

**SESSION MINUTES  
STATED MEETING AUGUST 20, 2009**

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church, Texarkana, Arkansas, met in a Stated Meeting on Thursday, August 20, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. in the Library/Session Room.

Elders present were Anne Douglas, Melanie Gloster, Kevin Thompson, LaWanda West, Bob Ransdell, Larry Davis, Martha Nell Richards, and Moderator Reverend Susan Arnold. Charles Morgan and Charles Jackson had excused absences. Also present were Co-Pastor Reverend John Arnold, Youth/Education Director Jane Portis, Administrative Assistant Patricia Thomas, Organist/Music Director Jim Spirup, Treasurer Lary Walker, Diaconate Moderator Doke Douglas, and Clerk Sheila Moore.

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

**MINUTES**

The Session reviewed minutes from the Stated Meeting of July 16, 2009.

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

**DIACONATE REPORT** - Doke Douglas

Diaconate met on August 12, 2009, at their regular meeting and on August 19, 2009, at a specially called meeting regarding missions. The following activities were reported:

1. Family Camp will be held at Jan Kay Ranch, Detroit, Texas, on July 9 to 11, 2010.
2. The meal served at Randy Sams Shelter needs more participants. Ideally, there should be at least four families serving each month.
3. The mission for September will be the Peacemaking offering.
4. Pictures for the church directory will be taken September 13, 20, and 27, 2009.
5. Research is being conducted into repair of the fence behind the old kitchen.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** - Lary Walker

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

|                   |              |                           |                |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Operating Account | \$ 18,672.00 | Money Market Account      | \$ 184,205.00  |
| Music Account     | \$ 7,792.00  | Total of all Accounts     | \$ 210,669.00  |
|                   |              | Profit and Loss Statement | \$ - 40,174.55 |

The financial reports were received as information.

**CLERK’S REPORT - Sheila Moore**

1. The Clerk reported the death of member Augusta Dingeldein on July 19, 2009.
2. A request for use of facilities in the annex was received from Beth Morgan for a luncheon sponsored by the Angel Fund Foundation on September 1, 2009. The Session was polled by e-mail and a quorum voted affirmatively to approve this request. Mrs. Morgan has been notified.
3. Beth Morgan has further requested that Session approve the use of the annex by the Angel Fund Foundation for its meetings four times per year. This approval will prevent quarterly approval of the meetings. Mrs. Morgan will check with the Administrative Assistant to be certain that the calendar is clear for the proposed dates before scheduling the meetings.

**MOTION -** was made by Martha Nell Richards and seconded by LaWanda West to approve the use of the annex by the Angel Fund Foundation for its meetings four times per year on dates to be determined and cleared with the Administrative Assistant. The motion passed.

4. A request for use of the Fellowship Hall and kitchen has been received from Brenda Works for her teacher sorority, Alpha Delta Kappa, on Monday, October 12, 2009, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The church calendar is clear for this date.

**MOTION -** was made by Bob Ransdell and seconded by Larry Davis to approve the use of facilities request for this date and time. The motion passed.

5. The bequest to the Malcolm Lecture Trust in the amount of \$10,000 has been received from the estate of Ed Malcolm, deceased. Treasurer Lary Walker has added \$10,000 to the Malcolm CD. The new amount is \$24,647.31. The interest rate is 2.10%. The CD matures on August 17, 2010.
6. The Transfer of Membership of Michelle Williamson from First Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs, Arkansas, to First Presbyterian Church, Texarkana, Arkansas, has been completed.
7. A request was received from Chad and Melanie Dowd to terminate their family’s membership. Beth Ann Dowd and Walker Wayne Dowd were baptized in our church

but have not been confirmed as members.

**MOTION** - was made by LaWanda West and seconded by Anne Douglas to remove Chad and Melanie Dowd from the Active Roll. The motion passed.

8. A thank you note was received from the family of Norman Alexander (Reg Jackson's step father).
9. In an attempt to create an accurate church membership list, a review of the church membership rolls is being conducted. It was determined that the following members were sent a letter on March 18, 2004, advising them that unless further notice was received, their names would be placed on the Inactive roll:

|                          |      |
|--------------------------|------|
| Carlyn Brown             | 1022 |
| Pat Cauley               | 1365 |
| Gay Cauley               | 1364 |
| Rodney Chandler          | 1187 |
| Harry Cogell             | 1238 |
| Roger Jackson            | 1323 |
| Anita Jackson            | 1324 |
| Ryan Jackson             | 1326 |
| Jeffrey Smith            | 1325 |
| Josh Johnson             | 1112 |
| Amanda Jordan            | 1360 |
| Frances Elizabeth Kehler | 1049 |
| Chris Knowles            | 1228 |
| Adam Knowles             | 1248 |
| Molly LeBoeuf            | 1371 |
| James McFerran           | 221  |
| Kim Davis Murphy         | 1241 |
| Robert Warmack           | 1353 |
| Mary Pat Carlson         | 1301 |
| Tom Wright               | 1300 |

No response has been received.

**MOTION** - was made by Anne Douglas and seconded by LaWanda West to move the above named individuals to the Inactive Roll. 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 July-August. These included member visitations at the hospitals and in homes, regular church activities and duties, and various community activities. Reverend John Arnold also reported his activities from

his Continuing Education Week in August.

A request was made for Continuing Education for Reverend John Arnold from September 6 to 10, 2009; and a request was made for vacation for Reverends Susan and John Arnold on Sunday, September 13, 2009. The requests were approved by common consent.

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE** - Charles Jackson

Organist/Music Director Jim Spirup reported that the organ is in need of maintenance. The Casavant representative has been contacted, and a technician will be here on August 31, 2009, to remove the mechanism so that maintenance can be performed on the mechanism by Casavant. The Casavant representative advises that it will take approximately three weeks to complete. The organ will be functional while the maintenance is being performed. The organ is under warranty and the maintenance will be covered by Casavant. The church will be responsible for expenses for the technician to remove and reinstall the mechanism.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** - Kevin Thompson

Kevin Thompson reported that the committee met on July 29, 2009, to begin the process of nominating officers.

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE** - Larry Davis

Larry Davis reported that the budget requests have been received, and the budget will be presented to Session in September.

**EVANGELISM COMMITTEE** - Martha Nell Richards

Martha Nell Richards reported that Friendship Day will be held in conjunction with the church picnic. The evangelism committee and Diaconate will work together on this endeavor.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE** - Anne Douglas

Mrs. Douglas reported the following:

1. Youth Group Activities

- a. Seven hundred pounds of dog and cat food were collected and donated to the Texarkana Animal Shelter.
- b. The Youth have scheduled a fish fry on September 13, 2009, to earn money to contribute to the 2010 Youth budget. The Youth have requested a reduction of \$1,000 in the Youth budget for 2010. Any money earned at the fish fry will be used to supplement the Youth Budget.

2. Sunday School Report:

- a. Average Sunday School attendance for July was 42.
- b. The children's Sunday School classes have been combined into three classes.

3. The Presbyterian School:

- a. The school is seeking a new director.
- b. Six ads will be run seeking children for the fall program.
- c. Jim Spirup will work with the children two times per week on music.

4. Stewpot will begin in October. Teachers and classes have been planned. Advertising will begin in September.

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Robert Ransdell**

Mr. Ransdell reported that the condenser on one air conditioner in the sanctuary and the entire air conditioning unit in the bell tower has been replaced.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Charles Morgan**

Reverend Susan Arnold reported that the committee has not met.

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

The wedding application of Kristen Fomby and Brad Gibson for March 13, 2010, which was approved by Session on June 18, 2009, has now been completed. Vicki Deskin will be the Wedding Hostess. This application was approved by common consent.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Organist Jim Spirup has been subpoenaed to testify in a civil trial in Virginia on September 7, 8 and 9, 2009.
- 2. Reverend Susan Arnold suggested posting a short description of Session's activities on the website.

3. Reverend Susan Arnold suggested a need for better defining the relationship between the Presbyterian School and the congregation. She will work with the board to improve communication and understanding.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Reverend Susan Arnold closed the meeting with prayer.

Reverend Susan Arnold, Moderator

Sheila Moore, Clerk of Session