

**SESSION MINUTES  
STATED MEETING JUNE 18, 2009**

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church, Texarkana, Arkansas, met in a Stated Meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. in the Library/Session Room.

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

Reverend Susan Arnold called the meeting to order, declared a quorum present and gave the opening prayer. The devotional was a discussion and review of the Results of the Church-Wide Round Table Discussion.

**MINUTES**

The Session reviewed minutes from the Stated Meeting of May 21, 2009.

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

**NEW MEMBER RECEIVED**

Reverend Susan Arnold introduced Michelle Williamson who is requesting a transfer of membership from First Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs, Arkansas. Those present introduced themselves and described their jobs in the church. Ms. Williamson gave her statement of faith.

**MOTION** - was made by Larry Davis and seconded by Charles Morgan to receive Michelle Williamson by transfer of membership from First Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs, Arkansas. The motion passed unanimously.

**REPORT OF ORGANIST SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Bob Veon reported on the progress of the Organist Search Committee. A background check has been completed on the candidate.

**DIACONATE REPORT**

Larry Davis reported that plans for Family Camp are continuing and the Ice Cream Social has been cancelled by the other participating churches.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** - Lary Walker

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

Operating Account	\$48,057.00	Money Market Account	\$186,384.00
Music Account	\$ 7,791.00	Total of all Accounts	\$242,232.00
		Profit and Loss Statement	\$-17,967.31

The financial reports were received as information.

#### **CLERK'S REPORT - Sheila Moore**

The Clerk reported the following items:

1. A wedding application has been received from Kristen Fomby and Brad Gibson. The application is incomplete at this time. The rehearsal is March 12, 2010, and the wedding March 13, 2010. The church's calendar is clear for those dates.

**MOTION** - was made by Charles Morgan and seconded by Melanie Gloster that the dates be placed on the calendar pending receipt of the completed application. The motion passed.

2. A request has been received from Remica Gray and Florence Crank for the baptism of Ryan Tyler Black on Sunday, June 28, 2009. Ryan is the son of Lauren and David Black.
3. A request has been received from Michelle Williamson for the baptism of LaRay Ryan Williamson on Sunday, July 12, 2009. LaRay is the son of Michelle and Matthew Williamson.
4. A request has been received for the transfer of membership of Caryn Hill to Grace Presbyterian Church in Plano, Texas.

**MOTION** - was made by Charles Morgan and seconded by Melanie Gloster to approve the above three items. The motion passed.

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

Both pastors gave the Session written reports of their activities during the months of April-June. These included member visitations at the hospitals and in homes, regular church activities and duties, and various community activities.

Reverends Susan and John Arnold requested that they be allowed to take a vacation day on Sunday, July 5, 2009. Charles Morgan will preach and Ruth Davis will be the liturgist.

**MOTION** - was made by Bob Ransdell and seconded by Bob Veon that Reverends Susan and John Arnold be allowed a vacation day on Sunday, July 5, 2009. The motion passed.

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

Reverend Susan Arnold presented Charles Jackson's written report which included:

1. The liturgist is allowed to state the Assurance of Pardon during the worship service.
2. Reverends Susan and John Arnold will secure liturgists for the times that one or the other is absent from the pulpit.
3. The committee is working on establishing funeral guidelines.
4. Reverend John Arnold reported that Charles Jackson and Tony Moore are now recording each Sunday sermon which will then be placed on the new website.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Kevin Thompson**

No report.

## **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE - Larry Davis**

No report.

## **EVANGELISM COMMITTEE - Martha Nell Richards**

Martha Nell Richards reported that the Evangelism Committee met on June 3, 2009.

1. The new website should be running within the next few days. Landon Bradshaw, Sue Ellen Hall's friend from Canada, has been most helpful in setting up the hard site, and Reverend John Arnold has devoted many hours to its completion.
2. Two loaves of bread have been delivered.
3. Methods to encourage usage of names tags are being explored.
4. Melanie Gloster is working with the Vacation Bible School committee on advertising for VBS.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Jane Portis reported the following:

1. Youth Group Activities
  - a. The Youth met at St. Edwards Catholic Church on June 7, 2009.

- b. Youth and other volunteers participated in mission/service project of cleaning 246 veteran's headstones at Rose Hill Cemetery on June 12, 2009. The *Texarkana Gazette* ran a front-page story on the project. The story was also run in several national publications. The youth received a certificate from the Disabled Veteran's Association in recognition of their efforts.
2. Sunday School Report:
  - a. Average Sunday School attendance for May was 42.
  - b. Combined children/youth classes began on June 7, 2009.
3. Baby Steps Program:
  - a. Interviews are continuing for additional employees.
  - b. Cleaning of the school area prior to church use is encouraged.
4. Sign-up continues for Brown Bag Bible study of *The Revelation*.
5. A survey will be taken to determine if there is interest in continuing Stewpot and the frequency thereof.
6. Ms. Portis also presented a request from the Director of Christian Education and Student Ministries at Oswego Presbyterian Church in Oswego, Illinois, requesting housing on Saturday, July 25, 2009. Ms. Portis will see to the arrangements. The housing of this youth group was approved by common consent.

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Robert Ransdell**

Mr. Ransdell reported the following:

1. The new dishwasher has been installed and is operational.
2. The contract with the yard maintenance company will be reviewed.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Charles Morgan**

No report.

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Reverend Susan Arnold received a request from Veritas Academy that we consider housing their 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade school. Administrators from the school toured our facilities. Although no formal decision has been made, Reverend Susan Arnold has been advised that they will most probably build a new building.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Charles Morgan presented for informational purposes printouts from the PCUSA website of our church statistics for the past 12 years.
2. Martha Nell Richards reported that the church roll needs to be reviewed and purged.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Reverend John Arnold closed the meeting with prayer.

Reverend Susan Arnold, Moderator

Sheila Moore, Clerk of Session