

**SESSION MINUTES
STATED MEETING JANUARY 21, 2010**

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church, Texarkana, Arkansas, met in a Stated Meeting on Thursday, January 21, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. in the Library/Session Room.

Elders present were Melanie Gloster, Kevin Thompson, Charles Jackson, Bob Ransdell, Hayes McClerkin, Dan Boyles, Cynthia Walker, Sue Ellen Hall, 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 Betty Anthony, Diaconate Moderator Cordell Klein, 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 December 17, 2009, and the Annual Meeting of January 13, 2010.

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

DIACONATE REPORT - Cordell Klein

Dr. Klein reported that the Diaconate will be working on Missions. Reg Jackson will serve on the Nominating Committee as a representative of Diaconate.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Betty Anthony

Ms. Anthony reviewed the financial reports for the month ending December 31, 2009. Balances were shown as follows:

Operating Account	\$90,931	Money Market Account	\$ 77,828
Music Account	\$ 7,793	Total of all Accounts	\$ 176,552
		Profit and Loss Statement	\$ -71,205

The financial reports were received as information.

CLERK'S REPORT - Sheila Moore

1. The Clerk reported that thank you notes had been received from Randy Sams' Outreach Shelter and Evergreen Presbyterian Ministries for donations.

2. The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Express Employment Professionals advising that a donation had been made in the name of the church to Watersprings Ranch Ministries in lieu of a Christmas gift.
3. A note was received from Curtis and Barbara Blom with a monetary gift. Mr. and Mrs. Blom had been attending our church during their six-month stay in Texarkana. They have now returned to Iowa.
4. The Clerk presented a request from Stephanie Jackson for the use of the Fellowship Hall for a Baby Shower for Jerica Myers on February 7, 2010, from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. This is a change of date of a request which had been previously approved. The calendar is clear for this date.
5. The Clerk presented a request from Georgette Peckham, moderator of Presbyterian Women, for approval of the following events:
 - A. Joint Circle Meeting, Tuesday, March 16, 2010, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall;
 - B. Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering Dinner, Wednesday, May 5, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall;
 - C. Joy Gift Offering Dinner, Wednesday, December 1, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
6. The Clerk presented a request from Lynn Jackson for use of the Fellowship Hall for a meeting of the Circle of Friends, Texarkana Chapter for Arkansas Children's Hospital, on Sunday, March 7, 2010, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Lynn Jackson and Dean Ransdell are the responsible parties. The church calendar is clear for that date.

MOTION - was made by Cynthia Walker and seconded by Melanie Gloster to approve the use of the Fellowship Hall for the baby shower on February 7, 2010, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.; to approve the dates requested by the Presbyterian Women as set out above; and to approve the use of the Fellowship Hall by the Circle of Friends on March 7, 2010, from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. The motion passed.

7. The Clerk has prepared the 2009 Annual Reports to Presbytery. The 2009 Presbytery Directory Information and the Changes in Pastor's Call have been sent to Presbytery. The Clerk's Annual Questionnaire for year ending December 31, 2009, and the Session Annual Statistical Report for 2009 is presented for approval.

MOTION - was made by Cynthia Walker and seconded by Dan Boyles to approve the Church Record for 2009. 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 December-January. These included member visitations at the hospitals and in homes, regular church activities and duties, and various community activities.
2. Reverend John Arnold reported that he has been focusing his study on worship, children's ministry and finances.
3. Reverend Arnold reminded committee moderators to report on items that need action by Session.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE - Charles Jackson

Charles Jackson reported that he is in the process of forming the committee.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Kevin Thompson

Kevin Thompson reported that the committee is almost complete. Pat Davitt will serve from the Men of the Church.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE - Hayes McClerkin

1. Mr. McClerkin reported that the committee will meet the first Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m.
2. The Committee proposed to remove all non-Stewardship Committee members as signers on the Regions Bank checking account. Those removed as signers are Stacy Cogbill, Charles Jackson, Merilynn Johnson, Georgette Peckham, Martha Nell Richards, Lary Walker and Gene Cogbill. The Committee proposed that the Treasurer and all current Stewardship Committee members be added as signers. Those added as check signers are Hayes McClerkin, Alan Solomon, Ruth Davis, Ronnie Walraven and Shirley Cline. When a member from the Diaconate is appointed to this committee, that person will also be added as a signer on the account.

MOTION - was made the Stewardship Committee to revise the signers on the Regions Bank Account as set out above and to authorize the Clerk to send a letter to Regions Bank requesting these changes. The motion passed.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE - Melanie Gloster

Mrs. Gloster reported that the committee is being formed. She stated that she will provide a written report of the committee's activities to Session each month.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE - Cynthia Walker

Mrs. Walker reported the following:

The Baby Steps Program will close January 29, 2010. She further stated that the children's Sunday School classes have low numbers. The exception is the older Youth group which averages 20 in attendance.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Dan Boyles

Mr. Boyles reported the following:

1. They are in the process of forming the committee.
2. The Annex is being re-roofed and there are repairs being done to the Fellowship Hall and the Office/Sunday School Building.
3. The committee will attempt to review the budget to see where items can be cut.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Bob Veon

No report.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

1. Reverend John Arnold reminded each Committee Moderator to report to Session the make-up of their Committee at the February Session meeting and to present for recommendation any shifts or revisions in their Committee Job Description.
2. There was a discussion of who has keys to the church.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. A Commissioner is needed to attend the Presbytery Meeting on February 20, 2010, at the Broadmoor Presbyterian Church in Shreveport, Louisiana.

MOTION - was made by Hayes McClerkin and seconded by LaWanda West that Cynthia Walker be elected as Commissioner to the Presbytery Meeting on February 20, 2010, at the Broadmoor Presbyterian Church in Shreveport, Louisiana. The motion passed.

2. Family Fair Night will be held on February 3, 2010. Each committee will have a space showcasing their job in the church.
3. There was a Special meeting of Presbytery on January 13, 2010, held in Ruston, Louisiana. Charles Morgan attended as Commissioner. Covenant Presbyterian Church, Monroe, Louisiana, was released from PC(USA) and will join the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
4. Reverend John Arnold requested permission to form a team to discuss the low numbers of young children in the church. The New Generation Strategy Team would be responsible to the Christian Education Committee.

MOTION - was made by Hayes McClerkin and seconded by LaWanda West to grant Reverend John Arnold permission to form the New Generation Strategy Team as set out above. The motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Reverend Susan Arnold closed the meeting with prayer.

Reverend John Arnold, Moderator

Sheila Moore, Clerk of Session