

**MINUTES OF SESSION
FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FAYETTEVILLE, AR
June 7, 2009**

A Stated Session meeting of First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, AR was held in the Library on June 7, 2009.

Elders Present: Dennis Bailey, Ted Belden, Kyle Elmore, Eric Ervin, Lyle Gohn, Allen Hanna, Sara Koenig, Roger Koeppe, 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: June Davis, Barbara George, Katie Jackson, Irel Monroe, and Frank Millet

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

Others Present: Laurie Reh, Clerk of Session, Kristi Button, Director of Christian Education, PNC members Bill Waite (moderator), Lorraine Brewer, Bill Hewat, James Moore and Steve Sisco

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 Bailey led the devotional by reading from a 350 year old poem and providing some personal reflection on poetry. The devotional was closed in prayer.

Adoption of the Agenda

Rev. Williams asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. He noted that the July 12th meeting date is still tentative. The Clerk of Session will send an email to inform the session. A motion *to approve the agenda* was moved, seconded *and passed*.

Special Reports/Presentations

Recommendation to the Session of FUPC Concerning the Office of Deacon

Cathy Irwin, Deacons Committee Moderator and members of the Deacons Task Force were present to respond to questions from session. The **Book of Order** of the Presbyterian Church USA states that "*The Church offices mentioned in the New Testament which this church has maintained include those of presbyters (ministers of Word and Sacrament and elders) and deacons.*" G-6.0103. The committee recommended that the session take the following actions, including proposed changes to the congregation's By-laws:

1. In compliance with the Book of Order G-6.0400 – 6.0407 deacons will be elected, trained, examined beginning in the fall of 2009, and that they be ordained and installed beginning in January of 2010. Following ordination and installation they will be organized as a Board of Deacons.
2. That the Board will consist of six individuals organized in three classes, beginning with the class of 2010.
3. Additionally, in compliance with G-6.0403b, the Congregation's Nominating Committee may recommend other individuals to be elected, ordained and commissioned as deacons called to "*particular tasks consistent with the responsibilities of their office.*" These individuals may participate in meeting of the Board of Deacons as ex-officio members, without vote.

4. That the clerk of the session be charged to bring to a meeting of the session the exact language required to amend the By-laws of FUPC. (These will include, at least, changes or additions to Article 4, Section 1a and c; Article 4, Section 2a; Article 5, Section 7; Article 7, Sections 1, 3, and 4.)
5. That the session call a congregational meeting for August 2, 9, or 16 for the purpose of acting on these and other proposed changes to the By-laws.

Discussion followed. A motion was made and seconded *to amend the stated date options for calling of a congregational meeting and establish that Sunday, August 9th would be the official date in order to hear the Deacons Task Force recommendation and the amended motion passed.* It was then moved *that the five recommendations of the Deacons Task Force be approved and the motion passed.* The congregational meeting will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following the 11:00 am worship service.

Pastor Nominating Committee Special Report

Members of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) were present to discuss the final version of the Church Information Form, following its official approval by the Committee on Ministry. Copies were distributed and received by the session.

Moderator Waite led discussion on the possibility of interested clergy couples (co-pastors) in the Senior Pastor position. Discussion followed in regard to recommended maximum salary amounts.

A motion was made and seconded *to authorize the Pastor Nominating Committee to consider both individuals and clergy couples in their search to fill the Senior Pastor position.* Discussion followed. A motion *to call the question* was made and seconded and *the motion passed.* As to the main motion, and with no further discussion, *the motion passed.*

Discussion followed with session offering feedback to the PNC on the wording of the CIF. A motion was made and seconded *to approve the Church Information Form as modified and the motion passed.*

Discussion followed relative to the establishment of an appropriate salary package for the Senior Pastor position. A motion was made and seconded *to approve a total effective salary of \$85,000 with a total cost (including benefits and personal allowances) of \$120,000 that the PNC would be allowed to use to negotiate with in their search for a Senior Pastor.* Discussion followed. An amendment to the motion was made *for a total effective salary of \$85,000 and a total compensation amount of \$125,000 (total compensation),* followed by a second. The *amended motion failed,* with Elders Bailey and Olsen voting against the motion. Returning to the original motion *calling for a total effective salary of \$85,000 and a total compensation package amount of \$120,000 cost to the church, the motion passed.*

In consideration of clergy couple applicants, the PNC had originally discussed that the cost for this option would be the approved maximum amount (\$120,000) + \$45,000. A motion was made and seconded *to approve a total cost amount for a co-pastor position of \$165,000.* Elders Bailey and Olsen voted no and *the motion passed.*

A motion was made and seconded *to approve the CIF in its totality as well as all the work of the PNC and the motion passed.* Rev. Williams led the session and PNC in prayer.

Recommendation to the Session of FUPC Concerning the Membership of the Session

On behalf of the Session Size and Function Task Force, Elder Ervin led discussion on studies he and Elder Waite had conducted on "session size" of churches around the country. A motion was made and seconded *that session approve the following recommendation:*

[We recommend that the session call a congregational meeting to amend Article V, Section 2 of the By-Laws of First United Presbyterian Church as follows (*changes are in italics*):

Section 2 - Membership: The session shall be composed of the pastor *or co-pastors*, associate pastor(s) and *eighteen* elders in active service. All members of the session, including the pastor *or co-pastors* and associate pastors(s) are entitled to vote. The elders shall be divided for elective purposes only into three classes of *six* members each. Classes will serve the session for three years, with a new class being elected each year to replace that class whose terms of service are expiring. (G-10.0100, G-14.0201)

By this action the session will include twenty-two elders in 2010 (eight in the classes of 2010 and 2011, and six in the class of 2012), twenty elders in 2011 (eight in the class of 2011, and six in the classes of 2012 and 2013), and eighteen elders in 2013 and subsequent years.]

Discussion followed regarding the recommendation. A motion was made and seconded *to call the question and the motion passed*. With no further discussion, *the original motion passed*.

Rev. Williams led discussion concerning lifting the descriptions of committees out of the bylaws rather than naming each particular committee. A motion was made and seconded *that the moderator and clerk be permitted to change the language in the By-laws in order to take out the specific committee structure definitions and other items in order to allow the session greater flexibility*. There was no further discussion and *the motion passed*.

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

FUPC Commissioner Ted Belden gave a verbal report and stated that a full report of the meeting would be provided by the Presbytery Office in the upcoming "*Banner*" or on the Presbytery website. He provided a copy of the document "How to Relate to Former Pastors, Retired Pastors, or Other Minister of the Word and Sacrament Worshipping and Involved within a Congregation" to the clerk for distribution to session. This was distributed at the meeting (and can be found on the Presbytery website from the June 7th meeting under "attachments"). Copies will also be available in the Church Office.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made and seconded *to approve the Stated Session minutes of May 3, 2009*. There were no changes and *the motion passed*.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

1. Update of Church Rolls:

Baptism:

Sophie Grace McClung, daughter of Owen and Lucy McClung, baptized Sunday, May 10, 2009 at First United Presbyterian Church

Deaths:

Hal Camp on Monday, May 25, 2009. A memorial service was held on Friday, May 29, 2:00 pm at Butterfield Trail Village.

- ##### **2. Properties Committee Action Item:** Release up to \$130.00 from restricted acct #02378, to cover cost of replacing a full length mirror in KNOX Bldg. This mirror broke during Vacation Bible School last year, but fortunately, no children were injured. Two

upcoming weddings require this 'appointment' as this is the Brides/Bridesmaid dressing area. Installation of the new mirror and re-installation of the remaining former mirror will be done by in-house persons. This is a non-budgeted expense.

3. **Properties Committee Action Item:** (of Magnitude zero) Request we approve Caleb Sieck as the assistant driver (to Kristi Button / principal driver) for the Youth Mission Trip to Louisville in July (19th – 26th) utilizing our Church bus. Our insurance requires the driver on such a trip to be age 25 or over. Caleb is not yet 25 but our insurance, having checked and found his driving record clean, has no problem and has said it is completely up to us (FUPC and/or Properties Committee). So that there is not a precedent set, I would like to ask Session approve this activity and probably all future such occurrences.

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>
May 12, 2009	Butterfield Trail Village	Rev. Lee Power
June 2, 2009	Butterfield Trail Village	Rev. Lee Power
June 7, 2009	11:00 a.m. Worship Service	Rev.'s Barry Williams and Lee Power

Correspondence

A note of appreciation from Highlands Chapter of the Ozark Society, along with their annual contribution of \$200, was sent to the church.

Information

Sunday, June 14th – a meeting of Session (unofficial) with St. Paul's Episcopal Church Vestry at Hi-Acres (Eva Stalker's property) at 6:00 p.m.

Monthly Financial Reports

The monthly financial report for May was distributed. Elder Morton provided a review of income and disbursement items. The financial report was received as presented.

Pastors and Staff Reports

Kristi Button distributed a "list of snacks" needed during the upcoming Vacation Bible School.

Rev. Williams reported on his attendance at the Interim Ministry Annual Conference in Pittsburg, PA. He distributed a memo concerning his schedule for the dates between May 19 and December 31, 2009. He also asked for volunteers to organize food for the meeting scheduled at Hi-Acres on Sunday, June 14th at 6pm. Elders Belden and Steinkraus offered to coordinate the meal. It was agreed to meet at 5:46 pm in the church parking lot to carpool and travel via the church van.

In recognition of Reformation Sunday and John Calvin's 500 year anniversary, Rev. Williams requested a committee be formed to plan an appropriate event or recognition. Volunteers to serve on this committee were discussed and Elder Bailey agreed to meet with Rev. Williams to begin this process.

Standing Committee Report

Belonging and Evangelism

A written report was emailed in advance from the May meeting and received. Elder Nickle presented a proposed updated version of the new church brochure. Steve Dees is handling revisions in formatting and editing. New Member Sunday is scheduled for June 21, 2009, which will be preceded by a called session meeting at 10:30 am.

Christian Education

A written report was emailed in advance from the May meeting and received. A CE brainstorming group addressed possible ideas for “Wonderful Wednesdays” programs. Elder Price led the discussion with session and asked for more feedback and additional ideas. The session affirmed this committee's planning and encouraged them to move forward.

Deacons

A written report was emailed in advance from the May meeting and received. Maxine Ward sent 126 cards in March and 127 cards in April. Jimmie Beauchamp completed 11 notes since March. Bonnie Stitt completed Stephen Ministry training and will be commissioned during the June 14, 2009 church service. Rev. Williams reported on recommendations to the session for the ordination of Deacons and Commissioned Deacons, which were voted on and passed by a task force from the Deacons (see special reports above).

Fellowship

There was no written report as the committee did not meet. Elder Wright has received a verbal commitment from Bobby and Lana Odom who will host the church picnic at their home. August 22nd or 23rd are the proposed tentative dates.

Kitchen Hospitality

A written report was emailed in advance from the May meeting and received. A revised kitchen request form was presented for session information. Additional information is now requested at the planning stage as to the type of food event planned and the supplies and/or equipment that will be needed. Upcoming food events include a reception for Graeme Langager on June 21st, preparation of the monthly community meal through the rest of the year and helping with VBS refreshments.

Long Range Planning

A written report was emailed in advance from the May meeting and received. The key focus of the meeting was to *Brain Storm* ideas and discuss solutions (how) regarding integrating our Long Range Strategic plans into FUPC committee work and into the *DNA* of our church. Sallie Watson, General Presbyter, was present for discussion with LRP. Key ideas and discussion points were listed and provided for session.

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 May meeting and received. The Search Committee for Director of Music and Chancel Choir met with the Personnel Committee and reported on their interview with Dr. Todd Prickett, results of reference calls, and results of informal poll of members of the Chancel Choir who were present when Dr. Prickett directed rehearsal on April 29, 2009. The Search Committee unanimously recommended to the Personnel Committee that Dr. Todd Prickett be hired as the Director of Music and Chancel Choir. It was unanimously voted to accept the recommendation of the Search Committee, and to offer the position of Director of Music and Chancel Choir to Dr. Todd Prickett, effective August 10, 2009. The following

salary and benefits package for Dr. Prickett was unanimously approved by the Personnel Committee:

- a. \$3,000 for moving expenses, plus additional funds to be used for additional moving expenses as necessary, and salary, as follows: For the remainder of calendar year 2009, salary of \$2,250.00 per month; provided, however, that if Dr. Prickett requests that the church pay additional moving expenses, the head of staff is authorized to pay such additional moving expenses to the extent that he sees fit, in which case, he will direct that Dr. Prickett's salary be reduced in an amount equal to the additional expenses paid, such reduction to be taken in essentially equal amounts from each pay check in 2009.
- b. For calendar year 2010, Dr. Prickett will be compensated by a salary of \$27,000.00, and vacation of three weeks; the church will also provide continuing education and professional leave up to three additional weeks, and continuing education allowance up to \$500.00, all as approved by the head of staff.

Properties

A written report was emailed in advance from the May meeting and received. Two Properties Committee action items above were approved on the consent agenda. A work day will be placed on the calendar in June for additional cleanup to the campus after much ice storm clean-up. PROPERTIES has agreed to join with CE and First School to propose proper fencing along the far South border of our property and around the playgrounds along this border. Rev. Dr. Dr. Leslie Belden has again furnished, and had placed, floral items in the planters along the steps in the amphitheater.

Stewardship

A written report was emailed in advance from the May meeting and received. A discussion of a fundraising plan for FY 2010 addressed the downward trend in pledging units and deficit budgets. A new approach to fundraising will be taken with the philosophy that stewardship is a year around effort. The committee proposes to cooperate with Belonging and Evangelism to have new member orientation meetings to emphasize the importance of pledging.

Regarding anticipated endowment income, a recent transfer of endowment funds was made from PCUSA Foundation to Texas Presbyterian Foundation. Reallocating composition of that fund should result in increased earnings, from which an annual distribution will likely be approved and paid out for use.

Worship and Music

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

Commission Report

First School

A written report was emailed in advance from the May meeting and received. The First School picnic went well and the silent auction raised approximately \$3000.00, which will be used to pay for the new website and a portion of the new playground fencing.

Special Committee Reports

Forum Planning Committee

There was no written report. The committee plans to meet soon to plan Fall and Spring lecture series.

Hi-Acres Committee

There was no written report. Discussion followed on the joint, informal meeting with St. Paul's Episcopal Church Vestry planned at Hi-Acres for Sunday, June 14th at 6:00 p.m.

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 May meeting and received. Meetings of Circle's 1 – 5 were reported. It was noted that Circle meetings will resume in September. The committee voted to split mission donations between **Faith in Action** and **Peace at Home Family Shelter**. Melissa Werner, incoming president of the PHFS, was the guest speaker at the June luncheon, as was a representative from FIA. Nancy Denn received a Presbytery Scholarship totaling \$500 to attend the tri-annual church-wide gathering in Louisville, KY, July 11-15. Coordinating Team will give Mary Jo Harvey a \$380 scholarship to cover her registration. A memorial donation was given to FUPC library in memory of Mary Burton.

Trustees and Endowment

A written report was emailed in advance from the April meeting and received. Melinda Hunt, Director of Development for the Texas Presbyterian Foundation (TPF) of Irving, Texas was present to report on the Endowment Fund (FUPC had transferred most funds for management). Discussion followed on ideas for organization, fund raising and to cover the resources available to us from TPF. The FUPC account total as of 3/31/2009 was \$1,115,099.19. This does not include a few assets that have not been transferred to TPF.

New Business

Pastoral Needs Assessment Subcommittee

A motion was made and seconded *to dissolve the PNA committee with thanks and the motion passed.*

A motion was made and seconded *to approve a Congregational meeting on Sunday, August 9th in order to address a number of items pertaining to the By-Laws and the motion passed.*

Old Business

There was no old business.

Announcements

The July Stated Session meeting has been canceled unless the moderator and clerk of session determine there is a need for a meeting. The next stated meeting will be held on Sunday, August 2, 2009 at 6pm in the Library.

Adjourn

Rev. Williams closed the meeting with a prayer. A motion was made and seconded *to adjourn at 8:45 pm and the motion passed.*

Laurie Reh
Clerk of Session