

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

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

Elders present were Anne Douglas, Melanie Gloster, Alan Solomon, Kevin Thompson, LaWanda West, Charles Jackson, Bob Veon, Bob Ransdell, Larry Davis, Pat Davitt, Martha Nell Richards, Charles Morgan, and Moderator Reverend Susan Arnold. Also present were Youth/Education Director Jane Portis, Administrative Assistant Patricia Thomas, Treasurer Lary Walker, Diaconate Moderator Doke Douglas, Moderator of the Organist Search Committee Danny Gray, prospective new members Jeff Daniels and Ruth Arnold, and Clerk Sheila Moore.

Reverend Susan Arnold called the meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and gave the opening prayer. The opening devotional was an explanation of "Missional Ecclesiology."

MINUTES

The Session reviewed minutes from the Stated Meeting of February 19, 2009.

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

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

Reverend Susan Arnold introduced Ruth Arnold who is requesting a transfer of membership from First Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs, Arkansas, and Jeff Daniels who is requesting membership upon a reaffirmation of faith from Central Baptist Church, Texarkana, Arkansas.

MOTION - was made by Melanie Gloster and seconded by Larry Davis to give privilege of the floor to Ruth Arnold and Jeff Daniels. The motion passed.

Those present introduced themselves and described their jobs in the church. Miss Arnold and Mr. Daniels gave their statements of faith.

MOTION - was made by Charles Jackson and seconded by Charles Morgan to receive Ruth Arnold by transfer of membership from First Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs, Arkansas, and Jeff Daniels by reaffirmation of faith from Central Baptist Church, Texarkana, Arkansas. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORT OF ORGANIST SEARCH COMMITTEE

Danny Gray reported on the progress of the Organist Search Committee. Two candidates are being considered – one male individual and one couple. The individual lives in Virginia and the couple in Stillwater, Oklahoma. The Organist Search Committee made a recommendation to bring the candidates to Texarkana for interviews.

MOTION - was made by the Organist Search Committee to bring the organist candidates to Texarkana for interviews. The motion passed.

DIACONATE REPORT - Doke Douglas

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

1. Dinners for Eight groups are being formed.
2. The church picnic is tentatively set for October 17.
3. This month's monthly mission is collecting towels for Randy Sams Homeless Shelter.
4. The Easter Egg Hunt is set for April 11.
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. The Diaconate will provide lunch.

MOTION - from the Diaconate to hold a Round Table Discussion to identify the missions of the church on Sunday, April 26, 2009, at 12:00 noon. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Lary Walker

Mr. Walker reviewed the financial reports for the month ending February 28, 2009. Balances were shown as follows:

Operating Account	\$ 37,964.00	Money Market Account	\$248,343.00
Music Account	\$ 7,786.00	Total of all Accounts	\$294,093.00
		Profit and Loss Statement	\$ -14,241.28

MOTION - was made by Pat Davitt and seconded by LaWanda West to receive the financial reports as information. The motion passed.

CLERK'S REPORT - Sheila Moore

1. A letter was sent to Pat and Jane Davitt thanking them for their donation of cardstock and laminated Communion instructions.
2. The Session was informed that the membership transfer of Michael Martin was completed. Mr. Martin transferred to the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth, Texas, on November 9, 2008.

PASTORS' REPORT - Co-Pastor Susan Arnold

Reverend Susan Arnold gave the Session a written report of her activities during the month of February-March. These included member visitations at the hospitals and in homes, home Communion services, regular church activities and duties, and various community activities.

Reverend Susan Arnold requested Study Leave/Doctoral Residence on May 3 to 17, 2009, and vacation leave for Reverend John Arnold on May 11 to 17, 2009. Charles Morgan will preach on May 17, 2009. Liturgists will be needed for Sundays, May 3, May 10, and May 17, 2009.

MOTION - was made by Larry Davis and seconded by Anne Douglas to approve Reverend Susan Arnold's Study Leave/Doctoral Residence on May 3 to 17, 2009, and Reverend John Arnold's vacation leave on May 11 to 17, 2009. The motion passed.

It was noted that Reverend John Arnold took vacation leave March 14 to March 19, 2009. It was approved by common consent.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE - Charles Jackson

Charles Jackson reported that the Worship Committee has met. The committee is modifying the bulletin format.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Kevin Thompson

Kevin Thompson reported that the committee did not meet.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE - Larry Davis

Larry Davis reported that the committee did not meet.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE - Martha Nell Richards

Martha Nell Richards reported the following:

1. Work is continuing on the website which should be in operation in approximately two months.

MOTION - was made by Anne Douglas and seconded by Charles Morgan to allow a Facebook page entitled *FPC Texarkana*. The Facebook page will be linked to the church's website. The motion passed.

2. Bread of Life has delivered four loaves of bread.
3. Ms. Richards distributed a sign-up sheet to take Communion to homebound members.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE - Anne Douglas

Mrs. Douglas reported the following:

1. Youth Group Activities
 - a. The Youth Group's mission project is cleaning tombstones at Rose Hill Cemetery.
2. Sunday School
 - a. Average Sunday School attendance for February was 58.
 - b. The grade school and junior high classes will be combined for the summer months.
3. Baby Steps Program
 - a. Open House will be held Wednesday, March 25, 2009.
 - b. There has been a tuition increase.
 - c. There is a need for age appropriate books.

MOTION - was made by Martha Nell Richards and seconded by Charles Morgan to allow the Baby Steps program to take and use the children's books from the shelves in the conference room of the Annex. The motion passed.

4. Vacation Bible School
 - a. Curriculum will be "Camp E.D.G.E. – Experience and Discover God Everywhere."
 - b. Beth McHenry will be the director and several volunteers have been confirmed.
5. Confirmation Camp was held at Ferncliff. Four confirmands will be confirmed on Easter Sunday. By common consent it was agreed that there will be a called Session meeting on Thursday, April 9, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Annex to receive the confirmands.

It was agreed by common consent that the metal chairs stored in the basement be placed in the garage. The Youth will assist with this move.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Robert Ransdell

Mr. Ransdell reported the following:

1. The dishwasher will be delivered and installed on Tuesday, March 24, 2009.
2. The Building Usage policy will be discussed at a later date.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Charles Morgan

Charles Morgan reported that the Personnel Committee recommends that the Operations Manual be amended as follows:

The first sentence of section 6.0 EVALUATION AND DISCIPLINE in the employee handbook section would be amended as stated below:

"The pastor and Personnel Committee shall evaluate and have conferences with each employee annually *in the spring*."

MOTION - was made by Charles Morgan to amend the Operations Manual as listed above. The motion passed.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Joe Hudson has advised the Church that the Clean Air AA Group held their last meeting in the Annex on Monday, February 23, 2009. The Clean Air AA Group is merging with another group and meeting at the Presbyterian Church of the Redeemer. Mr. Hudson indicated that prospective members would come one time and would not come again due to the poor lighting in the alleyway. The matter was referred to the Property Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Reverend Susan Arnold closed the meeting with prayer.

Reverend Susan Arnold, Moderator

Sheila Moore, Clerk of Session