

**SESSION MINUTES
STATED MEETING APRIL 16, 2009**

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church, Texarkana, Arkansas, met in a Stated Meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. in the Library/Session Room.

Elders present were Anne Douglas, Melanie Gloster, Alan Solomon, Kevin Thompson, Charles Jackson, Bob Veon, Bob Ransdell, Larry Davis, Pat Davitt, Martha Nell Richards, Charles Morgan, and Moderator Reverend Susan Arnold. Elder LaWanda West had an excused absence. Also present were Co-Pastor Reverend John Arnold, Youth/Education Director Jane Portis, Administrative Assistant Patricia Thomas, Treasurer Lary Walker, Diaconate Moderator Doke Douglas, and Clerk Sheila Moore.

Reverend Susan Arnold called the meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and gave the opening prayer.

MINUTES

The Session reviewed minutes from the Stated Meeting of March 19, 2009, Special Meeting of March 29, 2009, and Special Meeting of April 9, 2009.

MOTION - was made by Charles Morgan and seconded by Kevin Thompson to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

REPORT OF ORGANIST SEARCH COMMITTEE

Bob Veon reported on the progress of the Organist Search Committee. One candidate and his wife were interviewed this week. They met with the staff and the choir. Another candidate will be interviewed next week.

DIACONATE REPORT - Doke Douglas

Diaconate met on April 9, 2009. The following activities were reported:

1. Dinners for Eight groups have been formed.
2. The church picnic is tentatively set for October 18.
3. The monthly mission of collecting towels for Randy Sams Homeless Shelter continues.
4. The Easter Egg Hunt was very successful.
5. Investigation continues into the preparation of a new church directory.
6. A Round Table Discussion to identify the missions of the church is set for Sunday, April 26, 2009, at 12:00 noon.

7. Family Camp plans are underway.
8. Plans for the Ice Cream Social are underway.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Lary Walker

Mr. Walker reviewed the financial reports for the month ending March 31, 2009. Balances were shown as follows:

Operating Account	\$ 36,366.00	Money Market Account	\$245,646.00
Music Account	\$ 7,789.00	Total of all Accounts	\$289,801.00
		Profit and Loss Statement	\$ -15,259.83

Mr. Walker also presented the Statement of Income and Expense for the three months ending March 31, 2009.

The financial reports were received as information.

CLERK'S REPORT - Sheila Moore

1. A request has been received from Gail and Gene Cogbill for the baptism of their granddaughter, Avery Marie Holland, on June 7, 2009. Avery is the daughter of Courtney and Justin Holland.

MOTION - was made by Larry Davis and seconded by Charles Morgan to approve the baptism of Avery Marie Holland on June 7, 2009. The motion passed.

2. Notice has been received from Gail Abrahamson that the Presbyterian Women will not be applying to participate in the field study of the Presbyterian Women's *Horizon's* Bible Study on the Beatitudes which had been approved in February 2009.

PASTORS' REPORT - Co-Pastors John and Susan Arnold

Both pastors will give written reports of their activities for March to Session in the near future.

Reverend John Arnold will not take vacation leave on May 11 to 17, 2009, as requested in March 2009. Also, Reverend John Arnold's continuing education leave scheduled for April 14 to 17, 2009, was cancelled. Reverend John Arnold has been asked to serve as chaplain at Ferncliff from June 28 to July 3, 2009. This week would not be considered vacation leave.

MOTION - was made by Melanie Gloster and seconded by Anne Douglas to approve Reverend John Arnold serving as chaplain at Ferncliff from June 28 to July 3, 2009. The motion passed.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE - Charles Jackson

Charles Jackson reported that the Worship Committee has met. The committee is reviewing policies for funerals.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Kevin Thompson

Kevin Thompson had no report.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE - Larry Davis

Larry Davis had no report.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE - Martha Nell Richards

Martha Nell Richards reported the following:

1. Work is continuing on the website which should be in operation sometime in May.
2. Bread of Life, Greeters, and "Around the Coffee Pot" are ongoing.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE - Anne Douglas

Mrs. Douglas reported the following:

1. Youth Group Activities
 - a. The Youth Group cleaned the Echo Center and moved the chairs from the basement to the garage as requested.
 - b. The Youth participated in the Easter Egg hunt.
2. Sunday School
 - a. Average Sunday School attendance for March was 56.
 - b. Craft kits have been ordered.
 - c. Work continues on the quilt.
3. Baby Steps Program
 - a. Two teachers have been terminated and two hired to replace them.
 - b. Director Tina Jones resigned and has been replaced by the Assistant Director Alicia Wolf.
4. Senior Sunday will be held May 17, 2009, and will honor Reagan Oliver Thompson.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Robert Ransdell

1. Pat Davitt presented revisions to the various property forms which includes revisions on pages 63, 65, 81, and 82, and a new Appendix I to the Church Operations Manual, 2008 Edition.

MOTION - was made by Pat Davitt from the Property Committee to approve the revisions to the various property forms. The motion passed.

The revised various property forms will be included in the Church Operations Manual, 2008 Edition.

After further discussion:

MOTION - was made by Pat Davitt and seconded by Charles Morgan that groups currently using the building and facilities on a regular basis, i.e. Al-Anon, Federal Retirees, Diabetic Cooking and Circle of Friends, will not be required to pay the usage fee. The motion passed.

2. Mr. Davitt also reported that SWEPCO will install and maintain security lights on existing poles in the alleyway for \$15.00 per month. One will be placed near the Baby Steps entrance and one near the playground fence.

MOTION - was made by Pat Davitt from the Property Committee to install security lights in the alleyway as described above. The motion passed.

Robert Ransdell reported the following:

1. Projected date for installation of the dishwasher is April 18, 2009.
2. Black non-slip tape will be installed on the steps in the sanctuary.
3. The surge protector has been installed.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Charles Morgan

Charles Morgan had no report. Reverend John Arnold reported that personnel evaluations are underway.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Reverend Susan Arnold explained the procedure for serving Communion.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. A request has been received from Texarkana Repertory Company that we publicize in the church bulletin a performance by TexRep and Texarkana College Drama Department entitled *Children of Eden*, a musical based on the book of Genesis.

MOTION - was made by Charles Morgan and seconded by Martha Nell Richards to publicize in the church bulletin the TexRep/Texarkana College Drama Department presentation of *Children of Eden*. The motion passed.

2. A Commissioner is needed to attend the Presbytery Meeting on May 12, 2009, in Camden, Arkansas.

MOTION - was made by Charles Jackson and seconded by Charles Morgan that Larry Davis be elected as commissioner to the Presbytery Meeting on May 12, 2009, in Camden, Arkansas. The motion passed.

MOTION - was made by Martha Nell Richards and seconded by Kevin Thompson that if the way be clear we will offer to host the next Presbytery meeting. The motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Reverend John Arnold closed the meeting with prayer.

Reverend Susan Arnold, Moderator

Sheila Moore, Clerk of Session