

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

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

Elders present were Anne Douglas, Melanie Gloster, Alan Solomon, Kevin Thompson, Charles Jackson, Bob Veon, Bob Ransdell, Pat Davitt, Charles Morgan, Martha Nell Richards, Larry Davis and LaWanda West and Moderator Reverend John Arnold. Also present were Co-Pastor Reverend Susan Arnold, Youth/Education Director Jane Portis, Administrative Assistant Patricia Thomas, Organist/Music Director Jim Spirup, Treasurer Lary Walker, Diaconate Moderator Doke Douglas, Lucy and Randy Sarrett, Jessica and Corey Sharp, and Clerk Sheila Moore.

Reverend John 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 October 22, 2009.

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

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

Those present introduced themselves and described their jobs in the church. Reverend John Arnold introduced Lucy and Randy Sarrett who are requesting membership on reaffirmation of faith. Dr. and Mrs. Sarrett gave a statement of faith.

Reverend John Arnold introduced Jessica and Corey Sharp who are requesting a transfer of membership from St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Yuba City, California. Mr. and Mrs. Sharp gave a statement of their faith.

MOTION - was made by Anne Douglas and seconded by Charles Jackson to receive Lucy and Randy Sarrett by reaffirmation of faith; and Jessica and Corey Sharp by transfer of membership from St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Yuba City, California. The motion passed unanimously.

DIACONATE REPORT - Doke Douglas

Anne Douglas reported the following for Doke Douglas:

1. Sallie Dill will post the schedule for serving the meal at Randy Sams.

2. The church directory is progressing.
3. Cordell Klein and Reg Jackson will be co-moderators of the Diaconate for 2010 and Mona Fomby will be the Clerk.

TREASURER’S REPORT - Lary Walker

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

Operating Account	\$10,159.00	Money Market Account	\$ 139,039.00
Music Account	\$ 7,793.00	Total of all Accounts	\$ 156,991.00
		Profit and Loss Statement	\$ -77,382.48

The financial reports were received as information.

CLERK’S REPORT - Sheila Moore

1. The Clerk reported that the Unified Mission Support 2010 commitment card had been returned to Presbytery of the Pines showing the approved \$35,000.00 amount pledged to unified missions.
2. A request was received from Remica Gray for permission for the bell tower band to host a band of English ringers on Friday afternoon and evening, February 26, 2010. The church calendar is clear for this day.

MOTION - was made by Charles Morgan and seconded by Melanie Gloster granting permission for the bell tower band to host a band of English ringers on Friday afternoon and evening, February 26, 2010. The motion passed.

3. A request was received from Shawna Gauntt for the use of the Fellowship Hall for the First Presbyterian Baby Steps and Preschool to have a Christmas Party on Thursday, December 17, 2009, from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

MOTION - was made by Martha Nell Richards and seconded by Charles Morgan to allow the use of the Fellowship Hall for the First Presbyterian Baby Steps and Preschool to have a Christmas Party on Thursday, December 17, 2009, from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. The motion passed.

4. A request was received from Veritas Academy for use of the Fellowship Hall on December 4, 2009, from 5:30 to 10:00 p.m. for their Christmas Ball. They request that we waive fees or partial fees.

MOTION - was made by Charles Morgan and seconded by Martha Nell Richards to allow the use of the Fellowship Hall for the Veritas Academy for their Christmas Ball on December 4, 2009, from 5:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. The fee of \$125.00 will be paid as a deposit and refunded if the facility is properly cleaned following use. The motion passed.

PASTORS' REPORT - Co-Pastors Susan and John Arnold

1. Both pastors gave the Session written reports of their activities during the month of October-November. These included member visitations at the hospitals and in homes, regular church activities and duties, and various community activities.
2. Reverend Susan Arnold informed Session that she will perform the wedding ceremony for Ian Carr and Miranda Mabry on Saturday, May 22, 2010, in Maumelle, Arkansas; and the wedding ceremony for Aaron Thomas Flowers and Dana Beth Yarberry on Saturday, July 10, 2010, at Northridge Country Club, Texarkana, Texas.
3. Reverends Susan and John Arnold request vacation leave from December 27 to December 30, 2009. Chuck Morgan will preach on December 27, 2009. Reverend John Arnold also requested to take vacation days on November 23 and 24, 2009.

MOTION - was made by Anne Douglas and seconded by LaWanda West to approve the vacation request of Reverends Susan and John Arnold for December 27 to December 30, 2009, and for Reverend John Arnold on November 23 and 24, 2009. The motion passed.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE - Larry Davis

Dr. Davis reported that the budget was presented to the congregation on November 4. November 8 was commitment Sunday. 64 pledges have been received for \$342,920.00. Several donors have offered to resolve the balance owed on the annex.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE - Charles Jackson

Charles Jackson reported that the Advent series is set.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Kevin Thompson

No report.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE - Martha Nell Richards

Martha Nell Richards reported the following:

1. The Windstream Yellow Pages ad has been revised.
2. There will be a renewed effort to reach lapsed members, visitors and young people.
3. The committee requested permission to hold a "Parents' Night Out" on December 19, 2009, which will provide babysitting for young couples. The youth will help and there will be no cost. The families of the Preschool will be invited to participate.

MOTION - from the committee to hold a "Parents' Night Out" on December 19, 2009, from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. which will provide babysitting for young couples. The motion passed.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE - Anne Douglas

Mrs. Douglas reported the following:

1. Youth Group Activities
 - a. The Youth will deliver 57 Thanksgiving baskets on November 22, 2009
 - b. Volunteers are needed to feed the Youth.
 - c. The Youth will be preparing Christmas Wreaths to be placed on the graves of Veterans.
2. Sunday School Report:
 - a. Average Sunday School attendance for October was 46.
 - b. The new curriculum has arrived.
3. Baby Steps Program:
 - a. Two parents of children in the program will be asked to serve on the Board.
 - b. The book drive continues.
 - c. \$109.97 was realized at the Chicken Express fundraiser.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Robert Ransdell

Mr. Ransdell reported that the roof repairs are still in progress.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Charles Morgan

MOTION - was made by Charles Morgan and seconded by Larry Davis to move to Executive Session to discuss policy changes to the personnel manual. The motion passed.

Session entered Executive Session from 6:25 p.m. until 6:45 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Reverend John Arnold requested that the December 17, 2009, Session meeting be held at the Arnold's home for an early meal, short business meeting, and thank you to retiring officers. Session agreed by common consent.

Reverend Susan Arnold requested that Cale Alan Gray, son of Alan and Ginger Gray, be baptized on December 24, 2009.

MOTION - was made by Melanie Gloster and seconded by Charles Morgan to approve the baptism of Cale Alan Gray on December 24, 2009. The motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION - was made by LaWanda West and seconded by Anne Douglas to adjourn. The motion passed.

Reverend Susan Arnold closed the meeting with prayer.

Reverend John Arnold, Moderator

Sheila Moore, Clerk of Session