

**SESSION MINUTES
STATED MEETING MAY, 18, 2017**

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church, Texarkana, Arkansas, met in a Stated Meeting on Thursday, May 18, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Elders present were Charles Morgan, Marshall Moore, Susan Morehead, Reg Jackson, Marilyn McCullough, Taylor Sexton, Maggie Morgan, and Martha Nell Richards, and Moderator Reverend Susan Arnold. Also present were Diaconate Moderator Val Buster, Treasurer Maggie Morgan, and Clerk Sheila Moore. Visitors present were Sallie Dill, Pat Willis, Matt Arnold, Arthur Ghere-Folse, Marge Wilhelm, Al Wilhelm, Margo Strickland, Betty Anthony, Dee Diaz, Josh Davitt, Gene Cogbill, Stephanie Jackson and Brian Jackson.

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

MINUTES

The Session reviewed minutes from the Stated Meeting of April 20, 2017.

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

DIACONATE REPORT - Val Buster

Val Buster reported that Lynn Jorgensen has resigned from the Diaconate due to moving out of town and Marty Flowers does not wish to serve. Therefore, two new Deacons are needed to complete the Board. The VBS mission project will be collecting clothing and money for the Sharing Place and the Doorways Project.

MOTION - from the Diaconate to collect money for the Sharing Place and the Doorways Project at VBS. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Treasurer Maggie Morgan

Maggie Morgan reviewed the financial reports for the month ending April 30, 2017.

MOTION - was made by Susan Morehead and seconded by Taylor Sexton to give visitors voice. The motion passed.

MOTION - was made by Marilyn McCullough and seconded by Taylor Sexton to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion passed.

CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Sheila Moore

1. The Clerk reported that the Lord's Supper was served on April 7, 2017.

2. Rev. Susan Arnold presented a request for use of facilities from Katherine McClerkin and Melinda Dixon to hold a 12-Step Recovery Yoga class every Tuesday night in the Fellowship Hall for approximately one and one-half hours each session.

MOTION - was made by Martha Nell Richards and seconded by Taylor Sexton to approve the use of facilities request as listed above for a 90-day trial period June-August, 2017. The motion passed.

3. The Clerk presented a request for a wedding September 30, 2017, and a rehearsal on September 29, 2017, from Anna Moore and Trey Dickens. A complete application will be presented as soon as possible.

MOTION - was made by Reg Jackson and seconded by Charles Morgan to approve the request for a wedding pending submission of the complete wedding application. The motion passed.

PASTORS' REPORT - Reverend Dr. Susan Arnold

Reverend Susan Arnold gave the Session a written report of her activities during the months of April-May. These included member visitations at the hospitals and in homes, regular church activities and duties, and various community activities.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE - Mona Fomby, Moderator

Mona Fomby reported that the committee met. No action items.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Charles Morgan

Charles Morgan presented the Employment Contract with attached Job Descriptions A and B for Arthur Ghere-Folse and an Amendment to the Church Operations Manual Section 3.7 titled “Terms and Conditions of Employment” for all staff. After discussion,

MOTION - from the Committee to approve the Employment Contract of Arthur Ghere-Folse with attached Job Descriptions A and B, and the Amendment to the Church Operations Manual Section 3.7 titled “Terms and Conditions of Employment.” The motion passed.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE - Remica Gray, Moderator

Mrs. Gray reported that due to the retirement of current wedding hostesses, there is a need for new wedding hostesses to be trained and in place.

Mrs. Gray presented the Musical Instruments Sub-Committee of the Worship Committee job description. After discussion, it was agreed that the Worship Committee Job Description will be revised to state that the Worship Committee will be responsible for the makeup of the Musical Instruments Sub-Committee.

MOTION - from the Worship Committee to approve the job description of the Musical Instruments Sub-Committee of the Worship Committee. The motion passed.

Mrs. Gray requested approval for the church to host the Seven Towers Bell Festival at our church on April 18-22, 2018.

MOTION - was made by Remica Gray and seconded by Marshall Moore to approve the above request. The motion passed.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Randy Lacy - Moderator

Martha Nell Richards reported that there is a need for the nomination of two Deacons and one Elder.

MOTION - was made by Marshall Moore and seconded by Charles Morgan for the Nominating Committee to begin searching for the above officers. The motion passed.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE - Susan Morehead, Moderator

Susan Morehead reported that Parents' Night Out was held May 12. Attendance was low. There was no committee meeting this month.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE - Maggie Morgan, Moderator

Ms. Morgan presented a proposed Part Time Volunteer Youth Director job description. After discussion, the job description was returned to the committee for further revisions.

Ms. Morgan presented a request regarding use of designated funds for transportation and other costs of the Youth trip to Montreat Youth Conference and Worship Conference. Gene Cogbill reported that the family of the donee are agreeable to the use of these designated funds for this purpose.

MOTION - was made by Charles Morgan and seconded by Mona Fomby to use funds from the "Youth Fund-Alternative Worship" line item in the amount of \$2,500.00 and any additional monies needed for transportation and other costs to send the Youth to Montreat Youth Conference and Worship Conference. The motion passed.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Reg Jackson, Moderator

Reg Jackson reported that tree tags for the orchard trees are being made by Lone Star Trophy and Athletic Company. The law office is almost ready for lease. Rev. Susan Arnold reported that the orchard and labyrinth dedication is tentatively set for June 3, 2017.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Remica Gray requested that the Pastor and staff present reports to be sent with the Session packet each month for review prior to the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Liz Faucett and Maggie Morgan are working on the audit.
2. Feedback on the visit of Dr. Neal Presa was positive. It was agreed that Malcolm Lecture funds will be used when the opportunity for a speaker is determined.
3. Discussion of contracting with Michael Vinson for Congregational Long-Range Planning. It was agreed that more information is needed. An article will be placed in the newsletter and a Wednesday night program will be developed to further inform the congregation.

NEW BUSINESS

1. A commissioner is needed to attend the Presbytery Meeting on Saturday, June 10, 2017.

MOTION - was made by Marilyn McCullough and seconded by Mona Fomby to appoint Charles Morgan as commissioner to attend the Presbytery meeting on June 10, 2017, in Homer, Louisiana. The motion passed.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND BENEDICTION.

Arthur Ghere-Folse closed the meeting with prayer.

Reverend Susan Arnold, Moderator

Sheila Moore, Clerk of Session