

**MINUTES OF SESSION
FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FAYETTEVILLE, AR
Sunday, May 4, 2008**

A Stated Session meeting of First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, AR was held in the Library and was called to order at 4:15 p.m.

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

Elders Excused: Sara Koenig and Jim Schneringer

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

Rev. Barry Williams, Moderator, called the meeting to order and a quorum was declared present. He commended the session on their efforts in regard to the congregational visitation meeting held at 2:30 prior to the stated meeting. Joys and concerns were shared.

Devotional and Opening Prayer

Elder Griffin led a devotional about hymns, the history of hymns, and "timeless hymns", and followed 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

A presentation about *The 21st Century in Youth Ministry* by Rev. Josh Leu was postponed until later in the meeting, under New Business.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made and seconded *to approve the Stated Session meeting minutes of April 6, 2008.* Diana Shefte's name was added as a covenant partner and she was also excused from the April 6th meeting. There were no further changes and *the motion to approve the minutes for April 6, 2008 passed.*

A motion was made and seconded *to approve the called meeting minutes of April 20th* and

the motion passed.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

1. **Update of Church Rolls:**

New Members Received:

Andrew Hahn by reaffirmation of faith on April 20, 2008

Lisa Thompson (Mrs.) by Letter of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto, Palo Alto, CA

Members of the 2008 Confirmation Class were received as new members of First United Presbyterian Church by affirmation of faith on April 27, 2008:

Jay Boushelle
Taylor Davis
Will Hewat
Ben Houston

Timothy Oliver
Kori Romere
Maria Rosetti
Caroline Wilbourn

Baptism of:

Timothy Matthew Oliver on Sunday, April 27, 2008. He is the son of Lin and Debbie Oliver and the grandson of Ed and Margaret Currier and Frank and Rev. Frankie Oliver.

Transfer of Membership:

Larry Stubbs and **Claudia Driver** to First Presbyterian Church, Springdale, AR

Remove due to Death:

Robert George of Fayetteville on Friday, April 18, 2008. A memorial service was held at First United Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 and was officiated by Rev. Lee Power, Rev. Stewart Smith and Rev. Barry Williams. Robert was interred in the Columbarium at the church.

John G. Williams of Fayetteville on April 11, 2008.

2. **Action Item from the Clerk of Session:** That a special committee be appointed, on behalf of the session, to begin the work of cleaning the church rolls; to consist of Laurie Reh, Clerk of Session; Nancy Mays and Jane Steinkraus, Belonging and Evangelism; and Elizabeth Dixon, Administrative Assistant. At the advice of Rev. Williams, the time period to complete this task would be approximately May - September. The session will be consulted and receive periodic updates or feedback throughout this process.
3. **Action Item from Outreach Committee:** The Session shall appoint Ellie Dugan and Cyril Sturm to represent FUPC in the CEO House of Representatives.

4. **Action Item from Personnel Committee:** Rev. Joshua Leu shall be continued in his current position at 40 hours/week through June 6, 2008.
5. **Action Item from Personnel Committee:** The Session of First United Presbyterian Church accepts the resignation of Rev. Joshua Leu with gratitude for his dedicated service to our youth and his enthusiastic contributions to the spiritual life of our congregation. We rejoice with Josh in the leading of the Holy Spirit to his new ministry at New Hope Christian Church.
6. **Action Item from Personnel Committee:** A Search Committee is hereby authorized to fill two part-time positions in Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry, each at 20 hours per week. The committee shall consist of two persons from Personnel and two from Christian Education. Dennis Bailey and James Harter will represent the Personnel Committee. (CE selected Nell Sisco who has agreed to serve and will nominate another CE member to serve.)
7. **Action Item from Personnel Committee:** A Search Committee is hereby authorized to fill a part-time position of Director of Music at 20 hours per week. The Director of Music shall be responsible for coordinating the music ministries of the church and directing the Chancel Choir. The committee shall consist of two persons from Personnel, one from Worship and Music, and one representative of the Chancel Choir. Dennis Brewer and Sabra Martin have agreed to serve from the Personnel Committee. (Worship and Music recommended Amy White-Beard, who has agreed to serve. Choir representative will be chosen on 4/30 and Melinda Nickle agreed to serve)
8. **Action Item from Personnel Committee:** Rev. Lee Power shall continue in her current position at 40 hours per week through August 31, 2008 with further extensions possible by mutual agreement.

Action Item's # 2, 5, 6 were lifted for further discussion. A motion was made and seconded *to approve Action Items # 1, 3, 4, 7, 8 and the motion passed.*

Clerk of Session Report

A written report was emailed and included in the session packet and received. Minutes of April 20, 2008 moderator meeting were emailed and received.

Cleaning of the Rolls

Discussion followed on Lifted Action Item #2 and the process to be followed for updating the church rolls. Rev. Williams reminded the session that if a good faith effort is made to contact absent members, with no response, they can then be removed from the rolls. The above lifted action item did not require session action.

Correspondence from Austin Seminary

A letter of inquiry was received from Austin Theological Seminary regarding an

opportunity to invite a faculty member to visit our church on "Theological Education Sunday", September 14th. Austin is the only seminary in our synod and is the alma mater of Rev. Lee Powers and Rev. Barry Williams. The letter was referred to the Outreach Committee for follow up and further consideration.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Communion Served</u>
April 3	Butterfield Trail Village
April 6	11:00 a.m. Worship Service
May 1	Butterfield Trail Village

Treasurer's Report

There was no treasurer's report.

Monthly Budgeted Financial Statement Review

The monthly Budgeted Financial Statement for April was included in the session packet and received. Elder Sisco reported that with pledged and unpledged income totaling \$17,000 to date, we are ahead on the budget and most areas are doing better than had been anticipated. The Outreach Committee commitments are being met with regularity by Laura Winburn, Church Accountant.

Pastor's Reports

Rev. Williams thanked the session for their flexibility allowing him to spend the last week of April teaching 40 pastors to be interim pastors. His plans for the future include 1) follow up to the retreat and the *Healthy Congregations* presentation, 2) consideration of how we can come to terms with our history and provide the congregation with the most appropriate information in that process, and 3) continuing education of elders. Rev. Williams reviewed a document entitled *Standards of Ethical Conduct* as well as his plans to distribute it at the June meeting for discussion (30-45 minutes) and an officer training this fall. He expressed his appreciation to the session for their work on the visitations, the PowerPoint presentation and the related printed material distributed at the meeting for the congregation. Rev. Roberts also expressed his appreciation to the session as well for the work they have done. Rev. Power reported that she has changed some areas of her work and will be giving oversight again to Christian Education. She will be on vacation from June 5th - 17th.

Standing Committee Reports

Belonging and Evangelism

A written report was emailed in advance and received. Table for Eight groups will need to be re-shuffled and reassigned in May and June to begin a new six-month cycle in July.

Christian Education

A written report was distributed and received. Moderator Price reported that the Summer Children's Sunday School Director will be Jamie Wetsell. Graduate Recognition Sunday will be on May 18th during the 11:00 a.m. service.

Deacons

A written report was emailed in advance and received. It was reported that 39 church members (including 15 members recently added from the Pastoral Visitation List) received visits and/or calls.

Endowment

Minutes of a joint meeting on April 20th of the Trustees and Endowment Committee were emailed and received. The Endowment Committee Summary, dated March 31, 2008, was distributed and received. The committee plans to provide the session with a summary on a monthly basis. It was agreed that the clerk would email the Endowment Summary of March 31, 2008 to the session. The availability of the Grace Vawter Endowed Scholarship Fund was announced and the session was asked to forward names of any eligible recipients to the Endowment Committee. Elder Belden inquired as to what kind of income we are earning (percentage income) and followed up with a request that a % column be added to future reports.

Fellowship

The All Church Picnic is scheduled in the afternoon of Sunday, June 29th at Lake Fayetteville.

Kitchen Hospitality

A written report was emailed in advance and received. Due to the weekly staff meeting on Wednesday mornings which Mary Jo Harvey attends, the Kitchen Hospitality Committee will move their monthly meeting to the Monday after the Moderator's meeting.

Long Range Planning (LRP)

There was no written report however the committee met on April 22nd with Rev. Williams. There was also discussion regarding the Pastoral Needs Assessment Subcommittee process.

Memorial Gifts

The committee had not met.

Outreach

A written report was emailed in advance and received. The Outreach Committee will sponsor Habitat for Humanity's Tin Cup 5K race in the amount of \$500 out of the committee's Special Needs Fund. The FUPC volunteer mission group to Pearlinton, MS returned safely and will be interested in giving presentation to the congregation soon.

Personnel

A written report was emailed in advance and received. Letters received from Jennifer Meldrum, co-director of First School and Kathy Wade, moderator, were received and discussed. The Personnel Committee anticipates conducting an exit interview with Jennifer Meldrum. Discussion followed on Lifted Action Item #5:

Action Item from Personnel Committee: *The Session of First United Presbyterian Church accepts the resignation of Rev. Joshua Leu with gratitude for his dedicated service to our youth and his enthusiastic contributions to the spiritual life of our congregation. We rejoice with Josh in the leading of the Holy Spirit to his new ministry at New Hope Christian Church. Rev. Leu was advised that his resignation would be accepted "if the way be clear". An amendment was made and seconded to add this phrase to the above motion and the motion passed.*

Discussion followed on Lifted Action Item #6:

Action Item from Personnel Committee: *A Search Committee is hereby authorized to fill two part-time positions in Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry, each at 20 hours per week. The committee shall consist of two persons from Personnel and two from Christian Education. Dennis Bailey and James Harter will represent the Personnel Committee. (CE selected Nell Sisco who has agreed to serve and will nominate another CE member to serve). The focus of the discussion was in regard to the need to fill the children and youth staff position. An amendment was made to insert the following in place of the phrase "each at 20 hours per week": that each position would be for 20/hours a week or that there would be one full time position at 40 hours a week should someone be found with the education and skills for both children and youth. There was a second, followed by discussion. A second amendment was made for a salary range between \$35,000 and 45,000 excluding benefits for either the combined positions or the full time position at 40 hours in that same salary range with benefits. It was noted that the Board of Pensions takes 31 ½ % for Social Security and benefits would need to be factored in. The original motion was twice amended to start the process for hiring staff to be responsible for the children and youth programs and the motion passed.*

Properties

Elder Woodruff, moderator of Properties, moved on the following **Action Item from Properties Committee:** *The free standing brick wall that encloses the columbarium area is in need of repair. All Hanna has inspected the wall and we have a bid of \$1,800 to remove, clean and re-set the top seven courses. Funds will come from the Building and Maintenance restricted account. Columbarium funds may also be used to pay part of the repair expenses. Discussion followed and the motion passed.*

Elder Woodruff also moved on the following **Action Item from Properties Committee:** *The City inspected our plumbing and found that there is no "back flow assembly" installed in our incoming water line. We are required to install a "Reduced Pressure Zone Back Flow Prevention Assembly with a Y-Strainer downstream of the water meter and before the first branch off". We have two bids. The cost will be \$1,800 +/- and the project can be funded by the Building and Maintenance restricted account. Discussion followed and the motion passed.*

Stewardship

A written report was received and distributed.

Worship and Music

A written report was emailed in advance and received.

Commission Report

First School

Written reports were emailed in advance and received for March 26 and April 16. Discussion followed regarding the recent Child Care Task Force meeting and First School concerns. The Graduation Picnic will be on May 29th at 5:00 p.m. and all the session members are invited to attend. The First School will be recognized during the 11:00 worship service on June 8th. Jennifer Meldrum, co-director, announced her resignation, effective at the beginning of summer session.

Elder Bailey reminded the session that the newly revised Church Bylaws specifically cover areas of responsibility of the First School Commission. There are 11 items /policies that are required for submission to, and approved by, the session. In addition a report of program status, including a budget summary, is to be made at each stated meeting of the session, or when requested by the session.

Special Committee Reports

Child Care Task Force

There was no written report.

Forum Planning Committee

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

Hi-Acres Committee

There was no written report. Rev. Lowell Grisham of St. Paul's Episcopal Church is coordinating meetings of the committee to meet separately and with Mrs. Eva Stalker regarding the Hi-Acres property.

Nominating

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

Organ Feasibility Committee (OFC)

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

Pastoral Needs Assessment (PNA) Subcommittee

There was no written report. The subcommittee met with the Long Range Planning Committee on April 22nd.

Presbyterian Women

A written report was emailed in advance and received. Appreciation was expressed to Rev. Williams for offering to install 08-09 PW officers during worship on June 1st.

United Campus Ministry

There was no written report.

New Business

The 21st Century in Youth Ministry - Rev. Josh Leu led a discussion in regard to staffing for children and youth and the emphasis given by churches on these programs. He stated that congregations that spend money on children and youth have good youth ministry programs and that this is one of the hardest positions to fill in light of what a youth minister is paid. The life expectancy for a youth minister to stay in a position is about 17 months. Rev. Leu reported that youth and children's ministry at FUPC is as good as it's ever been, due in part to the work of a past children's education director. Mainline churches have not done a good job of focusing on youth, which is why we are seeing a decline. In review of possible youth program expenditures to enhance the program, he stated we have the best youth facilities he's seen in a congregation of our size and suggested the addition of a gym would add incentive because gyms attract kids. He advised that an ordained person would offer a teaching background to the position of a youth pastor. In the search process he suggested we look at who other churches have hired for their youth positions and find out what they're paying them. Rev. Leu will preach on Sunday, May 18th on Graduate Recognition day. Rev. Williams encouraged the session to take advantage of Rev. Leu's advice, counsel and good ideas and expressed his appreciation for his work here.

Congregational Visitation Review

Rev. Williams again stated how impressed he was with the meeting held at 2:30 with the congregation for the purpose of reviewing the outcome of the visitations. Approximately 120 were believed to be in attendance. Concern was expressed about posting some of the information contained in the PowerPoint on the church website. It was agreed that the Clerk and the author of the presentation would look for content and appropriateness and edit as necessary before posting it to the website. Discussion followed in review of the outcome of the meeting and related concerns. Rev. Williams expressed his thanks to the Visitation Team consisting of Lyle Gohn, James Moore and Doug Wright (also to Sara Koenig, who was unable to be present) for their courage to do this as many sessions that would not have.

Adjourn with Prayer

Rev. Williams closed the meeting in prayer and with no further business, a motion was made and seconded *to adjourn at 6:45 pm and the motion passed.*

Laurie Reh
Clerk of Session