

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL STATED CORPORATION AND
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FAYETTEVILLE, AR
January 27, 2008**

The annual stated corporation and congregational meeting of First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, AR was held in the Sanctuary on January 27, 2008 and was called to order following the 11:00 a.m. worship service by Rev. Lee Power, Associate Pastor/Interim Head of Staff, at 11:55 a.m. The meeting was opened with prayer.

Certification of a Quorum

Agendas were received by the congregation as bulletin inserts. Rev. Power recognized Laurie Reh, Clerk of Session, who declared a quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

The moderator asked for approval of the annual congregational meeting agenda. A motion and second were made *to approve the agenda as presented*. Discussion followed and *the motion passed*.

Recognition of Session and Moderators

Rev. Power recognized the 2008 Session, Ministry moderators/co-moderators and Session Classes of 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Presentation of the 2007 Annual Report

The 2007 Annual Report was received by the congregation and Rev. Power recognized the following reports included therein:

Parish Associate/Acting Head of Staff (Lee Power), Parish Associate (Dr. Maurice Power), Youth Program (Rev. Josh Leu), Music Ministry Team (Jeannie Lee and Katie Jackson), Children's Ministry (Jennifer Walter), Nursery and Childcare (Amy Matthews McCann), Clerk of Session (Laurie Reh), Deacon Ministry (Cathy Irwin), Belonging and Evangelism (James Moore and Marti Sharkey), Fellowship Ministry (Ron Woodruff), Kitchen Hospitality (Sara Koenig), Outreach Ministry (John Dixon and Jane Scroggs), First School Ministry (Kathy Wade), Worship and Music Ministry (Ann Roberts), Christian Education (Diane Warren), Nominating Committee (Bill Waite), Personnel Ministry (Barbara George), Properties Ministry (Al Hanna and Philip Talbert), Stewardship Ministry (Steve Sisco), Long Range Planning Ministry (Tom Verdery), Memorial Gifts (Fred Shefte), Presbyterian Women (Barbara Verdery), Trustees/Endowment Committee (Fred Shefte) and the By-Laws Committee (Bill Waite).

Congregational Nominating Committee

Rev. Power recognized Bill Waite, moderator of the 2007 Congregational Nominating Committee. On behalf of the committee, Mr. Waite presented the name of Eric Ervin to fill the unexpired elder term of Philip Talbert, Elder Class of 2008. Rev. Power asked for a motion *to elect Eric Ervin to fill the unexpired elder term of Philip Talbert, Elder Class*

of 2008. The motion was made followed by discussion. Rev. Power opened up the floor for further nominations, of which there were none, and *the motion passed.*

On behalf of the Congregational Nominating Committee, Mr. Waite presented the name of Ron Woodruff to fill the unexpired term of Howard Higgins, Trustee Class of 2008. Rev. Power asked for a motion *to elect Ron Woodruff to fill the unexpired term of Howard Higgins, Trustee Class of 2008.* The motion was made and discussion followed. Rev. Power opened up the floor for further nominations, of which there were none, and *the motion passed.*

On behalf of the 2007 Congregational Nominating Committee, Mr. Waite presented the following slate of nominees for the 2008 Congregational Nominating Committee.

Ted Belden (Session, Moderator)
Anna Stitt (Session)
Eunice Millet (Chancel Choir)
Kyle Elmore (Senior High Youth)
Mary Noel Tompkins (Presbyterian Women)

Bob Harlan (First Fellowship)
Lorraine Brewer (At-Large)
Martha Brewer (At-Large)
Lisa Higgins (At-Large)
Bill Hewat (At-Large)

Rev. Power asked for a motion *to elect the slate of nominees as presented.* The motion was made and discussion followed. Rev. Power opened up the floor for further nominations, of which there were none, and *the motion passed.*

By-Laws Committee

Rev. Power recognized Bill Waite, chairperson of the By-Laws Committee. Mr. Waite then recognized the experience of and detailed knowledge of the legal, financial, administrative and ministerial areas of the church as brought to the committee by members Barbara Verdery, Bob Harriell, Ron Woodruff and Ken Mays. He acknowledged the many hours of work involved in developing the proposed revisions of the church by-laws.

The by-laws were received by the congregation and discussion followed. Mr. Waite stated the committee's first objective was to incorporate additions and modifications requested by session to up-date the church by-laws, particularly in definition and organization of committees, as defined by the current by-laws. The second objective was to make the by-laws be more compatible with the Book of Order to show authority for actions taken. On behalf of the By-Laws Committee, Mr. Waite moved *that the Congregation accept the proposed changes to the church by-laws.* Discussion followed. Rev. Power recognized a request to call the question. A motion and a second *were made to call the question and the motion passed.* With no further discussion on the original motion that the Congregation accept the proposed changes to the church by-laws, *the motion passed.*

Stewardship Ministry Report

Rev. Power recognized Steve Sisco, moderator of the Stewardship Ministry in 2007.

Elder Sisco reported that the 2008 Stewardship campaign, *“Doing God’s Will at the Light on the Hill...an offering of our Time, Talents, and Treasures”*, had begun in the last week of September with the sermon of Dr. Ted Wardlaw, President of Austin Theological Seminary and was followed by minutes for mission, a fellowship dinner, an informational forum, a letter, and phone calls. Mr. Sisco thanked the congregation for their generous support through their pledges and giving throughout the year despite that the campaign occurred during a very difficult time in the life of our church. He reported that pledging units were off by 35 so far in 2008 and were off by 25 in 2007, which put a great strain on the financial operations of the church, and specifically the work of the ministries, as \$120 thousand had been cut from the budgets that the ministries prepared. Mr. Sisco reported that the church was still short on the receipts side, as projected expenditures were \$210 thousand more and that a plan to remedy this operating shortfall was in progress. He asked that the congregation get back to fully supporting the church, both monetarily and participatory.

With careful and prayerful consideration made on the part of the ministries, Stewardship, and the Session, Mr. Sisco presented the 2008 Operating Church budget, totaling \$880 thousand and made a motion *for the congregation to receive and support the Session approved ministry budgets for 2008*. Discussion followed and *the motion passed*.

Trustee's Presentation

Rev. Power recognized Hugh Brewer, Trustee, who first addressed the shortfall in pledges made during the recent stewardship campaign. He reported that session is interested in borrowing an additional \$200,000 against the building fund to cover the anticipated shortfall and to add that sum to our mortgage. An alternate was proposed to offer an interest-free loan from the Endowment Fund up to a maximum of \$200,000, as needed, repayable in five years through increased income stream or any other source available to be applied to the 2008 shortfall only. As session approval is needed to authorize the redirection of the interest from the Endowment Fund, two (2) consecutive affirmative votes of the session will be required. This was information only for the congregation and did not require a vote.

Next, after discussion with session, it was agreed to ask the congregation to revisit a verbal commitment made to the City of Fayetteville early in 2007 to purchase part of the Brooks-Hummel property adjacent to our property. The vote taken on March 18, 2007 was made with the understanding that there was strong time pressure because of limits imposed by the owners of the property. The church was assured that this matter would be settled within a matter of a week or two. The cost of the parcel voted on for purchase was \$68,040. Mr. Brewer reported that, at the request of session, he visited with Mayor Coody in an attempt to learn the status of the City’s part of the project and was informed that Mayor Coody did not know the exact status but that the City was out of money. At a recent meeting of the Trustees, a vote was taken to ask the congregation to withdraw the Church’s verbal offer because our financial situation had changed so drastically.

On behalf of the Trustees, Mr. Brewer made a motion *that our offer to purchase 1.9 acres of the Brooks property from the City of Fayetteville be withdrawn*. Discussion followed.

Rev. Power recognized a request to call the question. A motion was made and seconded *to call the question and the motion passed.* There was no further discussion on the Trustees motion and *the motion passed.*

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Rev. Power introduced Rev. Stewart Smith, moderator of the session, as appointed by the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Arkansas. Rev. Smith serves as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Springdale. In his comments, Rev. Smith stated that he has observed the level of dedication and commitment present in this session and what a joy and a privilege it has been to work with them. He asked that the congregation keep the session in their prayers.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

A motion was made and seconded from the floor and *it was passed that the meeting be adjourned at 12:20 p.m.* Rev. Power closed the meeting in prayer.

Rev. Lee Power
Moderator

Laurie Reh
Clerk of Session