

Stated Session Meeting Minutes - June 10, 2023

The Session of the Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, AR held a Stated Session Meeting on Saturday, June 10, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Classroom A. Rev. Dr. Judi McMillian called the meeting to order, lit the Christ Candle and welcomed those present. Opening devotion and prayer was given by **David Ritter**. Pastor Judi asked if there were questions on the agenda. There being none, motion was made, seconded and **approved by all members**.

Members Present: Ruling **Class of 2023:** Mack Bean, Jean Nichols, David Riter and Florence Riter. **Class of 2024:** Bev MacDonald and Lon Cross. **Class of 2025:** Tom Hackleman, Vicki Erickson and Sharon Warner. Bud Clark and Nancy Ortman were excused.
Others Present: Sharon Judson and Cathy Rew. Also, **Moderator:** Rev. Dr. Judi McMillian.

Pastor's Reports: **Pastor Judi** announced the new book study, *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time* by Marcus Borg. Also announced were the four movies to be held over the summer. First is A Hidden Life which will be shown June 12. Time and dates for the movies, Just Mercy, Togo, and Selma will be announced later. Pastor also reported that Session will be required by the new Book of Order to write and have a harassment and antiracism policy in addition to the already required sexual misconduct and child/youth protection policy. Copies of the new book which should be published in July has been ordered for all members of the Session.

Deacon Report: **Sharon Judson** reported that Joan Platter with the Area Agency on Aging spoke on June 7 about the programs the agency offers. Those attending were impressed with the programs and felt the information should be made available to members of the church. The Deacons continue to support 18-19 members with home communion and visits. Deacons are designing cards to be sent out to those they service who need something to brighten their day.

Treasurer's Report: **Cathy Rew** reported that the financial statement continues to stay in line with what was projected. Informed Session pledge statements will be going out in June. Regarding the financial statements, Cathy reported on the \$2,000 which was spent for the upgrade to the Memorial Garden of \$2,000. Cathy also discussed the \$5,000 anonymous donation that was received with instructions that the dollars be used on the Church's irrigation system. Cathy then requested Session approve a Challenge Grant, a one for one matching grant up to \$5,000. Funds raised will be used for the irrigation and landscaping project currently underway. **Motion was made, seconded and approved** to approve the Challenge Grant.

Clerk's Report: **Sharon Warner** asked for a motion to approve the Stated Session Minutes of May 20, 2023. Correction was made in spelling. Motion was made, seconded and Approved by Session to accept the minutes as corrected. Report of Erni Marlow's death on May 24, 2023 was reported to Session.

Committee Reports:

- 1) Spiritual Life Committee: Jean Nichols**
 - a. Reported that 88 members were served Communion on June 4, 2023.
 - b. Reviewed calendar of upcoming events
 - c. Report from Missions
 - d. Report from Worship
 - e. Communion Servers for 3rd quarter

- 2) Congregational Life: Bev MacDonald**

- a. Photo Workshop
- b. Search for new Study Book
- c. Blessing of the pets
- d. Session received a request from Ozark Creative Artists to meet in Fellowship. Meeting is once a month and time will be from 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Meeting will be held the second Saturday of the month, same time as the Session meetings. Session agreed to a usage fee of \$50.00 per month with a six month renewal option.

Mack Bean reported on the new member picnic to be held Tuesday, June 27, from 12:30 to 2:30 at the Tanyard Creek Pavillon
Expect 16 – 19 people attending

3) Operations Committee: Lon Cross

- a. Report on proposals for upgrades
- b. Landscaping
- c. Request for approval of funds of \$2,000 to support the church sale
- d. Report to Session regarding repair to some of the locks on exterior doors.

Members of Session were provided with a complete copy of the minutes of the three committees for their review. Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept all reports and requests from committees.

Unfinished Business:

1. **Operations** continues to take bids for the cleaning of the church

New Business

1. **Jean Nichols** attended the June 3, Zoom meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas. Topics included:
 - a. Report from Stated Clerk Blake Brinegar regarding the 33 proposed amendments to the Book of Order
 - b. Reports from the Clerk, Treasurer, Committee on Ministry, Committee on Nominations, the Presbytery Connector and General Presbyter
 - c. Order of the Day was a theological discussion on the topic “What is the Church Becoming?”
 - d. Other Reports included were:
 - The needs of the smaller church
 - New Church Leadership Connection
 - Board of Pensions will have new system beginning January 2025
 - Changes considered to the Presbytery of Arkansas
 - Next Presbytery meeting is October 6 – 7.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Adjournment:

Extinguish The Christ Candle:

Next Stated Session Meeting: August 12, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Classroom A

Sharon Warner
Clerk of Session

Rev. Dr. Judith McMillian
Moderator