

**MINUTES OF SESSION
FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FAYETTEVILLE, AR
March 1, 2009**

A Stated Session meeting of First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, AR was held in the Library on March 1, 2009.

Elders Present: Dennis Bailey, Ted Belden, June Davis, Kyle Elmore, Eric Ervin, Lyle Gohn, Allen Hanna, Katie Jackson, Sara Koenig, Frank Millet, Itrel Monroe, George "Bo" Morton", Melinda Nickle, Derrik Olsen, Michelle Price, Manuel Rossetti, Jim Schneringer, Jane Steinkraus, Dean Thiesse, Nancy Waite, Ron Woodruff and Doug Wright

Elders Excused: Roger Koeppe

Elders Absent: Barbara George

Teaching Elders Present: Rev. Barry Williams, Moderator

Others Present: Laurie Reh, Clerk of Session

Rev. Barry Williams, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 6 pm and declared a quorum present. Joys and concerns were shared. A session photo was taken for the church website during a break in the meeting.

Devotional

Elder Olsen read from the book *My Utmost for His Highest* and closed in prayer.

Adoption of the Agenda

Rev. Williams asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. A motion *to approve the agenda* was moved, seconded *and passed*.

Special Reports/Presentations

Presbytery Meeting Report (February 20 and 21 in Clarksville, AR)

Elder Belden served as the FUPC commissioner to February Presbytery meeting and provided both a written (emailed) and verbal report for session. 13 Amendments were voted on and a new word ("scruple") was introduced. Discussion followed. The clerk was asked by Elder Belden to email the session a document that defined the past history of Presbytery actions. Rev. Williams distributed a letter written by General Presbyter Sallie Watson for session's information.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made and seconded *to approve the Stated Session minutes of February 10, 2009 meeting. Three revisions were made and the motion to approve the amended minutes passed*.

1. **Update of Church Rolls:**

Death of: Robert Garnett on Sunday, February 8, 2009 in Fayetteville, AR. A memorial service was held on Saturday, February 21, 2009 with the Rev.'s Lee Power and Barry Williams officiating.

2. **Worship and Music Action Item:** The Worship and Music Committee requests session approval for holding a Sunrise Service at 7:30 AM Easter morning, April 12. Communion will be served by intinction.

3. **Building Use Request by First School:** Contact: Cathy Hairston
 Event: First School End of Year Picnic and Silent Auction
 Date: May 1, 2009, Friday, 5:30 pm – 8 “ish” pm Set-up: 12 noon
 Number attending: 200 Charging for event: Yes Donation for meal: No
 Areas needed: Court Yard and all playgrounds
 Other needs: Main Kitchen, 10-12 Tables needed
 There is a circle meeting on this evening, but both Circle Leader and Cathy are aware of the conflict. There is no conflict for the space.

4. **Building Use Request by First School:** Event: First School Graduation Date: May 21 and May 22, Thursday and Friday, 11:00 am-12 noon Number attending: 100+ Charging for Event: No Donation for Meal: No Areas needed: Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, Main Kitchen (slightly) There are no conflicts with other events or space.

5. **Building Use Request by Jitterbugs:** Contact: Cheryl Mendham Event: Preschool Dance Recital Date: May 16, 2009, Saturday 9 am – 4 pm Set-up 8am Number attending: 50 Charging for event: No Donation for Meal: No Areas needed: Fellowship Hall No Kitchen Use There are no conflicts with other events or space.

6. **Building Use Request:** First Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, Nebraska Contact: Leland Stege Member of FUPC: no Event: Overnight housing for Presbyterian Disaster Aid Team going to New Orleans to help with reconstruction Date of Event: Saturday Night, March 28, 8:00 pm – Sunday Morning, March 29, 8:00 am Number: 20 – 25 Room(s) needed: Library Kitchen Use: no AA meets in Activity Center on Saturday evenings, but Library is available Saturday night and Sunday Morning. If Session approves of a group staying overnight in Calvin, Mr. Stege could let me know when they arrive, and I could let them into the building.

7. **Wedding Action Item:** Amy Koenig and Jason Limp request the use of the sanctuary for their wedding rehearsal on Friday, October 16, 2009 from 4:00 - 6:30 pm and wedding service on Saturday, October 17, 2009 from 10:00 am - 8:00 pm. The couple met with Rev. Barry Williams and Barbara Verdery, Wedding Coordinator Customary wedding fees and honorariums will be assessed

according to the wedding policy.

8. **Youth Sub-Committee and Christian Education Action Item:** Session is asked to approve that \$1500 be spent on new TV equipment to replace what is no longer working and upgrade some components for a more complete system in downstairs Witherspoon. Tom Verdery has worked up a proposal for the TVs in Witherspoon (attached as a separate document). Laura Winburn suggests account 02389 (Money Market Account Interest) as a possible line item.

Background Info: During this Saturday's workday, the TV in upper Witherspoon will be taken out, as it no longer works. Then, we will go forward with anything else once we have approval and know where the money could come from.

9. **Christian Education Action Item:** Permit the 2nd and 3rd grade Sunday school class to bake and sell cookies on Sunday, April 26th for the purpose of raising money for a mission of their choice (CEO, Habitat, etc.). Rather than a set price for each cookie, the class will offer a package of 2-3 cookies each for a donation of any amount.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Action Item #'s 2, 5 and 8 were lifted for further discussion. It was moved and seconded to approve Action Item #'s 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 9 and the motion passed.

Clerk of Session Report

A written report was emailed and included in the session packet and received.

Lifted from the Properties Minutes and noted in the Clerk's Report: After review by Ron Woodruff of FUPC's insurance policy with DYSON INSURANCE AGENCY of Little Rock, AR, the Properties Committee has determined the coverage to be adequate and no modifications are needed at this time. Review conducted during week of Feb. 9-13, 2009. Policy is in effect from October to October.

Monthly Financial Reports

The monthly financial report for February was not available as yet -- copies will be placed in each elder's box at church. A combined report would be provided at the April stated meeting.

Staff Reports

Rev. Williams reported that 60 individuals had been invited to attend the upcoming Leadership Retreat on March 6 and 7 and that have 54 responded affirmatively. He also gave an overview of the upcoming "And the Word Became Flesh Big Tent" Conference on June 11 - 13, 2009 in Atlanta, GA for the Presbyterian Church USA. The General Presbyter Sallie Watson will be present at worship at FUPC on Sunday, May 17th and will be possibly available to give a special Sunday school class.

Samples of old organ stops and wires were passed around to show the session the type of repair done on the organ in the past week. This will remove a fire hazard and bring the organ up to code. Several valves were "unstuck" and racks of valves were replaced. Total cost was approximately \$6,000 (approved by session). This was a major maintenance effort that corrected some flaws, but did not enhance the sound.

Standing Committee Reports

Belonging and Evangelism

A written report was emailed in advance from the February meeting and received. The Cluster One Ad Campaign is continuing to move forward. Belonging and Evangelism committee currently oversees the church website. Any jpeg digital photos can be emailed to Carla Romere for uploading to the church website.

A motion was made to invite the United Campus Ministry to have a role in worship on Sunday, April 19th and Sunday, Sept 20th and the motion passed. 146 people have signed up for the Table for Eight groups which were to begin meeting in late February or early March through late August.

Representatives of this committee met with Outreach Committee Chair Susan Anderson, Rev. Stewart Smith, and Pastor Jessie Gonzales of Springdale Presbyterian Church and Rev. Dennis Ritchie of Bella Vista Presbyterian Church to address the Cluster One ad campaign. The Presbytery Mission committee donated \$3,000 to the Cluster One campaign, leaving \$6,500 to work with for television, radio, and newspaper ads. After viewing sample ads and discussing possible ad schedules, the committee has asked Mary Mann of New Century Consulting, LLC to work out an advertising program. The newly named "Communication Sub-Committee" will oversee the Focus, church website, announcements to the paper, etc.

Christian Education

A written report was emailed in advance from the February meeting and received. The committee is looking for new opportunities for adults who do not attend Sunday school. An article was submitted for the February Focus highlighting the Adult Sunday School offerings. The High School youth will be visiting several places of worship in our community this semester. The committee's action item to permit the 2nd and 3rd grade Sunday school class to bake and sell cookies on Sunday, April 26th for the purpose of raising money for a mission of their choice (CEO, Habitat, etc.) was approved.

Lifted Action Item #8 was discussed at this time. A TV proposal was received from Tom Verdery who investigated the church TV/Audio equipment both upstairs and downstairs in the FUPC Activity building and researched local deals on TV sets, Home Theater, etc. Session approved that \$1500 be spent on new TV equipment to replace what is no longer working and upgrade some components for a more complete system in downstairs Witherspoon. All in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

Deacons

A written report was emailed in advance from the February meeting and received. 122 cards were sent since January. There may be a need in the future for another Stephen Minister. Angelika Will has agreed to continue as coordinator of the Visitation Ministry for 2009. The Deacons Committee is currently operating differently than the Book of Order states. Rev. Williams will meet with the Deacons on March 15th to aid them in authorizing a small group of 3 to regularize how the Deacon's will function as a committee in the future. As per Presbytery, the Committee should be identified as a Board.

Fellowship

A written report was emailed in advance from the February meeting and received. Easter Breakfast will be on April 12th with Fellowship and Kitchen Hospitality working together. On April 9th, a Maundy Thursday covered dish and worship service will be held in Fellowship Hall. Looking ahead, the Christmas Breakfast is tentatively set for December 20th and the annual church picnic is in the planning stages.

Kitchen Hospitality

A written report was emailed in advance from the February meeting and received. General sanitation guidelines and procedures were discussed. Four 30" x 96" rectangle tables and 2 60" round tables have been ordered for FH. Memorial Gifts Committee is purchasing the new tables. Upcoming Food Events were discussed: Monthly- First School Events; Feb 20th- Community Meal; Feb 21st-Memorial reception for Bob Garnett; Feb 24th- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper; March 8th- Congregational luncheon; March 12th - First Fellowship; March 20th - Community Meal; April 8th - First Fellowship; April 9th - Maundy Thursday Dinner with communion.

Rev. Williams commended the work of Kitchen Hospitality and commented on the number of times our congregation has shared meals together in this past year.

Long Range Planning

A written report was emailed in advance from the February meeting and received. A conference call was held with Rev. Bill Lawser (Leadership Retreat Consultant from the Heartwood group) and the committee for the purpose of going over all the key logistical needs for the Leadership Retreat on March 6, 7, and 8, 2009. Lorraine Brewer set up book reading partners to allow for 30 books to cover all 53 participants who would read the book "Our Iceberg is Melting" before the retreat begins. The Sunday congregational lunch will include support from Session, LRP, and Kitchen Hospitality. Parking will be available off of Dickson Street near Underwood Plaza in the deck for the Friday night meeting.

Memorial Gifts There was no written report as the committee did not meet.

Outreach

A written report was emailed in advance from the February meeting and received. The following items were discussed: Response to the recent ice storm in northwest Arkansas; Meal project for Seven Hills Homeless Center; Mission trip to gulf coast in April, 2009;

CEO and Habitat for Humanity. The regular schedule for the community meal is to deliver lunch the third Friday of each month. Additional volunteers are always needed, in particular one person able to lift and transfer heavy pots during the cooking phase between 8:30-11:00 am on the third Friday. Monthly offerings for CEO have been approved for 2009, and a special added offering was approved and received Feb 15.

Personnel The Personnel Committee did not meet in February.

Properties

A written report was emailed in advance from the February meeting and received. Lighting problems are continuing to be a challenge for the committee. Hugh Brewer has accepted the completion of the Church sign replacement at the intersection of Calvin St. and Old Wire Road (destroyed in an automobile mishap). Insurance is involved in replacing this sign and some time will be required. After review by Ron Woodruff, of FUPC's insurance policy with DYSON INSURANCE AGENCY of Little Rock, AR, the Properties Committee has determined the coverage to be adequate and no modifications are needed at this time. Review conducted during week of Feb. 9-13, 2009. Policy is in effect from October to October.

Stewardship

There was no written report as the committee did not meet in February.

Worship and Music

A written report was emailed in advance from the February meeting and received. The main topic of discussion was planning services for Holy Week, April 5-12 to include Palm Sunday (communion by intinction); April 9 the Maundy Thursday service will commemorate the last supper with our church family in the Fellowship Hall with a covered dish dinner beginning at 6:00 pm.; coordinating Easter April 12th 7:30 am and 11:00 am worship services and the Easter Breakfast. Session approved serving communion at the 7:30 a.m. worship service.

Discussion followed regarding Lifted Action Item #2 which referred to serving communion by intinction during the Easter Sunrise Service at 7:30 a.m. This has not been done in several years. All in favor *and the motion passed*. A motion was made *that the Tenebrae service would be held on Good Friday at 6:30 pm*. All in favor *and the motion passed*.

Commission Report

First School

There was no written report. Elder Jackson reported on the registration process and an upcoming vacancy on the First School Commission. Action Item #5 will not have a building use fee assessed. Amended Action Item #5 was moved, all were in favor *and the motion passed*.

Special Committee Reports

Endowment

There was no written report as the committee did not meet. The endowment funds were moved from the Presbyterian Foundation to the Texas Foundation.

Forum Planning Committee

There was no written report as the committee did not meet. There will be forums in March 11th, April, and May in 2009. Internet safety and identity theft will be covered at the first forum.

Hi-Acres Committee

There was no written report as the committee did not meet. There was tree damage on High Acres that is taking up the time of Jim Harter, who is working with the insurance company.

Nominating

There was no written report as the committee did not meet in February (a meeting was held on March 1st, prior to the stated meeting). Several church members were identified to serve as at-large Personnel Committee members who will be contacted soon. It was noted that only 70+ church members had completed the Time and Talent's Card. A motion was made and seconded *to approve the Nominating Committee's appointment of Barbara Verdery and elect her to 2011 class for the Memorial Gifts Committee and the motion passed.* The class years for the Memorial Gifts Committee are as follows: Barbara Verdery (2011), Dick Forsythe (2010), and Barbara George (2009).

Organ Feasibility Committee (OFC)

There was no written report as the committee did not meet.

Presbyterian Women

A written report was emailed in advance from the February meeting and received. Circles 1 – 4 met at various times and locations in January and February. A Covenant Group (new) was formed in January to reach people who don't attend Circle meetings, under the leadership of Nancy Mays. The group meets on selected Sundays following worship for fellowship and discussion of the book, "The Faith Club." Together in Service: Nancy Denn reported that the hats, mittens and gloves from holiday donations were delivered to the Fayetteville Schools.

New and Old Business - there was none.

Adjourn

Rev. Williams closed the meeting with a Lenten devotional and prayer. A motion was made and seconded *to adjourn at 7:35 pm and the motion passed.*

Laurie Reh
Clerk of Session