

**MINUTES OF SESSION  
FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
FAYETTEVILLE, AR  
April 5, 2009**

A Stated Session meeting of First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, AR was held in the Library on April 5, 2009.

**Elders Present:** Dennis Bailey, Ted Belden, June Davis, Eric Ervin, Barbara George, Katie Jackson, Irel Monroe, George "Bo" Morton", Melinda Nickle, Derrik Olsen, Michelle Price, Manuel Rossetti, Jim Schneringer, Jane Steinkraus, Dean Thiesse, Nancy Waite, and Doug Wright

**Elders Excused:** Kyle Elmore, Lyle Gohn, Allen Hanna, Roger Koeppe, Frank Millett and Ron Woodruff

**Elders Absent:** Sara Koenig

**Teaching Elders Present:** Rev. Barry Williams, Moderator and Rev. Lee Power

**Others Present:** Laurie Reh, Clerk of Session, Kristi Button, Direction of Christian Education, and Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) members Lorraine Brewer, James Moore, Steve Sisco and Bill Waite

Rev. Barry Williams, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm and declared a quorum present. Joys and concerns were shared.

**Devotional**

Elder Steinkraus led the devotional by reading from Proverbs, Chapter 39 and other resources and closed in prayer.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

Rev. Williams asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. Elder Belden suggested that committee reports be as succinct as possible, particularly if the minutes were received earlier via email. A motion *to approve the agenda* was moved, seconded *and passed*.

**Special Reports/Presentations**

**Update from Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)**

PNC Moderator Bill Waite presented an update of the process being followed by the Pastor Nominating Committee. The PNC elected Bill Waite as moderator and James Moore as secretary. Two handouts were distributed - *Primary Skill Choices List* and *CLC Revised Skills List with Definitions* for session's information. The committee is in the process of completing the Church Information Form (CIF) and asked that the session email their top 10 choices on the *Primary Skill Choices* to the PNC. The group email address for the PNC is [FUPC.PNC@gmail.com](mailto:FUPC.PNC@gmail.com).

## **Approval of the Minutes**

A motion was made and seconded to *approve the Stated Session minutes of March 1, 2009*. There were no changes and *the motion passed*.

## **Approval of the Consent Agenda**

### **1. Update of Church Rolls:**

#### **Baptism:**

**William, Kathleen, Emily, and Nathan Armstrong** were baptized on February 15, 2009 at First United Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville. They are the children of Bill and Kimberly Armstrong.

#### **Death:**

**H. Rita Carpenter** died on March 14, 2009, Fayetteville, AR. A memorial service was held on March 18, 2009 at Butterfield Trail Village in Fayetteville.

**R.L. Smith** died on March 13, 2009 in Little Rock, AR.

2. **Properties Committee Action Item:** Release \$1400 - \$2000 from restricted account #02378 (Building and Maintenance) for broken and hanging tree branch removal resulting from Jan. '09 ice storm damage (required work is too high for volunteer activity).
3. **Properties Committee Action Item:** Dispose of the glass-topped display case now in Fellowship Hall after removing and appropriately storing the contents in the Church History files/archives. An appropriate new "home", where it will be properly utilized, will be found.
4. **Building Use Request:** League of Women Voters of Washington County request use of the Activity Center for their Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 19, from 4:30 pm – 10 pm. Jane Scroggs is the contact. Number attending: 35, Charging for event: No, Charging for meal: No Activity Center Snack Kitchen will be used (Covered Dish Meal, Kitchen Use form completed).
5. **Deacon's Committee Action Item:** That a task force be appointed to bring a recommendation to session concerning a new structure of the Deacons Committee.
6. **Deacon's Committee Action Item:** That restricted fund 02395 Pastor's Discretionary Fund is re-titled as the Deacon's Fund.
7. **Action Item:** for approval of a called congregational meeting to be held in June for the purpose of acting on a more formal Deacon's Committee structure and to follow up on the Nominating Committee's request to be responsible for

committee assignments.

8. **Worship and Music Action Item:** The Worship and Music Committee unanimously recommended approval of a proposal by Katie Jackson for purchase of additional hand chimes for the children's hand chime choir. The fourth octave of the hand chimes will cost \$880. The committee requests referral of this item to the Memorial Gifts Committee for consideration.
9. **Forum Committee Action Item:** The committee would like the authors of the Dickson Street history book to be given permission to sell copies at the April Forum. As they are not charging for their time, the committee feels they should be allowed to sell the book (from Martha Brewer).
10. **Nominating Committee Action Item and Recommendation:** The nominating committee recommends that Martha Brewer (10) and Steve Dees (09) fill positions on the Personnel committee as at large members. If elected they will join Lyle Gohn (09), Moderator, Barbara George (10), Eric Ervin (11), Bo Morton (10), Dennis Bailey (09)
11. **Building Request Action Item:** The Oasis Group of Alcoholics Anonymous, as part of their 2nd year anniversary, requests permission to set up a grill in order to cook out on the concrete sidewalk away from the buildings on Saturday, May 9, 4:30-7:30pm. This group currently meets at our church so there will be no conflict in room or time.
12. **Personnel Committee Action Item:** With deep regret, Session accepts the resignation of Dr. Graeme Langager effective June 30, 2009. Dr. Langager has accepted a prestigious faculty position with the University of British Columbia. The church greatly appreciates the leadership, direction, and commitment that Dr. Langager has provided as the Music Director for the past year during which time the Chancel Choir has grown not only in numbers but in depth and quality as has the overall musical aspect of the church.
13. **Personnel Committee Action Item:** Personnel Committee recommends that a search committee be appointed to seek a replacement for Dr. Langager. The search committee will be charged to find an appropriate resolution which maintains the strong commitment to the overall musical program of the church for the coming year as well as in the future. The committee may need to be creative in finding the appropriate candidate or candidates to fulfill the responsibilities of Music Director and Chancel Choir Director including the options of interim appointment(s) or permanent appointment(s), part-time or full time, and/or other combinations that might best serve the church during this transitional time and future. The committee will be composed of the following members: Representative of Personnel Committee; Representative of Worship and Music Committee; Representative of Chancel Choir (to be selected by Chancel Choir); Representative of Session (to be selected by Session); Representative of

Congregation (to be selected by Personnel and Pastor), along with Pastor Williams. The Search Committee will report to Personnel with authority to approve the recommendation. Salaries and/or benefits will be negotiable with the candidate(s) but will be within the current budgeted positions for music personnel and will be dependent upon responsibilities and professional experience/expertise; otherwise, Session must approve in advance any modifications.

14. **Building Use Action Item:** The Ozark Girls' Chorus requests use of the Activity Center (and occasionally the Courtyard) for community girls' chorus rehearsals for 3rd, 4th, 5th graders every Tuesday from September – May from 4:30 – 5:30pm or 5:30 – 6:30pm. They will need 50 chairs and a piano (She's already spoken with Graeme, who recommended the Activity Center) There is no conflict for space on that day during either of those times.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Action Item #'s 1 – 14 and the motion passed.

#### **Clerk of Session Report**

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

#### **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Communion Served</u>	<u>Officiated</u>
March 3, 2009	Butterfield Trail Village	Rev. Lee Power

**Correspondence:** Faith Based Rehabilitation Partnership Program Information Packet

**Review of Church Records and Membership Rolls:** The Church Records and Membership Rolls for First United Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville were reviewed on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at First Presbyterian Church in Rogers during a special review session called by the Presbytery of Arkansas. There were exceptions noted and the Presbytery stamp will be affixed to the records and minutes.

A notice was received from the City of Fayetteville announcing a grant opportunity for ice-storm related repair of up to \$2,000. Also a letter of thanks was received from Seven Hills Homeless Shelter in appreciation for donations received from FUPC.

#### **Monthly Financial Reports**

The monthly financial report for March was distributed. Elder Morton provided a review of income and disbursement items.

#### **Staff Reports**

Kristi Button reported on the changes and improvements being made regarding the church website. A new calendar (Google) was added with improvements. Melanie Dietzel (only) has the capacity to add or delete items from the calendar. Any articles, pictures or updates should to be sent to Melanie at [mdietzel@fupcfay.org](mailto:mdietzel@fupcfay.org).

Rev. Williams addressed Action Item # 5 whereby session had authorized a task force be formed to discuss restructuring and to regularize the leadership of the Deacons Committee. A motion was made and seconded to name *Cathy Irwin, Peggy Manger, June Davis, Rev. Barry Williams and Rev. Lee Power* to serve on this task force. Following discussion, *the motion passed.*

Rev. Williams reported on meetings taking place in regard to High Acres estate, owned by church member Eva Stalker. The "big house" is now available for meetings and events. Requests are to be made through Melanie at the church office. The High Acres subcommittee will meet on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Rev. Williams then addressed the current size of the session. He has given thought to how the session fulfills its responsibility to the church and if the current size is where we need to be. There are restructuring possibilities that will be discussed in the months ahead. Elders Ervin and Waite agreed to research the session size of other churches in our denomination.

### **Standing Committee Report**

#### **Belonging and Evangelism**

A written report was emailed in advance from the March meeting and received.

#### **Christian Education**

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

#### **Deacons**

A written report was emailed in advance from the March meeting and received. Rev. Williams had met with the committee to discuss the history of the role of Deacons within the church, as well as the ordination of Deacons, as written in the Book of Order. Session approved Action Item's #5, 6, and 7 on the consent agenda related to this matter.

#### **Fellowship**

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

#### **Kitchen Hospitality**

A written report was emailed in advance from the March meeting and received. April and May food events were discussed which included Maundy Thursday Dinner, Easter Breakfast, First School Picnic and a youth fundraising meal with silent auction.

#### **Long Range Planning**

There was no written report as the committee did not meet. The book *The Iceberg is Melting* continues to be borrowed by the congregation.

#### **Memorial Gifts**

There was no written report as the committee did not meet. Action Item #8 was approved on the consent agenda.

## **Outreach**

There was no written report as the committee did not meet. Ron Talbert is again leading a mission trip to New Orleans in April.

## **Personnel**

There was no written report as the committee did not meet in March. Action Items #12 and 13 on the consent agenda were approved. In regard to the resignation of Graeme Langager as Director of Music, a special committee was approved to be formed to fill this vacancy. A nomination *to elect Dennis Bailey as the session representative on this committee* was made. The motion was made, seconded *and passed*. The nominating committee's recommendation was approved on the consent agenda for Martha Brewer (10) and Steve Dees (09) to serve on the Personnel committee as at-large members. They will join Lyle Gohn (09), Moderator, Barbara George (10), Eric Ervin (11), Bo Morton (10) and Dennis Bailey (09).

## **Properties**

A written report was emailed in advance from the March meeting and received. Hugh Brewer received a check from the insurance company to cover replacement of the Church sign destroyed at the intersection of Calvin St. and Old Wire Road. Hugh purchased the sign components, had the sign screen printed and then re-installed the sign. Action Items #2 and 3 on the consent agenda were approved.

## **Stewardship**

A written report was emailed in advance from the March meeting and received. The committee discussed that 2009 expenditures to date have exceeded income by \$11,246.76. As a result of a carryover of unexpected gifts late in 2008, church finances remain solvent. There was discussion of a Fundraising Plan for Fiscal year 2010.

## **Worship and Music**

A written report was emailed in advance from the March meeting and received. The committee worked on the details related to Palm Sunday, April 5, Maundy Thursday, April 9, Good Friday, April 10, and Easter Sunday, April 12. Action Item # 8 for the purchase of hand chimes was approved.

## **Commission Report**

### **First School**

A written report was emailed in advance from the March meeting and received. New commission members are Christie Cox and Barbara Rutledge. Session received the First School Statement to the Session, dated March 10, 2009 and titled *Information Regarding the First School Kindergarten Class*. Session also received the updated *First School Administrative Policies*.

## **Special Committee Reports**

**Endowment**

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

**Forum Planning Committee**

There was no written report as the committee did not meet. Action Item #9 was approved on the consent agenda.

**Hi-Acres Committee**

There was no written report as the committee did not meet. The committee members will meet again on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Nominating**

There was no written report as the committee did not meet. Action Item #10 on the consent agenda was approved.

**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 March meeting and received. Both issues of the Church Cookbook are available for purchase through the office or from any committee member. Hooks and Needles continues to meet Friday mornings at 10:00 in the Activity Center to work on hand sewn items for members and friends of the church in need. The Linus Project, a national project to make quilts for children in distress, will be held April 17<sup>th</sup> in the Activity Center. All women are invited to participate; pressers and cutters are needed as well as quilters.

**New Business** There was no new business.

**Old Business****FUPC Leadership Retreat Follow Up**

Rev. Williams requested that session reflect on the recent Leadership Retreat held on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009. A lengthy discussion about “next steps” followed.

**Update on Congregational Survey and Further Plans**

Elder Wright, moderator of the Pastor Needs Assessment Subcommittee, announced that results of the survey completed by the congregation in 2008 have been received and initially reviewed by him and Rev. Williams. The PNA subcommittee, the Pastor Nominating Committee and the Long Range Planning Committee will also review this data. Plans are underway for a congregational luncheon and presentation on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, following the 11:00 worship service.

**Announcements**

The May Stated Session meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 3, 2009 (note change in date) at 6pm in the Library.

**Adjourn**

Rev. Williams closed the meeting with a prayer. A motion was made and seconded *to adjourn at 8:00 pm and the motion passed.*

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Laurie Reh  
Clerk of Session