

**SESSION MINUTES
STATED MEETING DECEMBER 17, 2009**

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church, Texarkana, Arkansas, met in a Stated Meeting on Thursday, December 17, at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Reverends John and Susan Arnold.

Elders present were Anne Douglas, Kevin Thompson, Charles Jackson, Charles Morgan, Martha Nell Richards, Larry Davis, LaWanda West and Moderator Reverend Susan Arnold. Also present were Co-Pastor Reverend John Arnold, Administrative Assistant Patricia Thomas, Organist/Music Director Jim Spirup, Treasurer Lary Walker, Diaconate Moderator Doke Douglas, Jim and Brenda Works, Elder-elect Hayes McClerkin and Clerk Sheila Moore.

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

MINUTES

The Session reviewed minutes from the Stated Meeting of November 19, 2009, and the Special Meeting on December 6, 2009.

MOTION - was made by Larry Davis and seconded by LaWanda West to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

Reverend John Arnold introduced Brenda and Jim Works who are requesting a transfer of membership from Central Christian Church, Texarkana, Texas. Those present introduced themselves and stated their position on Session. Mr. and Mrs. Works gave a statement of their faith.

MOTION - was made by Anne Douglas and seconded by Charles Morgan to receive Brenda and Jim Works by transfer of membership from Central Christian Church, Texarkana, Texas. The motion passed unanimously.

EXAMINATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

Recently elected Elder Hayes McClerkin attended the meeting and was duly examined.

Reverend Susan Arnold stated that Mr. McClerkin had received officer training, and she recommended approval by the Session for him to be installed.

MOTION - was made by Larry Davis and seconded by Charles Morgan to cease examination and approve Hayes McClerkin as an Elder. The motion passed.

DIACONATE REPORT - Doke Douglas

The following activities were reported:

1. The church directory will be finished sometime in January. Sissy Welch will make a donation to the Youth.
2. Linda Cogbill is in charge of the greeters.
3. The Deacons will serve refreshments following caroling on Monday, December 21.

TREASURER’S REPORT - Lary Walker

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

Operating Account	\$6,551.00	Money Market Account	\$ 137,279.00
Music Account	\$7,793.00	Total of all Accounts	\$ 151,623.00
		Profit and Loss Statement	\$ -79,705.55

The financial reports were received as information.

CLERK’S REPORT - Sheila Moore

1. Betty Anthony was presented as Nominee for Treasurer and Sheila Moore as Nominee for Stated Clerk of Session.

MOTION - was made by Charles Jackson and seconded by Charles Morgan to elect Betty Anthony as Treasurer and Sheila Moore as Stated Clerk of Session. The motion passed.

2. The church received a thank you letter from Watersprings Ranch for a \$143 contribution.
3. The clerk sent out thirty-two letters to those who are to be placed on the inactive list. Four letters have been returned marked "unknown." There are several people on the list for whom no addresses can be found. In accordance with the *Book of Order*, those who have moved and for whom no address can be found may be removed from the church rolls following at least one year’s absence from the work and worship of the church. Those names are as follows:

Lane Allen	972
Stuart Beck	478

Richard Burton	1148
Robert Parish Coalter	813
Philip Mark Fagan	633
Matilda Foiw	1157
Duane Forrest	971
Donna Beth Hobbs	974
Christine Dee Ann Hobbs	975
Elaine Hubbard	902
Priscilla Mance Hughes	908
Van Kim Huynh	988
Louis Imbimbo	1125
Rachelle Imbimbo	1126
Shelly Koym	1170
Bui Van Lam	961
Julie Rodgers Lancaster	891
Toni Lockhart	1123
Freeman Lockhart	1124
Bruce Lorenzen	1122
Brenda Gayle McCarley	817
Leslie Kay McGinn	833
Shirley McIntee	973
Bess Moss	774
Long Van Nguyen	978
Huyna Van Nguyen	1118
Dung Lai Quoc Nguyen	1222
Hoang Van Nguyen	1223
Ed Walker Parker	953
Pauline Dickey Patterson	435
Judith Ann Reaves	654
Helen Rhodes	985
Eric Roachell	1272
John David Sewell	888
Maurice Smith	1341
Bonnie Smith	1342
Loi Tri Tran	1082
Khanh Vu	1042
Vi Vu	1043

MOTION - was made by Charles Morgan and seconded by Martha Nell Richards to remove the above persons from the church rolls. The motion passed

PASTORS' REPORT - Co-Pastors Susan and John Arnold

Reverend Susan Arnold gave the Session a written report of her activities during the month of

November-December. These included member visitations at the hospitals and in homes, regular church activities and duties, and various community activities. Rev. Susan Arnold also reported that home communions were served on December 16, 2009.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE - Charles Jackson

Charles Jackson thanked Jim Spirup for the Lessons and Carols service.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Kevin Thompson

No report.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE - Larry Davis

The committee met on December 15. Dr. Davis presented a pledge comparison for 2009-2010. A second letter will be sent to the congregation thanking the members for the pledges made and providing an update on the budget situation.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE - Martha Nell Richards

No report.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE - Anne Douglas

Mrs. Douglas reported the following:

1. Youth Group Activities

Jeff Daniels will be a contact person to track the Youth activities when Jane is unable to attend.

2. Sunday School Report:

Average Sunday School attendance for November was 48.

3. Baby Steps Program:

The committee requests that the Baby Steps program be allowed to apply for Phoenix Fund Grant funds.

MOTION - was made by the committee to allow the program to apply for Phoenix Fund Grant funds. The motion passed.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Robert Ransdell

Reverend John Arnold reported that a lighting problem at the elevator had been corrected. He also said that the leaks are still being repaired.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Charles Morgan

Mr. Morgan reported that there is \$2,000 in the budget for miscellaneous employee benefits which will be used for Christmas bonuses for the staff. The committee recommended a request for an additional \$700 for the bonuses. After discussion:

MOTION - was made by Larry Davis and seconded by Martha Nell Richards to amend the recommendation of the committee and spend the \$2,000 currently in the budget for bonuses to be distributed pro rata to staff members. The motion passed.

Note: Jim Spirup stated he did not feel comfortable accepting a bonus this year.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION - was made by Charles Morgan and seconded by LaWanda West to adopt a quorum of 4 (one-third of Session plus the minister) as stated in the *Book of Order*. The motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION - was made by LaWanda West and seconded by Larry Davis to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed.

Reverend John Arnold closed the meeting with prayer.

Reverend Susan Arnold, Moderator

Sheila Moore, Clerk of Session