

SESSION MINUTES
STATED MEETING - JANUARY 22, 2009

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church, Texarkana, Arkansas, met in a Stated Meeting on Thursday, January 22, 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 John Arnold. Also present were Co-Pastor Reverend Susan Arnold, Youth/Education Director Jane Portis, Administrative Assistant Patricia Thomas, Treasurer Lary Walker, Diaconate Moderator Doke Douglas, Moderator of the Organist Search Committee Danny Gray, Wedding Hostess Vicki Deskin, and Clerk Sheila Moore.

Reverend John Arnold called the meeting to order, declared a quorum present, welcomed new Session members, and gave the opening prayer and devotional.

MINUTES

The Session reviewed minutes from the Stated Meeting of December 18, 2008, and the Annual Meeting of January 14, 2009.

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

REPORT OF ORGANIST SEARCH COMMITTEE

Danny Gray reported on the progress of the Organist Search Committee. Four applicants have been requested to submit DVD or CD recordings. These will be reviewed and two will be selected for personal interviews. Each applicant has been made aware of the budgeted salary.

DIACONATE REPORT - Doke Douglas

Diaconate met on January 14, 2009. The following activities were reported:

1. The Deacons will continue to have monthly mission projects.
2. Mona Fomby has been elected as Secretary of the Diaconate.
3. The Shepherd Program is being updated by Margo Strickland.
4. The meals that our church serves at Randy Sams Homeless Shelter are scheduled through May.
5. A new church directory is being discussed possibly with the use of digital photography.

Reverend Susan Arnold reported that proposed Family Camp dates are June 5-7, June 26-28, July 10-12, or July 24-26. Diaconate will select a date for Session's approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Lary Walker

Mr. Walker reviewed the financial reports for the month and year ending December 31, 2008. Balances were shown as follows:

Operating Account	\$226,556.00	Money Market Account	\$
	84,631.00		
Music Account	\$ 7,771.00	Total of all Accounts	
		\$318,958.00	
		Profit and Loss Statement	\$
		-5,613.77	

The financial reports were received as information.

CLERK'S REPORT - Sheila Moore

Mrs. Moore presented a request from Remica Gray for approval to use the church facilities for the training of Tower Bell Ringers from Shreveport, Dallas and Little Rock on the following dates: February 14, April 16-19 (Five Towers Festival is already scheduled), May 23, July 25, and September 26, 2009. It has been verified that the church calendar is clear for those dates.

MOTION - was made by Charles Morgan and seconded by Alan Solomon to approve Tower Bell Ringer Training as stated above. The motion passed.

The Clerk read an e-mail received from Remica Gray thanking the church for hosting the Texarkana Youth Symphony on December 14, 2008.

Mrs. Moore reported that Gail Cogbill had received a request from Carmen Matthews that her wedding scheduled for February 14, 2009, be cancelled. The Administrative Assistant will return Ms. Matthews' deposit and the Custodian has been notified.

A wedding application has been received from Andrea Marie Thompson and David Henry Flory. The rehearsal is August 28 and the wedding August 29, 2009. The church's calendar is clear for those dates. After discussion:

MOTION - was made by Pat Davitt and seconded by Melanie Gloster that the application be approved upon the following conditions: that our ministers approve the order of service, that one of our ministers participate in the ceremony, and that our elders serve communion. The motion passed.

A wedding application has been received from Lauren Harris and Ryan Blake. The rehearsal is June 5 and the wedding is June 6, 2009. The church's calendar is clear for those dates.

MOTION - was made by Charles Morgan and seconded by Martha Nell Richards that the application be approved contingent upon the adherence to current Wedding Policies. The motion passed.

The Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team requests that Session approve the women whose names appear on the attached list marked "Exhibit A" as eligible to serve as members of the Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team.

MOTION - was made by LaWanda West and seconded by Larry Davis that the women on the attached list be eligible to serve as members of the Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team. The motion passed.

The Clerk requested that Committee Moderators present a written report to the Clerk at each Session meeting. She also requested a list of the Session's e-mail addresses to facilitate communication.

PASTORS' REPORT - Co-Pastors Susan and John Arnold

Reverend John Arnold presented Lary Walker as Nominee for Treasurer and Sheila Moore as Nominee for Clerk of Session.

MOTION - was made by Charles Morgan and seconded by Martha Nell Richards to elect Lary Walker as Treasurer and Sheila Moore as Clerk of Session. The motion passed.

Both pastors gave the Session written reports of their activities during the month of December. These included member visitations at the hospitals and in homes, regular church activities and duties, and various community activities. Reverend Susan Arnold requested to be allowed to preach at Pine Bluff First Presbyterian Church on February 8, 2009, and to attend the anniversary celebration of the Presbyterian Church in Danville, Illinois, on March 8, 2009.

MOTION - was made by Charles Morgan and seconded by Alan Solomon to approve the dates as set out above. The motion passed.

Reverend John Arnold requested to attend the 80th birthday celebration of his father on either February 22 or February 29. He will advise when a date certain is set.

Charles Morgan advises that our Session Minutes Book was presented at the Presbytery forum, was reviewed and approved by Presbytery on _____, 2009.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE - Charles Jackson

Charles Jackson reported that his committee had not met.

Vicki Deskin presented requested changes in the church's Wedding Policy restricting the use of real flower petals of any color on the flooring and the placement of decorations on the organ. She further requested that Appendix C be signed by the bride and the florist.

MOTION - was made by Charles Morgan and seconded by LaWanda West that the Wedding Policy be amended as requested by Mrs. Deskin. A copy of the revisions are attached to these minutes marked "Exhibit B." The motion passed.

It was determined that there is a need for further revision of the Wedding Policies and same will be reviewed by the worship committee.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Kevin Thompson

Mr. Thompson reported that the Nominating Committee is being formed. Deacon Cordell Klein and at large members Betty Anthony and Susan Morehead have agreed to serve. Mr. Thompson is awaiting the selection of one more Elder and nominees from Presbyterian Youth, Men of the Church, and Women of the Church.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE - Larry Davis

Dr. Davis reported that our budget for 2009 is \$586,000. Pledges to date are \$363,000, plate average is \$100,000, which leaves a \$122,000 deficit in the budget. A recommendation was made that these figures be placed in the newsletter.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE - Martha Nell Richards

Martha Nell Richards reported that the Evangelism Committee met on January 21, 2009. Reverend John Arnold attended and shared his feelings of evangelism. The following are committee assignments:

1. Shirley Cline - greeters
2. Missy Parks - "Bread of Life"
3. Melanie Gloster - advertising
4. Melanie Gloster, Sue Ellen Hall, and Martha Nell Richards - updating church website
5. Gillette McClain - "Around the Coffee Pot"

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE - Anne Douglas

Mrs. Douglas reported the following:

1. Youth Group Activities
 - a. Youth served a meal at Randy Sams Homeless Shelter on January 4.
 - b. The Youth had a "Lockinpalooza" on January 16-17.
 - c. The Youth assisted in taking down the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall, and had several Bible studies including Psalm 103, Psalm 112, and Psalm 20.
2. Sunday School Report:
 - a. Average Sunday School attendance for December was 51.
 - b. Three children, Ethan Jackson, Alex Sexton and Matt Arnold, will receive perfect attendance certificates.
 - c. The new curriculum is in place.
3. Baby Steps Program:
 - a. The budget for the coming year has been written and approved by the Board.
 - b. A committee will be formed to revise the handbook.
 - c. The floors have been sealed properly.
4. A director is being sought for Vacation Bible School
5. The committee will meet with the ministers to discuss ideas for Wednesday night Stew Pot.
6. Reverend Susan Arnold is teaching Brown Bag Bible Study on Thursdays at noon.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Robert Ransdell

Mr. Ransdell reported the following:

1. A transformer at the back of the church exploded damaging the elevator's circuit board. Our insurance company has been notified and Otis Elevator Company is working to repair same.
2. The dishwasher is approximately 30 to 40 years old. Proposals are being sought to replace and install a new dishwasher.
3. The roof is completed. There are perhaps enough extra shingles to cover half of the educational building. This is being investigated.
4. The sound system has been repaired.
5. Pat Davitt distributed a proposal for changes in the Building Usage Policy. This will be considered at next month's meeting.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Charles Morgan

Mr. Morgan reported that the committee has not met. Staff performance evaluations will be completed in the near future.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Reminders to Moderators:

1. Provide list of committee members and job descriptions to Patricia Thomas.
2. Make certain that all activities are placed on church's master calendar.
3. Have items for newsletter in complete form when submitted to the Administrative Assistant.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Reverend John Arnold noted that one additional Elder is needed to serve on the Nominating Committee. The ministers will seek a nominee for Session's approval.
2. As requested by the Diaconate in December, it was again discussed whether to move the church picnic back to the church rather than any other location.

MOTION - was made by the Diaconate to move the church picnic back to the church property. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

A Commissioner is needed to attend the Presbytery Meeting on February 14, 2009, at the Vera Lloyd Home, Monticello, Arkansas.

MOTION - was made by Larry Davis and seconded by LaWanda West that Charles Morgan be elected as commissioner to the Presbytery Meeting on February 14, 2009, at the Vera Lloyd Home, Monticello, Arkansas. The motion passed.

Charles Morgan presented a report on the proposed amendments to the Book of Order which will be voted on at the Presbytery meeting on February 14, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

Reverend John Arnold closed the meeting with prayer.

Reverend John Arnold, Moderator
Sheila Moore, Clerk of Session

Exhibit A
THOSE ELIGIBLE TO SERVE ON PW COORDINATING TEAM
2009-2011

Debbie Abrahamson	Remica Gray	Sheila Moore
Gail Abrahamson	Julie Hall	Susan Morehead
Betty Anthony	Sue Ellen Hall	Beth Morgan
Karin Blaine	Sandra Holmes	Kay Murphy
Joan Boyles	Jeanne Jackson	Lisa Norton
Kathy Boyles	Lynn Jackson	June Owen
Kathy Bryant	Stephanie Jackson	Missy Parks
Anne Burke	Merilynn Johnson	Georgette Peckham
Dennell Burke	Teresa Jordan	DeeDee Pope
Rebecca Burns	Bonnie Judd	Jane Portis
Shirley Cline	Fran Keasler	Dean Ransdell
Charlotte Cobb	Melissa Keil	Margie Rhoads
Gail Cogbill	Carolyn Klein	Martha Nell Richards
Linda Cogbill	Dianne Knight	Sallye Sue Rodgers
Florence Crank	Linda Knowles	Nancy Sandefur
Margaret Davis	Carla Lacy	Gene Scott
Mandy Davis	Nancy Lacy	Rachel Scott
Peggy Davis	Nelda LeBoeuf	Jeannie Sexton
Ruth Davis	Carol Letterman	MaryMargaret
Jane Davitt	Sue Ellen Letterman	Solomon
Vicki Deskin	Phyllis Longino	Kathy Stewart
Cornelia DeWoody	Nina Madden	Margo Strickland
Sallie Dill	Molly Beth Malcolm	Becky Sweet
Anne Douglas	Gillette McClain	Becky Thompson
Nancy Emerson	Lil McClerkin	Edna Upchurch
Mona Fomby	Jane McDaniel	Debbie Veon
Billie Ford	Beth McHenry	Sylvia Waldrop
Melanie Gloster	Fran Mitchell	Cynthia Walker
Chris Walraven		
LaWanda West		
Sherry Wilburn		
Marge Wilhelm		
Aileen Williams		
Brenda Williams		
Pat Willis		

Exhibit B

Changes in Wedding Policies

In Section V

Add **of any color** to item G. Only silk petals may be scattered for the bride. Real flower petals "of any color" stain the floor

Also change H. to

No decorations of any kind will be placed on the organ itself. Standing decorations beside it or in front of the organ is permissible.

Then change the original H. to I. and I. to J. (only changing the lettering)

This change would also be applied to Appendix C with an additional bottom section to Appendix C stating

I have read and understand the Wedding Decorating Policies listed above for First Presbyterian Church, Texarkana, Arkansas. I will follow these policies in the planning of our wedding decorations.

Bride's Signature Date

Florist's Signature Date