

**SESSION MINUTES
STATED MEETING MAY 21, 2009**

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church, Texarkana, Arkansas, met in a Stated Meeting on Thursday, May 21, 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, and Moderator Reverend John Arnold. Elder Charles Morgan had an excused absence. Also present were Co-Pastor Reverend Susan Arnold, Youth/Education Director Jane Portis, Administrative Assistant Patricia Thomas, Treasurer Lary Walker, Diaconate Moderator Doke Douglas, Richard Sexton, 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 April 16, 2009.

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

REPORT OF ORGANIST SEARCH COMMITTEE

Anne Douglas reported that all but one candidate had been eliminated. Moderator Danny Gray will make a complete report in the near future.

DIACONATE REPORT - Doke Douglas

The following activities were reported:

1. Family Camp sign-up is ongoing. Payment should be made to the church and a church check will be taken to Ferncliff. Payment should be made by June 20, 2009.
2. Randy Sams mission is ongoing.
3. There are twenty-five participants signed up for Dinners for Eight. The program will start in the fall.
4. Reverend John Arnold is working on compiling the data obtained at the Round Table Discussion.
5. The new church directory is progressing.
6. A date for the Ice Cream Social has not yet been set.

7. Jeannie Sexton is working on the new member packets and board.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Lary Walker

Mr. Walker reviewed the financial reports for the month ending April 30, 2009. Balances were shown as follows:

Operating Account	\$33,109.00	Money Market Account	\$213,381.00
Music Account	\$ 7,790.00	Total of all Accounts	\$254,280.00
		Profit and Loss Statement	\$ -14,156.22

The financial reports were received as information.

CLERK'S REPORT - Sheila Moore

1. Ms. Moore reported that a request had been received from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary for our church to observe Theological Education/Seminary Sunday on September 20, 2009. The Seminary asks that we host an Austin Seminary representative to preach, lead worship, bring a "Minute for Mission" and/or meet with a church school class on that date. We are asked to cover the cost of the representative's travel. The matter was referred to the Worship Committee.
2. The Clerk received a letter from Stacy Cogbill regarding the repairs to the roof which included special thanks to Jane Portis, Youth/Education Director, and Ron Cantu, custodian, for their help cleaning up following the leaks on Thursday, May 14, 2009.

PASTORS' REPORT - Co-Pastors Susan and John Arnold

Reverend John Arnold requested that he be allowed to take a vacation day on Sunday, June 7, 2009. Reverend Susan Arnold will preach.

MOTION - was made by Martha Nell Richards and seconded by Anne Douglas that Reverend John Arnold be allowed a vacation day on Sunday, June 7, 2009. The motion passed.

Reverend Susan Arnold thanked the Session for allowing her to participate in the Study Leave/Doctoral Residence during May.

PRESBYTERY MEETING REPORT - Larry Davis

Elder commissioner Larry Davis reported on the 94th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Pines which was held May 12, 2009, in Camden, Arkansas, and attended by Reverend John Arnold and Mr. Davis. Reverend John Arnold gave a report to Presbytery on his blog "The Practical Disciple."

WORSHIP COMMITTEE - Charles Jackson

Charles Jackson reported that the committee did not meet. He and Tony Moore are working on recording worship services and broadcasting them on the church website.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Kevin Thompson

No report.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE - Larry Davis

No report.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE - Martha Nell Richards

Martha Nell Richards reported that the Evangelism Committee met on May 20, 2009.

1. Missy Parks delivered six loaves of bread to visitors during the month of April.
2. Melanie Gloster is working with the directors of VBS on advertisements in the Gazette.
3. The membership roll is being updated.
4. We are no longer using Computer Engineering to maintain the church website. Reverend John Arnold and Sue Ellen Hall will be the administrators of the website for the time being. It is hoped that it will be operating within a month.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE - Anne Douglas

Mrs. Douglas reported the following:

1. Youth Group Activities
 - a. St. Luke's Methodist Church youth will join with our youth group.
 - b. The Youth are studying the seven "I Am" statements of Christ.
 - c. Youth Sunday and Senior Recognition Sunday were held on May 17, 2009.
2. Sunday School Report:
 - a. Average Sunday School attendance for April was 70.
 - b. Rally Day will be held August 16, 2009.

- c. During the summer, the junior high and senior high classes will combine as will the toddler and pre-K classes.

3. VBS

- a. Teachers are Mandy Davis (crafts), Melanie Gloster (scientist), Marge Wilhelm (food), Jane Portis and Youth group members (games and recreation), Martha Nell Richards (story teller), Reverend John Arnold (music).
- b. Christmas trees are needed to construct the forest.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Robert Ransdell

Mr. Ransdell reported the following:

1. Non-slip strips have been installed on the steps in the sanctuary.
2. The air conditioner in the church office has been replaced at a cost of \$4,860.00.
3. The roof is completed. There are two pallets of slate left over. Leaks that occurred on May 14, 2009, have been repaired. Ceiling tiles damaged by the leaks will be repaired.
4. The installation of the new dishwasher is ninety percent complete.

Pat Davitt provided copies of the revised Building Use Policies for inclusion in the Operations Manual.

Richard Sexton asked that a hot water heater be installed in the Echo Center to work with the new washer.

MOTION - was made by LaWanda West and seconded by Larry Davis to purchase a hot water heater and install same in the Echo Center at a price not to exceed \$1,000.00. Further, the air conditioners and other scrap metal stored in the storage area behind the old kitchen should be sold to help pay for this project. The motion passed.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Charles Morgan

No report.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

The October meeting of the Presbytery of the Pines is scheduled, so it will not be necessary to offer to host the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Reverend Susan Arnold received a request from Veritas Academy that we consider housing their 7th through 12th grade school. Reverend Susan Arnold will research this further and report to Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Reverend Susan Arnold closed the meeting with prayer.

Reverend John Arnold, Moderator

Sheila Moore, Clerk of Session