

Stated Session Meeting Minutes - September 9, 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 **Mack Bean**.

Members Present: Ruling **Class of 2023:** Mack Bean, Jean Nichols, David Riter, Florence Riter and Bud Clark. **Class of 2024:** Lon Cross. **Class of 2025:** Tom Hackleman, Sharon Warner and Vicki Erickson. Bev McDonald and Nancy Ortman were excused.
Others Present: Cathy Rew, Jerre Lender and Patricia Slaton. Also: **Moderator: Pastor Judi McMillan**

Special Order: Mack Bean introduced **Patricia Slaton** and **Jerre Lender** to the Session as a new members. They will be introduced to the congregation on Sunday, September 10. **Patricia** is being received by Transfer of Certificate of Membership and **Jerre** is being received by Reaffirmation of Faith. **Motion to accept was approved.**

Approval of Agenda: **Pastor Judi** asked if there were any changes, omissions, addition to the agenda. There being none, agenda was approved

Pastor's Reports: **Pastor Judi** reported she and **Jean Nichols** will be attending the Advent Workshop in a few weeks at First Presbyterian in Springdale and invited anyone else who might be interested to attend. Pastor reminded the Elders of NWA Elder and Deacon training that will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Bentonville. Training will be on Thursday, October 5, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00. A dinner will be served.

Motion was made, seconded and approved by all Elders attending to allow for Pastor Judi to take the final days of her vacation. Those days are October 21-24, 2023. **Rev. Joe Tropansky** has agreed to preach on Sunday, October 22.

Deacon's Report: A Deacon was not present but Pastor Judi, having attended the Deacon Meeting, reported that it has been brought to the Church's attention that on a recent occasion a distant family member was not able to reach staff on the weekends. It was decided that Pastor will add her cell phone number to our bulletins and suggested to all members that they make next of kin aware of this, perhaps even giving the next of kin the necessary numbers.

Pastor also reported that one day last week a gentleman stopped, saw Tom Hackleman and Paul Bennett out by our sign and gave them a check for \$500.00. The gentleman said he could not get on our website but assumed we still needed money for projection system. Pastor wrote and thanked the gentleman.

Treasurer's Report: **Cathy Rew** opened her report noting that for July and August, receipt of pledges were down and that the Church should anticipate a \$13,000 short fall for this year's pledges. This is due to church member deaths and/or relocations.

Cathy informed Session that preparation of the Budget for 2024 will be handled differently than in past years. Our Accountant, Ann Davidson, will be responsible for preparing the budget. Each committee lead was asked to meet with Ann before the October Session meeting to discuss and set budgets. Ann will combine the information to be presented to Session for approval.

Clerk's Report: Sharon Warner asked for a motion to approve the Stated Session Minutes of August 12, 2023. There was one correction to be made. **Motion was made, seconded and approved** to approve minutes as corrected.

Committee Reports:

1) Spiritual Life Committee: Jean Nichols

- a. Reported on need for an improved communication process with hospitals as hospitals are no longer notifying clergy when a member is hospitalized. Will be addressed at next Deacon's meeting
- b. Time set for Christmas Eve service at 5:00 p.m.
- c. Reviewed calendar of upcoming events
- d. Report from Missions
- e. Report from Worship
- f. Worship will be on line for September 10, 2023 service

2) Congregational Life: Susan Foster

Minutes of the Congregational Life Committee meeting were included in the Session Package for review. Items covered were:

- a. Book Study begins Tuesday, August 15
- b. Carolyn Cross and Maureen Lynch have volunteered to inventory the kitchen needs and maintain supplies
- c. Loaves and Fishes are finalizing plans for Picnic on October 8.
- d. Two new members will be introduced to Session
- e. New leaders needed for Shepherd Group

3) Operations Committee: Lon Cross

- a. Report on the monthly financial statements
- b. Committee reviewed proposals for sound system and security system upgrades. It was decided to make the sound system a priority.
- c. Landscaping
- d. Report on progress of Church sale.
- e. Church is now live on the web
- f. Meetings and Events are now to be added to the on-line calendar. There will no longer be a paper calendar.
- g. Session approved to move an amount up to \$10,000 from Memorial Honorarium Asset Account #128020 to complete the landscaping project and fix the drainage and sprinkler issues.

4) Nominating Committee: Vicki Erickson

The following will be the Church Officers for 2024:

SESSION

Class of 2024: Lon Cross, Bev MacDonald, Nancy Ortman

Class of 2025: Vicki Erickson, Tom Hackleman, **Dan Johnson (newly elected)**

Class of 2026: **Peggy Prevost, Gary Harris, Eddie Lou Taylor (newly elected)**

DIACONATE

Class of 2024: Gail Knudsen, David Rew, **Sharon Judson (newly elected)**

Class of 2025: Gail Cowdin, Susan Foster, Alice Irwin, Terry Woods and **Sharon Warner (newly elected)**

Class of 2026: **Mary Hackleman, Cy Whatley, Rich Winsor (newly elected)**

The following officers were elected:

- a. **Treasurer:** Karen Watson
- b. **Clerk of Session:** Sharon Warner

The Nominees will be voted on at the Congregational Meeting to be held after worship on September 10, 2023

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. Discussion on Church road signs went to Operations for review

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Adjournment: Pastor Judi

Extinguish The Christ Candle:

Next Stated Session Meeting: October 14, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Classroom A

Sharon Warner
Clerk of Session

Rev. Dr. Judith McMillian
Moderator