

SESSION AGENDA

First Presbyterian Church, Texarkana, Arkansas Thursday - April 19, 2018 - 5:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Rev. Dan Hignight

OPENING PRAYER

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

DIACONATE REPORT

Beth McHenry-Pope

TREASURER'S REPORT

Maggie Morgan

CLERK'S REPORT

Sheila Moore

PASTOR'S REPORT

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Worship Committee - Remica Gray, Moderator

Nominating Committee - Randy Lacy, Moderator

Evangelism Committee - Dan Boyles, Moderator

Stewardship Committee - Mona Fomby, Moderator

Christian Education Committee - Chris Walraven, Moderator

Property Committee - Kurt Andrews, Moderator

Personnel Committee - Marilyn McCulloch, Moderator

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1) Request from Presbyterian Women to have the Birthday Offering Luncheon Sunday, May 20, following worship.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND BENEDICTION

**SESSION MINUTES
STATED MEETING MARCH 22, 2018**

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church, Texarkana, Arkansas, met in a Stated Meeting on Thursday, March 22, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. in the Library.

Elders present were Marilyn McCulloch, Maggie Morgan, Remica Gray, Mona Fomby, Kurt Andrews, Sarah Propps, Gene Cogbill, Dan Boyles, and Moderator Reverend Susan Arnold. Also present were Treasurer Maggie Morgan, Josh Davitt, Aimee Gilliland, Michael Gilliland, Sallie Dill, Reverend John Arnold, General Presbyter Joe Hill, and Clerk Sheila Moore.

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

MOTION - was made by Remica Gray and seconded by Dan Boyles to give visitors voice. The motion passed.

MINUTES

The Session reviewed minutes from the Stated Meeting of February 22, 2018, the Special Called Meeting of March 11, 2018, and the Congregational Meeting of March 11, 2018.

MOTION - was made by Gene Cogbill and seconded by Marilyn McCulloch to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

DIACONATE REPORT - Beth McHenry-Pope

No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Treasurer Maggie Morgan

Maggie Morgan reviewed the financial reports for the month ending February 28, 2018.

MOTION - was made by Dan Boyles and seconded by Marilyn McCulloch to accept the Treasurer's report and to request that the Treasurer check with Texas Presbyterian Foundation to see what future plans are for the church's investments in light of the current stock market fluctuations. The motion passed.

Ms. Morgan reported that the Board of Pensions has changed the way it charges for health insurance for non-ordained personnel which affects Ron Cantu and Rebecca Johnson. There is a significant increase in the cost of insurance for the employee's spouse and/or family. Mr. Cantu will have an increased out of pocket cost to him of \$337 per month, and Ms. Johnson will have an increased out of pocket cost to her of \$161 per month. General Presbyter Joe Hill inquired whether the church or the employees had been informed of this change in policy by Kevin Keaton who is the Board of Pensions Representative for the Pines Presbytery. There was no one

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who could recall any contact by Mr. Keaton, who is currently on medical leave and not working. Rev. Hill said he would make inquiries to see what action can be taken to reduce this increase in out of pocket expense to the staff.

MOTION - was made by Kurt Andrews and seconded by Maggie Morgan that the church continue coverage for two months while Rev. Hill makes inquiries regarding a reduction in cost to the employees and the church investigates alternative sources of insurance. The motion passed.

CLERK'S REPORT - Clerk Sheila Moore

1. The Clerk reported that the Lord's Supper was served on March 4, 2018, and two home communions were served.
2. The Clerk reported that Session approved the request for use of the Fellowship Hall by the Master Gardener's initially for March 7, 2018 (which was cancelled) and then for March 23, 2018, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
3. The Clerk presented a request from the Red Dirt Master Gardeners for use of the Fellowship Hall on October 29, October 30, and November 1, 2018, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day for their fall seminar. The church calendar is clear except for Men's Breakfast on October 30, 2018.

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

PASTOR'S REPORT - Reverend Dr. Susan Arnold

Reverend Susan Arnold submitted a written report of her activities during the months of February-March. These included member visitations at the hospitals and in homes, regular church activities and duties, and various community activities, and two home communions. Reverend Arnold provided a chart of duties she performs for the use of the church in her absence.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE - Remica Gray, Moderator

Remica Gray reported that the committee had not met. She reported that Michael Odom is being considered for the position of organist/music director. The Personnel and Stewardship Committees will discuss a salary package.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Randy Lacy - Moderator

No report.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE - Dan Boyles, Moderator

Mr. Boyles reported that the tutoring program is ongoing.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE - Mona Fomby, Moderator

Mrs. Fomby reported the committee met but there were no action items.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE - Chris Walraven, Moderator

Sarah Propps reported that Youth Sunday will be May 13, 2018. The committee is investigating having Ferncliff's "Camp to You" come in lieu of traditional Vacation Bible School and are considering inviting other churches to participate. After Easter, there will be study at Family Night Supper entitled "I'm a Church Member" with rotating teachers.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Kurt Andrews, Moderator

Mr. Andrews reported the following

1. There are five roof leaks that are being addressed by Wright Brothers.
2. Bo Campbell is planning to repair and refurbish the stairwell to the bell tower as his Eagle Scout project.
3. Church work day is scheduled for April 14, 2018, 8:00 a.m to 12:00 p.m.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Marilyn McCulloch

1. Marilyn McCulloch presented the following schedule for pulpit supply following Rev. Arnold's departure

April 22 -	Rev. Mike Morgan
April 29 -	Michael Gilliland
May 6, 20 and 27 -	Rev. Terry Land
May 13 -	Youth Group for Youth Sunday
June 3 -	Charles Morgan

MOTION - from the Committee to accept the above schedule for pulpit supply. The motion passed.

2. Mrs. McCulloch presented a request that Rev. Dianne Brown be contacted to inquire if she will enter into a contract to take care of pastoral care needs and possibly handle some Wednesday evening lessons.

MOTION - from the Committee to approve the above request. The motion passed.

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM - Josh Davitt, Moderator

Mr. Davitt reported that Ethan Davitt, Connor Humphrey and Josh Davitt will attend Youth Quake on April 13-15, 2018, which will cost approximately \$285 plus mileage. Youth Sunday will be held May 13, 2018, and the Youth are working on their parts.

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MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Josh Davitt addressed the Session.

Maggie Morgan presented a letter of resignation as Church Treasurer effective May 31, 2018. It was requested that she reconsider which she refused. Dan Boyles has agreed to fill this position with Betty Anthony assisting. Ms. Morgan was praised for her work as Church Treasurer.

MOTION - was made by Maggie Morgan and seconded by Marilyn McCulloch to appoint Dan Boyles as Church Treasurer with Betty Anthony as Assistant. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. A Congregational Meeting for the purpose of concurring with Reverend Susan Arnold's request to dissolve the pastoral relationship between Reverend Arnold and First Presbyterian Church, Texarkana, and to make recommendation to Pines Presbytery is scheduled for March 25, 2018.
2. There has been a request for paper ballots at the Congregational Meeting on March 25, 2018.

MOTION - was made by Kurt Andrews and seconded by Maggie Morgan to provide paper ballots for the Congregational Meeting March 25, 2018. The motion passed.

MOTION - was made by Kurt Andrews and seconded by Sarah Propps to move into Executive Session. The motion passed.

Visitors and Reverend Arnold were excused and Executive Session began at 6:55 p.m.

MOTION - was made and seconded to move out of Executive Session at 7:59 p.m.. The motion passed.

Reverend Arnold was asked to return.

MOTION - was made by Kurt Andrews and seconded by Mona Fomby to present the End of Service Transition Package to the Congregation as follows:

80% of salary and housing	\$4,250.93 x 3 months =	\$12,752.78
Board of Pension Dues (Including Health Coverage)	\$1,572.85 x 3 months =	\$4,718.55
Dental Coverage	\$136 x 3 months =	\$408.00
TOTAL	\$5,959.78 x 3 months =	\$17,879.34

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The End of Service Transition Package salary and benefits will begin May 14, 2018, and end August 13, 2018.

The Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND BENEDICTION.

Reverend Arnold closed the meeting with prayer.

Reverend Susan Arnold, Moderator

Sheila Moore, Clerk of Session

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**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 25, 2018**

After proper notice was given, a Congregational Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church, Texarkana, Arkansas, was held on Sunday, March 25, 2018, following the morning worship service.

Moderator Reverend Susan Arnold opened the meeting with prayer and declared a quorum present. Reverend Arnold called upon Elder Maggie Morgan to be designated to serve as moderator of the meeting. Reverend Arnold excused herself from the meeting. Ms. Morgan stated that the purpose of the meeting was two-fold:

1. To concur with the request of Reverend Dr. Susan M. Arnold that Pines Presbytery consent to the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between her and First Presbyterian Church, Texarkana, effective date to be determined upon resolution of the terms of dissolution.
2. To approve an "End of Service Transitional Package" recommended by the Session.

Paper ballots have been requested for each vote.

ITEM 1:

Reverend Dr. Susan M. Arnold has requested that Pines Presbytery consent to the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Rev. Arnold and First Presbyterian Church, Texarkana, effective date to be determined upon resolution of the terms of dissolution. Her last day in the pulpit will be April 15, 2018, at which time she will immediately take four weeks of unexpired and unused vacation.

After discussion, there was a call for the question

MOTION - was made by Betty Anthony and a second to end discussion. The motion passed.

MOTION - was made by Marshall Moore and seconded by Charles Morgan to concur with Reverend Dr. Susan Arnold that Pines Presbytery consent to the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between her and First Presbyterian Church, Texarkana, effective date to be determined upon resolution of the terms of dissolution

Members over the age of 18 years of age were asked to stand and paper ballots were distributed to members only.

Ballots were collected and counted. Results were as follows: 66 yes; 2 no

The Motion passed.

ITEM 2:

The Session recommends that Rev. Dr. Susan Arnold be given an End of Service Transitional Package as follows:

80% of salary and housing	\$4,250.93 x 3 months	=	\$12,752.78
Board of Pension Dues (Including Health Coverage)	\$1,572.85 x 3 months	=	\$4,718.55
Dental Coverage	\$136 x 3 months	=	\$408.00
TOTAL	\$5,959.78 x 3 months	=	\$17,879.34

After discussion, there was a call for the question.

MOTION - was made by Sue Ellen Hall and a second to end discussion. The motion passed.

MOTION - was made by Danny Gray and seconded by Cordell Klein to approve the End of Service Transitional Package as recommended by the Session and as stated above.

Paper ballots were distributed to members only.

Ballots were collected and counted. Results were as follows: 45 yes; 19 no

The Motion passed.

There being no other business to conduct, Reverend Arnold was asked to return and the meeting was adjourned with the Benediction.

Maggie Morgan, Acting Moderator

Sheila Moore, Clerk of Session



Worship Committee Meeting
First Presbyterian Church
April 8, 2018
3:00 P.M.

The meeting of the Worship Committee was called to order by moderator Remica Gray and opened with prayer by Gail Cogbill. Those present were: Remica Gray, Gail Cogbill, Aimee Gilliland, Billie Ford, Linda Cogbill, Patty Willis, and Gene Cogbill.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved as printed.

Review of Financial Reports

Financial reports were received as printed and filed for audit.

Taize

Aimee Gilliland reported that the Taize services were well received by an average of six to eight people. The committee was pleased to learn that these services were well received by the congregation.

Preaching Schedule from Personnel Committee

The committee received the Preaching and Liturgist Assignments from April 22 to September 2 for the transition period after Rev. Susan Arnold's resignation. The question arose concerning whether the Worship Committee or the Personnel Committee was responsible for supplying ministers. The Worship Committee Guidelines state that the Worship Committee is responsible for pulpit supply. Remica Gray will take this question to the Session on April 19th.

Children's Sermon

Christ Walraven and Beth McHenry-Pope will continue to coordinate the children's sermons.

Organist for April and May

Andrew Clark will be the organist except for May 13. Vicki Carr will be the pianist for that date.

Potential progress on Music Director/Organist Search

Michael Odom, who will become principal at Texarkana, Arkansas High School on June 4, 2018, has expressed interest in a part time position as organist. Future interviews and auditions will be scheduled at his and the choir's convenience.

Update on Youth Sunday – May 13

Remica and Andrew plan to meet with the youth on April 15th to explain the process of selecting music for worship. Leah Dowdy asked them to educate the youth on this

process. The youth have energetically begun to plan for their Sunday on May 13th. Caitlyn Barber will present the anthem. The sermon will be a dramatic reading.

Pentecost – May 20

Remica will ask Rebecca to put in the newsletter and an email a request for the congregation to wear red.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Remica Gray.

Next Meeting Date – May 16, 5pm

Respectfully submitted
Gail Cogbill
Worship Committee Secretary