

**MINUTES OF SESSION
FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FAYETTEVILLE, AR
May 3, 2009**

A Stated Session meeting of First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, AR was held in the Library on May 3, 2009.

Elders Present: Ted Belden, Kyle Elmore, Barbara George, Allen Hanna, Katie Jackson, Sara Koenig, Frank Millet, Itrel Monroe, George "Bo" Morton", Melinda Nickle, Derrick Olsen, Manuel Rossetti, Jane Steinkraus, Dean Thiesse, Nancy Waite, and Doug Wright

Elders Excused: Dennis Bailey, June Davis, Eric Ervin, Lyle Gohn, Roger Koeppel, Michelle Price, Jim Schneringer and Ron Woodruff

Elders Absent:

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

Others Present: Laurie Reh, Clerk of Session, Kristi Button, Direction of Christian Education

Rev. Barry Williams, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm and declared a quorum present. Joys and concerns were shared.

Devotional

Elder George led the devotional by referring to discussion held at the April stated session meeting regarding social justice and the freedom to embrace change. The devotional was 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

Rev. Williams reported that initial work on "the session functioning and size" has been started by Elders Waite and Ervin. Informational handouts were received by the session as a reference. Elder Waite and Ervin are continuing their research and a report will be made at the June meeting.

Also, the Deacon's Task Force is also continuing its' work, with a report anticipated at the June stated meeting.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made and seconded *to approve the Stated Session minutes of April 5, 2009*. There were no changes and *the motion passed*.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

1. **Update of Church Rolls:**

Mary Burton died on April 19, 2009, in Fayetteville, AR. A memorial service will be held at First United Presbyterian Church on May 5, 2009.

2. **Kitchen Hospitality Action Item:** Kitchen Hospitality requests a sum not to exceed \$1500.00 to

replace the main garbage disposer in the dishwasher sink in the kitchen. The funds would come from building and maintenance restricted fund 02378.

3. **Presbyterian Women Action Item:** request Session approval for congregational-wide participation in the collection of toiletry items for women served by the local "Peace at Home Family Shelter." A list of items needed will be in the May FOCUS and a collection basket will be in the Narthex.

A motion was made and seconded *to approve Action Item #'s 1 - 3 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> |
|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| April 7, 2009 | Butterfield Trail Village | Rev. Lee Power |

Correspondence:

A letter of appreciation was received from the Congregation of Comunidad Presbiteriana Hispana and the NWA Hispanic NCD Commission for FUPC's contribution of \$2,000.

Information:

111th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas on Saturday, June 6, First, Searcy; registration to begin at 8:15 a.m.; Gavel at 9:30 a.m.; Opening Worship at 9:45 a.m.; Rev. Camille LeBron Powell preaching.

Monthly Financial Reports

The monthly financial report for April was distributed. Elder Morton provided a review of income and disbursement items. Approximately \$30,000 has been used from the anonymous gift received at the end of the year.

Pastors and Staff Reports

Rev. Lee Power has held discussions with Elder Steinkraus regarding taking communion to the homebound.

Rev. Williams distributed copies of the Presbyterian calendar to session for the upcoming year. Pastor Barry encouraged our congregation to continue to be welcoming and to offer blessings as often as possible.

Rev. Williams had the opportunity to meet the Moderator of the General Assembly, Rev. Bruce-Reyes Chow, while visiting his home church in Missouri. Rev. Williams provided a brief review of the Moderator's presentation.

Standing Committee Report

Belonging and Evangelism

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

Regarding the church web site, it was agreed by the committee that the calendar and the simplification of choices is an improvement. Steve Dees is evaluating the level of difficulty for adding and deleting photos and text, and will assess how content management of this system works. A Visitors' Brochure is being developed by the committee, Steve Dees, and Mary Mann, with photos provided by staff. All Tables for Eight (or more) groups are meeting and enjoying varied activities. Cluster 1 Presbyterian Ads continue to air on TV.

Christian Education

A written report was emailed in advance from the April meeting and received. Summer Sunday school will begin on June 7th with Kindergarten – 5th grades combined and Rising 7th grade – Adult combined. A New Member's class is planned to run for 3 weeks. During the Sunday school hour on June 21st, a Vacation Bible School kick-off will be held. The last day for Kid's Club for this semester will be May 13th with recognition of Molly Williams for her leadership of Kid's Club. Vacation Bible School will be June 22nd – 26th. Children's Chimes arrangement for fall of 2009 will be 2nd & 3rd grade chimes and 4th & 5th grade chimes.

Deacons

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

Fellowship

There was no written report as the committee did not meet. Sunday, May 17th is the date of a congregational luncheon when the PNA Congregational Survey results will be shared and interpreted and reports given by the PNC and Long Range Planning committees.

Kitchen Hospitality

A written report was emailed in advance from the April meeting and received. The committee hosted 11 food events in March, including Maundy Thursday dinner for 77, First Fellowship Luncheon for 26, Easter Brunch for 160, and the Community Meals Project for 100. There are 13 events on the calendar between now and June 11th. Action Item # 2 passed regarding the committee's request for funds not to exceed \$1500.00 to replace the main garbage disposer in the dishwasher sink in the kitchen. The funds would come from building and maintenance restricted fund 02378.

Long Range Planning

A written report was emailed in advance from the April meeting and received. Participants at the leadership retreat were asked to volunteer to teach an adult Sunday school class on the book Our Iceberg is Melting during the summer session. It was agreed to keep the LRP posters up until the Stewardship campaign starts in September. The committee reviewed the Steve Dees-FUPC brochure with an interest to make sure the terminology links to our Long Term Strategic plans. The survey results and interpretations from the Congregational PNA Survey were distributed with the agreement that LRP will discuss its implications to the LT Strategic plan in May.

Memorial Gifts

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

Outreach

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

Personnel

A written report was emailed in advance from the April meeting and received. The resignation of music director Graeme Langager was announced. A search committee consisting of Dennis Bailey, representing the Session, Bill Mitchell, representing the choir, Itrel Monroe, representing the Worship and Music Committee; Martha Brewer was appointed to represent Personnel Committee and Mary Boushelle from the congregation at large was formed. The administrative assistant's desk needs to be replaced, with a vote held to request that Memorial Gifts Committee determine if funds are available to purchase a replacement, with the recommendation that a quality piece of furniture be selected. The committee appointed a Pastor Compensation Subcommittee, consisting of Bo Morton, Eric Ervin, Barbara George, and Barry Williams, to develop recommendations for compensation of the new pastor for use by the Pastor Nominating Committee. Discussion followed as to a reception for Graeme Langager on Sunday, June 21st, his last Sunday as our Director of Music. It was agreed that Worship and Music, Personnel and Kitchen Hospitality would coordinate for this purpose.

Properties

A written report was emailed in advance from the April meeting and received. A work day will be placed on the calendar for May, to do additional cleanup to the campus. Main areas of concern are flower beds and trafficways with the "mulch" utilized as created at the Feb. 28th workday. Disposal of the glass topped "Historic" display case in Fellowship Hall took place with its new "home" at the Fayetteville Air Museum. Hugh Brewer isolated and repaired a broken wire in the underground circuit feeding the "step" lights leading down the long amphitheatre stairs, saving the church several hundred dollars for an outside electrical contractor to locate and perform this repair. The Committee has joined with CE and First School to propose proper fencing along the far South border of our property and around the playgrounds along this border.

Stewardship

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

Worship and Music

There was no written report as the committee did not meet. Communion is planned for Sunday, June 7th.

Commission Report

First School

A written report was emailed in advance from the April meeting and received. The Kindergarten fall class still has openings and there are a few openings in summer for 3, 4, and elementary-aged children. A Teacher Appreciation luncheon for teachers is scheduled for May 11, 2009 at 12:30 pm. FUPC will recognize First School and its staff at May 17th service. All staff is welcome and encouraged to attend. The commission is working on a new website.

Special Committee Reports

Endowment

A written report was emailed in advance from the February meeting and received. Liz Fulton serves as Chair of the Trustees and Hugh Brewer as Secretary. It was noted that the Session ended 2008 with a debt to the Endowment Fund of \$135,000 and that an anonymous gift of \$100,000 was received earmarked for the operating budget from a kind and generous benefactor.

Forum Planning Committee

There was no written report as the committee did not meet. A request was made to video-tape the Rebecca Spooner presentation on Wednesday, May 12th during the Forum.

Hi-Acres Committee

There was no written report. Elder Belden clarified the existing relationship of Ken and Eva Stalker Trust between St. Paul's Episcopal Church and First United Presbyterian Church. He reported that he, Lorraine Brewer, Jim Harter (as Trustee) have been meeting regarding the future use of Eva Stalker's property in Fayetteville ("Hi-Acres"). Discussions have also been held with St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Fayetteville.

It was announced that a joint, informal meeting with St. Paul's Episcopal Church Vestry is planned at Hi-Acres on Sunday, June 14th at 6:00 p.m. Elder Steinkraus reported on the Healing Ministry Program, currently sponsored by St. Paul's, and stated how the demand for it has increased. High Acres has been proposed as a potential meeting location for this ministry.

Nominating

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

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 April meeting and received. For Together in Service there are three giving opportunities being emphasized in May: Peace at Home Family Shelter; the local Faith in Action organization; and the Haiti Educational Project. Members wishing to participate may do so through their circles or at the June luncheon. Plans for the Spring Luncheon on Tuesday, June 2 were finalized; the luncheon will be at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Edythe Miller will cater at a cost of \$7.00 per plate. A motion was approved to spend up to \$200 per attendee to defray registration fees for members attending the tri-annual church-wide gathering (July 11-15 in Louisville, KY). Mary Jo Harvey and Nancy Denn will attend.

New Business

111th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, Saturday, June 6th at First, Searcy

A motion was made and seconded *to appoint Elder Belden to serve as commissioner on behalf of First United Presbyterian Church at the 111th stated meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas.* With no objections, *the motion passed.*

Old Business

Announcements

The June Stated Session meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 7, 2009 at 6pm in the Library.

Adjourn

Rev. Williams closed the meeting with a prayer. A motion was made and seconded *to adjourn at 7:22 pm and the motion passed.*

Laurie Reh
Clerk of Session