

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

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

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

Reverend John Arnold called the meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and gave the opening prayer and devotional on stewardship.

**MINUTES**

The Session reviewed minutes from the Stated Meeting of June 18, 2009, and the Special Meeting of June 24, 2009.

**MOTION** - was made by Charles Morgan and seconded by Martha Nell Richards to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

**REPORT OF ORGANIST SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Reverend John Arnold reported that Jim Spirup will arrive in Texarkana July 25 or 26. His first Sunday will be August 2, 2009.

**DIACONATE REPORT**

Reverend John Arnold reported that the Ice Cream Social was well attended and a success.

**TREASURER'S REPORT - Lary Walker**

Mr. Walker reviewed the financial reports for the month ending June 30, 2009. Balances were shown as follows:

Operating Account	\$30,717.00	Money Market Account	\$185,692.00
Music Account	\$ 7,791.00	Total of all Accounts	\$224,200.00
		Profit and Loss Statement	\$ -32,733.06

The financial reports were received as information.

There was discussion of placing a notice in the newsletter and/or a Minute for Mission to address the shortfall in the budget.

**CLERK'S REPORT - Sheila Moore**

1. The Andrea Thompson/David Flory wedding will be held August 29. They have requested that we provide Elders to serve communion. An invitation to those participating in the ceremony, i.e. Elders serving Communion, Reverend John Arnold, has been received. Copies of the invitation will be distributed to those attending. Charles Jackson suggested using six Elders to serve.
2. The Clerk reported the death of James Scott "Jim" Andrews who died on June 14, 2009.
3. The Clerk noted the baptisms of Avery Marie Holland on June 7, 2009, Ryan Tyler Black on June 28, 2009, and LaRay Ryan Williamson on July 12, 2009.
4. A bequest to the Malcolm Lecture Trust has been received from the Estate of Ed Malcolm, deceased, in the amount of \$10,000.00. The Clerk has signed a Receipt of Distributee and we have received a check in that amount with the request that we not negotiate the check until notified to do so by Bruce Malcolm, executor of the Estate of Ed Malcolm, deceased. The check is being held in the fire proof cabinet in the church office.
5. A letter was received from the Veritas Academy advising that the Academy will remain at their current location. They were grateful for the hospitality of Reverends John and Susan Arnold in showing them our facility and for their thoughtfulness.
6. The Clerk reported that the Annual Report for Nonprofit Corporation had been filed with the Secretary of State as required by Arkansas law.
7. The Clerk noted that the approved Session Minutes are being posted on the church website.
8. Session was advised of a request from Presbytery of the Pines seeking nominations for various Presbytery committees.

#### **PASTORS' REPORT - Co-Pastors Susan and John Arnold**

Both pastors gave the Session written reports of their activities during the month of June-July. These included member visitations at the hospitals and in homes, regular church activities and duties, and various community activities including preaching at Cornerstone Retirement Community. Reverend John Arnold also served as Camp Chaplain and wilderness education resource at Ferncliff Camp.

Reverend John Arnold requested a week of continuing education on July 20 through 26, 2009.

**MOTION** - was made by Charles Morgan and seconded by Melanie Gloster that Reverend John Arnold be allowed a week of continuing education July 20 to 26, 2009. The motion passed.

#### **WORSHIP COMMITTEE - Charles Jackson**

Charles Jackson requested permission to establish a flower fund to purchase flower arrangements for Sunday morning worship and then the flowers distributed to shut-ins. Members of the congregation could honor births, anniversaries, etc. by contributing to this fund.

**MOTION** - was made by the committee to establish a flower fund to purchase flower arrangements for Sunday morning worship and then distribute the flowers to shut-ins. The motion passed.

A breakfast was held in honor of the service of Jim Works, interim organist, on July 12, 2009. The congregation is most appreciative of Mr. Works' contribution to the music program of the church.

Jim Works has donated his extensive organ music collection to the church and has requested that he be allowed to keep a key to the sanctuary for organ practice and a key to the education building.

**MOTION** - was made by Martha Nell Richards and seconded by Charles Morgan to allow Jim Works to keep keys to the sanctuary and education building for organ practice. The motion passed.

Reverends John and Susan Arnold will send a letter acknowledging the generous gift of Mr. Works and advising that he may keep the keys for organ practice.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** - Kevin Thompson

No report.

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE** - Larry Davis

Dr. Davis reported that budget request letters were sent out this week.

**EVANGELISM COMMITTEE** - Martha Nell Richards

Martha Nell Richards reported the following:

1. The new website is up. Sermons, Session minutes, Reverend John Arnold's blog and other links are all now on the website. Members of the congregation are asked to e-mail Sue Ellen Hall with any updates for the website.
2. The advertisement for VBS ran in the *Texarkana Gazette* on July 11, 2009.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Jane Portis reported the following:

1. Youth Group Activities
  - a. The Youth continue to receive thanks on the Veteran's cemetery project.
  - b. Twenty-three people participated in the float trip on July 7, 2009.
  - c. Twenty-two people are registered to go to Magic Springs on July 20, 2009.
2. Sunday School Report:

- a. Rally Day is scheduled for August 16, 2009.
- b. Sunday School teachers are being recruited.

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Robert Ransdell**

Mr. Ransdell reported the following:

1. The damaged frames around the stained glass windows on the north side of the sanctuary, as well as a spot in the sanctuary, have been painted for \$1,900.00.
2. The shower is complete in the annex.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Charles Morgan**

Mr. Morgan reported that the committee has not met.

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The results of Church Wide Round Table Discussions were discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Reverends John and Susan Arnold request vacation leave August 3 through 7, 2009, for a family vacation.

**MOTION -** was made by Larry Davis and seconded by Charles Morgan to allow Reverends John and Susan Arnold vacation leave on August 3 to 7, 2009. The motion passed.

2. Reverend Susan Arnold has been asked to serve on a Presbytery Cursillo in October. She will report further when the dates are certain.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Reverend Susan Arnold closed the meeting with prayer.

Reverend John Arnold, Moderator

Sheila Moore, Clerk of Session