

**MINUTES OF SESSION
FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FAYETTEVILLE, AR
Sunday, April 6, 2008**

A Stated Session meeting of First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, AR was held in the Activity Building and was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Elders Present: Dennis Bailey, Ted Belden, Dennis Brewer, June Davis, Eric Ervin, Nell Griffin, Sara Koenig, Roger Koeppe, Frank Millet, Itrel Monroe, James Moore, George "Bo" Morton", Michelle Price, Steve Sisco, Jim Schneringer, Jane Steinkraus, Anna Stitt, Ron Woodruff and Doug Wright

Elders Excused: Barbara George, Lyle Gohn, Carol Hart and Nancy Waite

Elders Absent: Diane Warren

Teaching Elders Present: Rev. Barry Williams, Moderator, Rev. Josh Leu, Rev. Lee Power and Rev. Dr. Maury Roberts

Others Present: Laurie Reh, Clerk of Session, Ken Mays, Focus Editor and Lin Oliver, parent

2007-2008 Confirmation Class	Covenant Partners	Teachers
Maria Rossetti	Jesse Koeppe	Lorraine Brewer
Kori Romere	Marti Woodruff	Caleb Sieck
Taylor Davis	Eunice Millett	Tom Verdery
Will Hewat	Steve Sisco	Dennis Brewer
Ben Houston	Wade Burnside	
Timothy Oliver	Dennis Bailey	
Jay Boushelle	Jim Harter	
Caroline Wilbourn	(and Diane Shefte, who was unable to attend)	

Rev. Barry Williams, Moderator, called the meeting to order and a quorum was declared present. Joys and concerns were shared.

Devotional and Opening Prayer

Elder Belden led the opening devotional by reading an article from www.Presbyweb.com, the Daily News for Presbyterians. The General Assembly will meet in San Jose, CA on June 21-28, 2008. The four candidates for Moderator of the 218th General Assembly were asked to answer one question: *What is the Gospel?* In his response, Bruce Reyes-Chow referenced Luke 8:24-25. Elder Belden followed the devotional with prayer.

Adoption of the Agenda

Rev. Williams asked for any additions or changes to the agenda and with none, a motion

was ordered *that the agenda be adopted and the motion passed.*

Special Reports/Presentations

2008 Confirmation Class

Rev. Williams welcomed the class members and invited class leader Lorraine Brewer to address the session. A handout was distributed and received of the *Statement of Mission for the 2008 Confirmation*. Members met with their covenant partners, teachers and leaders on Sunday's and separately, beginning in August of 2007. Class members each gave a personal faith statement to the session. Rev. Williams addressed the class and the session and inquired if anyone had further questions. A motion was made and seconded *that the 2008 Confirmation Class be received as members on Sunday, April 27th during the 11:00 a.m. worship service.* With no further discussion, *the motion passed.*

Congregational Visitation Report

Elder Wright, on behalf of the Visitation Team, presented a report of the recent visitations made during the months of February and March. It was agreed that a final written committee report would follow via email from the Clerk of Session. Elder Wright reviewed the total number of visits made by session-appointed teams-of-two in person and/or by phone as well as other information. Each team had provided feedback to the team leaders following visits or phone conversations made, to be included in the final report.

Discussion followed. A follow-up session for the congregation was proposed by the team leaders to possibly take place at the end of April to allow for conversation and improving communication. Rev. Williams asked if there were particular insights or discernments obtained from visits. He also advised the session to consider two questions:

1 -- What are the next steps in this?

It was agreed that a follow-up conversation would take place with the congregation to be publicized widely, with openness and honesty, on the 1st Sunday in May before the session meets. Ice cream and cookies would be served. The session's stated meeting would take place after this meeting.

2 -- What are our ongoing learning's? Are there systemic learnings?

With no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded *that a meeting be held for Follow up Communication of the Session Visits at 2:30 pm on Sunday, May 4th and the motion passed.* A motion was also made and seconded *to move the session meeting up to take place immediately following the 2:30 pm May 4th congregational meeting rather than at the usual time of 6:00 p.m. and the motion passed.*

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made and seconded *to approve the Stated Session meeting minutes of March 2, 2008.* A correction was made to change the term "hire" to "call" in regard to the Interim Pastor. There were no further changes and *the motion to approve the minutes*

passed.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

1. **Update of Church Rolls:**

Remove from the Active Roll:

Jennifer Brown

2. **Action Item:** Session approval, on behalf of the 2008 Confirmation Class, for a baptism to be held on Sunday, April 27th during the 11:00 a.m. service, should this be requested.
3. **Action Item from Properties Committee:** Approval for Franklin Roofing repairs to the roof over the Parlor at the front of the Sanctuary in the amount of \$1,095. This is a non-budgeted item to be paid out of #0238 - Building and Maintenance/Restricted Fund.
4. **Action Item from Personnel Committee:** The Personnel Committee, in consultation with the Worship and Music Committee, is authorized by the Session to hire a part-time Director of Music at the 2007 salary level of \$28,000 annually commencing on or after June 1, 2008. The Director of Music shall be responsible for directing the Chancel Choir and coordinating the music ministries of the church.
5. **Action Item from Personnel Committee:** The children and youth ministries of the church shall continue to be staffed by separate individuals. Children ministries will be staffed for the remainder of the year with either two part time directors or the hiring of a permanent part time director as determined after further review by Rev. Williams, Christian Education, and Personnel.
6. **Action Item from Personnel Committee:** The Rev. Lee Power shall be continued on the pastoral staff at 40 hours/week through May 31, 2008.
7. **Action Item from Personnel Committee:** The Rev. Josh Leu shall be continued on the pastoral staff at 40 hours/week through May 31, 2008.

Action Item's # 2, 6 and 7 were lifted for further discussion. A motion was made and seconded *to approve Action Items # 1, 3, 4 and 5 and the motion passed.*

Clerk of Session Report

A written report was emailed and included in the session packet and received. Minutes of the March 9, 2008 moderator meeting were emailed and received.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Communion Served</u>
March 6	Butterfield Trail Village

Rev. Barry Williams stated his appreciation for the opportunity to work with Rev. Lee Power, a former seminary colleague. Also, the Committee of Five Final Report will be turned over to him directly from the Presbytery of Arkansas for safekeeping and until further session action is appropriate.

Session Retreat

The session retreat, held on Saturday, March 27th at Carnall Hall on the UA campus, was discussed and reviewed. There were 21 out of 24 elders, 4 pastors, 2 moderators and the Clerk in attendance at the retreat. As to follow-up, Rev. Williams suggested the session might consider re-visiting the book *Healthy Congregations* by Peter Steinke over the summer months. Discussion followed.

Standing Committee Reports

Belonging and Evangelism

There was no written report as the committee did not meet. The visitations were a significant help to this committee.

Christian Education

A written report from the Children's subcommittee was emailed in advance and received. Highlights: The last day of Kid's Club's will be May 14th. Planning is underway for Vacation Bible School. The Mission Project raised \$200 for the Heifer Project.

Deacons

A written report was emailed in advance and received. Highlights: Springdale Presbyterian Church will host a Stephen Leader training in January 2009.

Fellowship

The written report from the March 9 meeting was emailed in advance and received. Highlights: The committee is considering an all-church picnic in late May or early June.

Kitchen Hospitality

A written report was emailed in advance to the session and received. Highlights: The committee worked with various committees to host the Maundy Thursday Covered Dish Dinner with Communion, the Easter Breakfast and the Welcoming Luncheon for Rev. Williams. The committee sponsored 3 dinners of soup and sandwiches for the Parenting lecture series. The First School Graduation and Picnic, PW Spring Luncheon, Vacation Bible School and September 27th PW Cluster Gathering are in the planning stages.

Long Range Planning (LRP)

A written report was emailed in advance to the session and received. Highlights: The following Vision statement was approved by Session in February: *First United Presbyterian Church is a dynamic community of faith visibly modeling a deep commitment to proclaiming Christ as we lovingly support growth in discipleship and faithfully engage in service to others.* LRP will meet with Rev. Barry Williams regarding the *Strategic Plan* for FUPC. The PNA (Pastoral Needs Assessment) subcommittee will

return to active discussions on when and how to integrate the previously purchased church survey into FUPC.

Nominating

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

Outreach

A written report was emailed in advance and received. Highlights: FUPC's PDA Mission Group was be given authority by the session to utilize the money in the Gulf Coast Disaster Relief Fund (#71045) in the amount of \$13,630 as needed on its trip. Laurie Marshall will be the FUPC team leader for the Komen Race for the Cure in April. The annual Pentecost offering will be May 11th.

Personnel

A written report was emailed in advance and received. Action Items #6 and 7 were lifted from the consent agenda for further discussion. With no other discussion, *Action Items # 6 and 7 each passed.*

Properties

Action Item #3 was approved on the consent agenda. A written report was emailed in advance and received. First School was professionally painted and then paid for by the parents of First School students.

Stewardship

A written report was received and distributed. The committee has had discussions about the 2009 campaign in order to start generating ideas for this fall.

Endowment/Trustees

There was no report and the committee had not met.

Worship and Music

A written report was emailed in advance and received. *Communion from the Farthest Pew* program was discussed in that it had been well received when implemented last year. Jane Steinkraus/Nell Griffin agreed to consider offering this program again.

Commission Report

First School

There was no written report. First School parents have been asked to contribute to the playground renovations.

Special Committee Reports

Forum Planning Committee

There was no written report as the committee hadn't met. Jeff Shannon will be the presenter on Wednesday, April 23rd at 6:30 p.m. On May 7th, John Dixon's brother and

wife will be the featured speakers. They are currently serving as missionaries in Africa.

Hi-Acres Committee

There was no written report. The committee plans to meet with representatives of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Eva Stalker in regard to use of the Hi Acres property.

Interim Pastor Nominating Committee (IPNC)

A written report was emailed in advance and received. The committee will remain *informally* in place to offer support to Rev. Williams as needed. To that end, a motion was made and seconded to *formally dissolve the IPNC and the motion passed.*

Memorial Gifts Committee

There was no written report as the committee has not met.

Organ Feasibility Committee (OFC)

A written report was emailed in advance and received.

Pastoral Needs Assessment (PNA) Subcommittee

A written report was emailed in advance and received. Highlights: After a seven-month hiatus, PNA re-convened and is ready to continue its purpose of determining the church's pastoral needs and how those needs can best be met. The next step is a meeting with Barry Williams, the subcommittee and the Long Range Planning committee to go over our work and future plans. This meeting will take place sometime in April.

Presbyterian Women

A written report was emailed in advance and received. Highlights: Missions (Together We Serve) included the Linus Project, collection of 'Back to School' supplies for the Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Children's Home, collecting labels for the Goodland Home in Oklahoma and donations for the Haiti project. The Hooks and Needles group continues to meet weekly with good attendance. Several hats were taken to the Fayetteville Cancer Support Home this past week and prayer shawls were given to church members and friends. The Search Committee, under the leadership of Nancy Denn, presented a slate of officers for next year with installation to be at the June luncheon. The Fall Cluster Gathering was approved for Saturday, September 27 at our church.

United Campus Ministry

There was no written report.

New Business

Action Item #2 from the Consent Agenda

This action item was lifted and discussed further in regard to Timothy Oliver's request to be baptized and to have Rev. Josh Leu participate in the service. A motion was made and seconded to *approve Timothy Oliver's baptism on Sunday, April 27th during the 11:00 a.m. worship service and that elders Lin Oliver and Dennis Bailey will serve as the officiating elders.* The motion passed.

Update on Child Care Task Force

Elder Belden reported that the following individuals have agreed to serve on the newly formed Child Care Task Force: Amy McCann, Nancy Mays, Diane Warren, Rebecca Schneringer, Ann Bailey, Karen Ervin, Roger Kennedy, Sara Eichmann, Carole Walter, Laurie Marshall and Terri Trotter, with Dennis Bailey as session-liaison. The first meeting of this group will be on April 13th at 4pm, at which time a moderator will be selected by the group.

Review of FUPC Baptism Policy

It was agreed that it would be appropriate for the session to approve baptisms in advance, whenever possible. A called meeting could be scheduled in order to have the session's concurrence in advance. It was also agreed, that as a general policy of the session, a baptism would not be withheld if there was a conflict in meeting dates and that the session's concurrence could be obtained at the next earliest opportunity.

Old Business

2008 Property Insurance Review

Elder Woodruff reported that he had completed a review of the current church property insurance as required annually by the Presbytery. He stated the insurance is more than adequate and is at replacement cost. The policy will be renewed again after October, 2008. A question was raised as to age limitation for drivers of the church bus. Elder Woodruff agreed to check into this.

Announcements

Rev. Williams reported he will have an updated schedule for the session by the May stated meeting. Also, on Sunday, May 18th, Rev. Lee Power will moderate the monthly Moderators meeting as he will be out of town.

Adjourn with Prayer

Rev. Williams closed the meeting in prayer and with no further business, a motion was made and seconded *to adjourn at 8:50 pm and the motion passed.*

Laurie Reh
Clerk of Session