the Session did not renew it, so after receiving their recommendations for committee chairs for this coming year, we will accordingly return to our original method of choosing committee leaders, which was for the team of ministers to nominate them, using information and suggestions from the previous chairs, and for the Session to approve them.

Bob addressed the sad fact that we have collectively lost friends, leaders, knowledge, and experience when our brothers and sisters left to start Providence Fellowship Church of San Antonio. We love them all dearly, and we will continue to love them, pray for them, celebrate them, and wish them well. We pray that God greatly uses their new church to His glory and should, in God's economy, any of them desire to return, we will leave the porch light on and hold the door open, because we love each of them dearly.

Bob closed his remarks with words of profound gratitude for all who have remained and continue in faith to work and contribute here at Fourth and Alamo. He read Rudyard Kipling's poem "If," and David's Psalm 40.

VI. Approval of Committee Chairs for 2025-2026: John Thomas

John presented the list of committee chairs which the Leadership Nominating Committee had chosen under the leadership of Ed Moore. A motion was made and seconded to approve them. There was a period of discussion during which Bob voiced his support of the list, but others wanted to approve them provisionally for a period of time. An alternate motion was made to approve them for two months and re-evaluate and replace some should that be deemed necessary due to the recent new elders joining the Session and other considerations. More discussion ensued and a vote was held by a show of hands as to whether the alternate motion should become the main motion, but it lost, and subsequently a vote was held on the original motion to unconditionally approve the slate which passed. The Session still can make changes moving forward to include the new Elders.

VII. Committee Reports:

a. Stewardship and Finance: Betsy Baker

Betsy, who is the new chair, gave a detailed report which had celebrations as well as challenges. She presented three months of financials, but concentrated on July 2025.

1. The monies coming from the parking lot were reintroduced into the operational budget, which had not been done for two years. This resulted in gaining \$74 K, but annually it should be \$300 - \$350 K.
2. Betsy thanked Allen Casey and the Property Committee for finding and securing a \$230 K Historical Tax Credit.
3. The sobering number is that as of now we are under budget by \$508 K. The news is a little better than that in that our expenditures are also down. We are all called to help with this shortfall, and to set examples to our fellow church covenant partners.

4. Betsy thanked Rick Lane for organizing the donations that matched the 2024 budget shortfall, but clarified that since those monies were received in 2025, for legal accounting reasons, they must be listed in 2025 income.
5. Betsy also clarified that the reason the budget for 2025 was 5% higher than 2024, is that her committee felt that to keep it the same would not have shown appropriate faith, and with a slight increase we had a little “skin in the game.”
6. Betsy reminded the Session how antiquated our accounting software is. Time and effort (\$) are being spent to try to make it work, and it still does not satisfy the recommendations of our audit company. S&F recommends that we transition to a program called Sage. The annual cost will be \$28 K, which is \$19 K more than we are paying for ACS. She made this motion on behalf of her committee: The Stewardship and Finance Committee moves that we transition to a new accounting software, Sage Intact, with an onboarding fee of \$35 K. We recommend that the funds for this come from our Unrestricted Funds Account, SF3150. No second was needed, and after discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
7. Similarly, our church management software, ACS, is also antiquated. There is a new software package that S&F recommends called, “Touchpoint,” the annual cost of which is \$8700. We are currently paying \$14,448 for Pushpay plus ACS. Starting in 2027, after we fulfill our contract with ACS, we will save \$5,748 annually. She made this motion on behalf of her committee: The Stewardship & Finance Committee moves that we transition to a new church management software, Touchpoint, with an onboarding fee of \$10,000. We recommend that the funds for this come from our Unrestricted Funds Account, SF3150. No second was needed, and after discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
8. Betsy made this motion on behalf of her committee: The Stewardship & Finance Committee moves that we authorize and empower Janet Slayden, Church Administrator, to sign any and all documents related to the church as beneficiary of the Charles Patton White Trust on behalf of the Corporation and to take such actions necessary to collect the proceeds on behalf of the Corporation. No second was needed, and after discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
9. As Bill Sirakos has resigned, and Betsy is now chair of S&F, she made this motion on behalf of her committee: The Stewardship & Finance Committee moves that we remove William Sirakos as an authorized signer on the church bank accounts at Broadway Bank. The remaining authorized signers will be Elizabeth Baker, Thomas

Dooling and Janet Slayden. No second was needed, and after discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Property:

Allen Casey

Allen reported that at the June 18, 2025 meeting, the Property Committee approved an expenditure of up to \$75,000 for the re-finishing and cleaning of the wood elements and the painting of the stucco walls and ceilings in the Sanctuary. These treatments are recommended to be performed every 5 to 7 years. The best bid of the three received is from J G Painting and Contracting for \$65,596. This exceeds the second highest bid by \$41, but we know of J G Painting from their doing this same work very effectively 7 years ago. We also want to include some contingency funds for possible additional expenses that could occur while the contractor is in place with their lifts in the sanctuary, hence the proposed budget is recommended as \$75,000. The contractor understands the need to vacate and have clean the sanctuary for Sunday and other special services during the process.

Allen made this motion: The Property Committee moves that the Session approve the competitive proposal for the re-finishing and cleaning of the wood elements and the painting of all the stucco walls and ceilings in the Sanctuary from J G Painting and Contracting for \$65,596, and that the budget for the project be an amount up to \$75,000, to adequately cover the costs of potential contingent issues associated with the project. Discussion included the suggestion that the hanging light fixtures be cleaned, and their bulbs be replaced while the lifts were in place to effect a cost savings. Allen agreed, and clarified that the monies were to be withdrawn from the Basic Capital Reserve Fund, SF 3201. No second was needed, and after discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. New Business:

a. Governance and First Steps:

Lynn Thompson, Mike Meadows

Lynn and Mike reported on the first steps of their task to define and update our ways of doing things in leadership here at FPC. They went over their preliminary guidelines and asked for volunteers to help them as they complete their efforts.

b. Treasurer & Clerk Election:

Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller

The Session elected Betsy Baker as Treasurer, and Tripp Stuart as Clerk.

c. Upcoming Presbytery Meeting:

Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller

Bob reminded us that the next meeting of the Texas Presbytery of ECO will be in Amarillo on September 19th & 20th. We need two volunteer commissioners, which we will appoint next meeting.

IX. Adjournment with Prayer:

Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller

List of Committees as of 8/11/2025

1. Stewardship and Finance
2. Property Committee
3. Adult Education and Discipleship Committee
4. Benevolence Oversight
5. Children's Ministry
6. Children's Center Advisory Board
7. Connections
8. Global Missions / Mission South Task Force
9. Local Missions
10. Older Adult Ministry
11. Marriage Ministry
12. Men's Ministry
13. Personnel Committee
14. Young Adult Communities
15. Worship Committee
16. Student Ministry
17. Prayer Ministry
18. Church Planting
19. Women of the Church
20. Zbinden Center for Biblical Leadership

Respectfully submitted,

Norton A. Stuart, III, MD
Clerk of the Session
First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is **true**, whatever is **honorable**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **commendable**, if there is any **excellence** and if anything is **worthy of praise**, think about these things.
-Phil. 4:8 NASB