

**SESSION MINUTES
STATED MEETING FEBRUARY 19, 2009**

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church, Texarkana, Arkansas, met in a Stated Meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. in the Library/Session Room.

Elders present were Anne Douglas, Kevin Thompson, LaWanda West, Charles Jackson, Bob Ransdell, Pat Davitt, Martha Nell Richards, and Moderator Reverend Susan Arnold. Elders Charles Morgan, Larry Davis, and Melanie Gloster had an excused absence. Alan Solomon and Bob Veon were absent. Also present were Co-Pastor Reverend John Arnold, Youth/Education Director Jane Portis, Administrative Assistant Patricia Thomas, Treasurer Lary Walker, Diaconate Moderator Doke Douglas, Presbytery's Commissioner to Synod Remica Gray, 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 January 22, 2009.

MOTION - was made by Pat Davitt and seconded by Martha Nell Richards to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

REPORT OF ORGANIST SEARCH COMMITTEE

In the absence of Moderator Danny Gray, Reverend Susan Arnold reported that the committee is waiting to receive CD recordings from the four final applicants. Upon receipt, they will be reviewed and two will be selected for personal interviews.

SYNOD REPORT - Remica Gray, Presbytery of the Pines Commissioner to Synod of the Sun, reported on the Synod meeting.

DIACONATE REPORT - Doke Douglas

Diaconate met on February 11, 2009. The following activities were reported:

1. Family Camp dates are June 26-28 at Ferncliff.
2. A "Round Table" discussion will be held to educate members on the missions and projects of the church and who is in charge of each.
3. The "Souper Bowl Sunday" collection exceeded \$500.00 and will be donated to the Friendship Center.
4. The following assignments have been made:
 - a. Church picnic -Doke Douglas
 - b. Flower arrangements following Sunday services - Margo Strickland
 - c. Ice Cream Social - Reg Jackson
 - d. Easter Egg Hunt - Lisa Norton
 - e. Family Camp - Jeannie Sexton
 - f. Randy Sams - Sallie Dill

TREASURER'S REPORT - Lary Walker

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

Operating Account	\$ 49,273.00	Money Market Account	\$254,756.00
Music Account	\$ 7,782.00	Total of all Accounts	\$311,811.00
		Profit and Loss Statement	\$ -3,503.76

The financial reports were received as information.

Mr. Walker presented the 2009 Revised Budget. Corrections were made in the salaries for the Administrative Assistant and the Interim Organist. The Total Expenses for 2009 were revised from \$586,000 to \$572,041.

CLERK'S REPORT - Sheila Moore

1. Mrs. Moore reported that Gail Cogbill had received notice from Lauren Harris and Ryan Blake that they have chosen another venue for their wedding which was scheduled for June 6, 2009, and that same should be removed from our calendar. The Administrative Assistant has been notified.
2. Former Clerk Stacy Cogbill has prepared the 2008 Annual Reports to Presbytery. The Clerk's Annual Questionnaire, the 2009 Presbytery Directory Information, and the Changes in Pastor's Call have been sent to Presbytery by Mr. Cogbill. The Church Record for 2008 is presented for approval.

MOTION - was made by LaWanda West and seconded by Charles Jackson to approve the Church Record for 2008. The motion passed.

4. The Clerk presented a request from Gail Abrahamson, Moderator of the Presbyterian Women to apply for and participate in, if chosen, a field test of a Presbyterian Women's *Horizon's* Bible Study on the Beatitudes. PC(USA) is seeking groups around the country to test the study. The group would consist of approximately 12 women who would meet monthly from August until November 2009 to read, discuss and send comments to PC(USA). Ms. Abrahamson asked permission to seek volunteers for the study, apply, and conduct field testing if chosen.

MOTION - was made by Martha Nell Richards and seconded by Anne Douglas to approve the request of the Presbyterian Women to seek volunteers, apply for, and conduct field testing, if chosen, of the *Horizon's* Bible Study on the Beatitudes as set out above. The motion passed.

5. A request has been received from Rev. Sherry Holloman of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Midland, Texas, for overnight lodging for their youth group on Tuesday, June 16, 2009, while traveling to Heifer Project Village at Petit Jean.

MOTION - was made by Martha Nell Richards and seconded by Pat Davitt to approve the request of Rev. Sherry Holloman of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Midland, Texas, for overnight lodging for their youth group on Tuesday, June 16, 2009. The motion passed.

6. The church received a letter of thanks from the Board of Pensions for the Christmas Joy Offering.

PASTORS' REPORT - Co-Pastors Susan and John Arnold

Reverends John and Susan Arnold gave the Session written reports of the Pastors' activities during the months of January-February. These included member visitations at the hospitals and in homes, regular church activities and duties, and various community activities. Reverend John Arnold officiated at the funeral of Paul Winburn, and attended and was a Facilitator for Youth Ministry round table at the Presbytery of the Pines meeting on February 14, 2009. Reverend Susan Arnold filled the pulpit at Pine Bluff First Presbyterian Church.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE - Charles Jackson

Charles Jackson reported that the committee recommends that the Sacrament of Communion be served in the following manner: The elements will be served separately and held for all to partake in unison.

MOTION - was made by Charles Jackson that the Sacrament of Communion be served in the following manner: The elements will be served separately and held for all to partake in unison. The motion passed.

Mr. Jackson presented changes in the church's Wedding Policy. After discussion:

MOTION - was made by Martha Nell Richards and seconded by Kevin Thompson to amend the proposed changes by omitting the first sentence in Paragraph VII(D). The motion passed.

After further discussion:

MOTION - was made by Anne Douglas and seconded by LaWanda West that the Wedding Policy be amended as reflected on Exhibit "A" attached to these Minutes. The motion passed.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Kevin Thompson

Kevin Thompson reported that the following have agreed to serve on the 2009 Nominating Committee: Cordell Klein - Deacon; C. R. Pavey - Men of the Church; Vicki Deskin - Women of the Church; Ruth Arnold - Youth; Frank McClain - Non-Ruling Elder; Betty Anthony - Member at Large; Susan Morehead - Member at Large, Kevin Thompson - Moderator.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

In Dr. Davis' absence, Reverend Susan Arnold requested approval of the 2009 Revised Budget as presented by Treasurer Lary Walker.

MOTION - from the Stewardship Committee that the 2009 Revised Budget be approved as presented. The motion passed.

A letter will be sent to the congregation regarding the progress of the 2009 pledge campaign and budget.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE - Martha Nell Richards

Martha Nell Richards reported the following:

1. Shirley Cline has arranged for Greeters who are stationed at the north and east doors of the sanctuary.
2. Gillette McClain has hostesses for "Around the Coffee Pot" through April.
3. In order to cut expenses, the purchase of donut holes on Sunday mornings will be reduced by half.
4. Work on the website continues.
5. Ads will be placed in the Texarkana Gazette for Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday and combined Maundy Thursday-Easter.
6. The committee will work to improve the appearance of the church and to educate the members of the congregation to participate in making the church as attractive as possible.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE - Anne Douglas

Mrs. Douglas reported the following:

1. Youth Group Activities
 - a. Youth attendance averages 17 to 20.
 - b. The study of John the Baptist continues.
2. Sunday School
 - a. Average Sunday School attendance for January was 58.
 - b. Beth McHenry is researching a Sunday School Class for residents of Evergreen Presbyterian Home to be held at our church. Reverend John Arnold will assist in acquiring curriculum.
3. Baby Steps Program is looking at centers for toy storage.
4. Vacation Bible School
 - a. Curriculum will be "Camp Edge"
 - b. Dates are July 13 to 17.
 - c. Beth McHenry and Chris Walraven will be co-directors.
5. Stew Pot classes will be held on Wednesday nights in March.
6. Reverend Susan Arnold continues to teach Brown Bag Bible Study on Thursdays at noon.
7. Confirmation Class Camp will be held at Ferncliff on February 27 - March 1. Jane Portis and Andrew Gloster will attend as chaperones.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Robert Ransdell

Mr. Ransdell reported the following:

1. The elevator has been repaired. Insurance will be filed to cover the cost of the repairs which will exceed \$10,000.
2. A surge protector is needed for the elevator . The cost is \$3,800.

MOTION - was made by Robert Ransdell that one surge protector be purchased at the cost of \$3,800 for the elevator. The motion passed.

3. The church dishwasher needs to be replaced. The cost is \$4,500 which includes installation.

MOTION - was made by Robert Ransdell that a dishwasher be purchased from Texarkana Restaurant Supply at the cost of \$4,500 which includes installation. The motion passed.

4. There has been a proposal to install a shower in the annex. The committee will investigate this matter further.
5. Pat Davitt will present changes in the Building Usage Policy at next month's meeting.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Charles Morgan

In Mr. Morgan's absence, Reverend Susan Arnold reported that staff performance evaluations will be held in March.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Reverend Susan Arnold suggests that committee minutes be reproduced for each Session member to facilitate Session meetings. This will be discussed further at next month's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Reverend John Arnold reported for Commissioner Charles Morgan on the Presbytery Meeting on February 14, 2009, which was held in Monticello, Arkansas.

NEW BUSINESS

Martha Nell Richards encouraged Elders to participate in taking Communion to home bound members.

ADJOURNMENT

Reverend Susan Arnold closed the meeting with prayer.

Reverend Susan Arnold, Moderator

Sheila Moore, Clerk of Session

Wedding Policies Proposal Changes
February 5, 2009

EXHIBIT A

Proposal #1

(under)

II. Officiating Minister Policy

A (same)

B. **The members of First Presbyterian Church feel that premarital counseling is essential to a Christian wedding. Couples wishing to be married in the First Presbyterian Church sanctuary will be required to receive counseling from the minister(s) of First Presbyterian Church (see C. below) or the officiating minister. A written letter stating dates of such counseling must be provided to the wedding hostess, no later than one (1) month prior to the ceremony.**

C. (the old B)

Proposal #2

(under)

I. Application Procedure

ADD

_____ We understand that the requirement of marriage counseling as stated in the wedding policies must be reported to the wedding hostess 1 month before the wedding ceremony.

Proposal #3

**VI Fee Schedule (on page 6 of current wedding policies at the end of Fees.....)
Increase the fee to \$2,250 (with \$250 returned as deposit if there is no damage)**

All rental fees are due to the Church Office four (4) weeks prior.....before the day of the wedding to the individual parties.

(then add)

Any additional fees for building use and wedding personnel will be up to the discretion of the wedding hostess. (Ex. if more than one hostess is needed, extra set-up, etc.)

Proposal #4 (add new section proposal)

VII. Communion in Wedding Service

When communion is requested for a wedding at First Presbyterian Church, Texarkana, AR, there are certain guidelines and requirements that must be followed.

- A. Communion in the Presbyterian Church is an open communion and everyone is invited to partake. (W – – 2.4010)**
- B. The minister of First Presbyterian Church or a minister of a church with whom we are in full communion (G — 15.0201) must officiate and perform the sacrament of communion as part of the wedding ceremony.**
- C. Elders from First Presbyterian Church must serve the communion in the wedding service.**
- D. The bride is expected to make the necessary arrangements with the Moderator of the Worship Committee for the communion supplies. First Presbyterian Church can provide trays to serve 240 people.**