

Stated Session Meeting Minutes - October 14, 2023

The Session of the Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, AR held a Stated Session Meeting on Saturday, September 9, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Classroom A. Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan called the meeting to order, lit the Christ Candle and welcomed those present. Opening devotion and prayer was given by **Bev MacDonald**.

Members Present: Ruling **Class of 2023:** Mack Bean, Jean Nichols, David Riter, Florence Riter and Bud Clark. **Class of 2024:** Lon Cross and Bev MacDonald. **Class of 2025:** Tom Hackleman, Sharon Warner and Vicki Erickson. Nancy Ortman was excused.

Others Present: Cathy Rew, Eddie Lou Harris and Peggy Prevost. Also: **Moderator: Pastor Judi McMillan.**

Approval of Agenda: **Pastor Judi** asked if there were any changes, omissions, additions to the agenda. Two items were moved to a later date and one item added. Agenda was approved as amended.

Pastor's Reports: **Pastor Judi** reported on the attendance of Elders and Deacons at the NW Arkansas Cluster Leadership Training on October 5, 2023. PCBV had 15 members attending including Pastor Judi who prepared and presented a portion of the program.

Reported that the new "A Moment" is up and running on the website and is receiving very good responses. Pastor thanked all those who worked the church sale, helped support the outdoor beautification of the building, sign and Memorial Garden areas. An error was found in the record keeping of payments and documentations regarding the Columbarium. Those discrepancies have been corrected and all information will now be kept in an up-to-date system on the computer within the church.

Pastor reminded Session that Stewardship begins with a two-part sermon October 29 and the Stewardship Lunch is November 5 at 11:00 am.

Deacon's Report: **Peggy Prevost** reported that 20 people are now being served by our Deacons, four of which are bereaved and one will be rolling off. She also reported that the Deacon's Fund dollars are about the same as last month and no more funds are needed at this point.

Treasurer's Report: **Cathy Rew** opened her report noting that financially, the church is looking better. However, there are some concerns that must be addressed in the near future regarding the budget, pledges, reserves, costs, etc. Cathy will be addressing these issues at the Stewardship Luncheon on November 5.

Clerk's Report: **Sharon Warner** asked for a motion to approve the Stated Session Minutes of September 9, 2023. There was one correction to be made. **Motion was made, seconded to approve minutes as corrected.**

Motion to approve a request from P.E.O. Chapter BR to use Fellowship Hall on January 24, 2024 from 8:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m. **Motion passed.**

Motion to approve the request for reinstatement as members of the church from Ron and Kay Burroughs. **Motion passed**

For reporting purposes, notification of the death of Jack Plummer on September 14, 2023 and Marian Eagle on October 4, 2023.

Committee Reports:

Operations Committee - Lon Cross

- a) Report of financial status
- b) Report on stewardship campaign
- c) Set parameters for future church sales. Lon, Jean and Bev to meet and draft language for parameters.
- d) Date for church sale in 2024 (possible date to be set during Craft Fair in 2024)
- e) **Committee Motion:** Request Session approval to cap the amount the Church has sent the Presbytery in 2023 at the amount that has already been sent through September of the year. **Motion was made, seconded, and approved by Session.**

Spiritual Life Committee - Jean Nichols

- a) Reported 91 received communion in worship and 13 received home communion.
- b) Report from Missions
- c) Report from Worship
- d) 2024 Missions/Minutes for Missions Dates and 2024 Communion Schedule to be completed and presented to Session at the November 11 meeting

Congregational Life Meeting - Bev MacDonald

- a) Church picnic plans finalized
- b) Thanksgiving potluck meal will be Thursday, November 23, in Fellowship Hall
- c) Discussions on how to streamline the inventory and purchasing kitchen and Fellowship supplies.
- d) Members were asked to prepare 2024 calendar dates by January and submit to Judi or Paul as the paper calendar will no longer be in use.
- e) Bev asked for volunteers to lead Shepherd Groups
- f) Bev reported on the increased interest in the Book Studies group. Started out with 12 members, now up to 30 members.

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.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business

A motion to approve a project presented by Congregational Life was discussed. Bev presented an idea from one of our members about providing what will be called Prayer Pockets. These items will be small squares of yarn made by the Busy Hands group with a small inspirational message attached. These squares will be available to the congregation for personal use or to give to others outside the church.

Motion was approved.

Bud reported that the Men's Group will be meeting for the first time on October 21, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Adjournment: Pastor Judi

Extinguish The Christ Candle:

Next Stated Session Meeting: November 11, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Classroom A

Sharon Warner
Clerk of Session

Rev. Dr. Judith McMillian
Moderator