

The session of Westminster Presbyterian Church ("WPC") convened for a stated meeting on 16 August 2009 in Room 105 of the Holderness Mission Center. Moderator Chris Tuttle was present and called the meeting to order at 4:59 P.M. Clerk of Session Doug Wellemeyer was present.

Associate Pastor Betty Berghaus was present.

Elders Sam Bryan, John Dancy, Mitch Dozier, Claudia Draffin, Dana Lange, Sara Pottenger, Shayne Ruffing, Holly Huffman Schmidt and Eric Wolf were present.

Elders Kathryn Bunch, Bruce Cunningham and Jan McCallum were absent and excused.

Elders-elect Frank Falkovic, Sally Keener, and Mary Beck Sutton and Deacons-elect Ann Dancy, Ray Soloe and Sarah Wolf were present to be interviewed and examined on their training for ordination.¹

WPC staff members Barbara Fletcher and Rebecca Mattern² were present.

The meeting was opened with a reading in unison of the WPC Mission Statement, followed by a devotional and prayer by Dana Lange.

The Moderator declared a quorum present.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: On a motion by Dana Lange, the following were approved unanimously:

- 1) the draft minutes of the Stated Meeting of the Session on 19 July 2009 and the Meeting of a Commission of the Session on 9 August 2009, as read;
- 2) a request from Julie and Aaron Leon to baptize their son, Hunter, at 11:00 A.M. worship on 13 September 2009; and
- 3) a request to invite the Rev. Paul Ransford to perform the baptism of Hunter Leon.

EXAMINATION OF OFFICERS-ELECT

Written faith statements for each of the officers-elect had been distributed for review in advance via the session packet mailing and email. The Moderator reported in detail on the officer training curriculum and invited remarks from staff and the candidates.

The Moderator then divided the elders into two groups, asked each group to designate a convener and assigned three of the officers-elect to each group. The groups then retired to designated areas where officers-elect were interviewed and examined for a prescribed period.

When the examinations had been completed, the elders and officers-elect returned to the meeting room. Conveners for each group reported on their discussions. Claudia Draffin and Dana Lange reported on behalf of the Commission that examined elder-elect Dave Snider and

¹ The remaining officers-elect had previously been examined by a Commission of the session on 9 August 2009.

² Joined the meeting briefly at about 7:00 P.M. to report on summer youth mission activities.

deacons-elect Tom Higgins, Jeff Laufenberg, Carol Mansfield and Tim Vann on 9 August 2009.

Motion: A motion to sustain the examinations of all of the officers-elect to be ordained or installed as elders and deacons was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

The Moderator then closed the examination period with a prayer of thanksgiving, and the officers-elect were excused.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Report from Diaconate Liaison: A regular meeting of the Diaconate was not scheduled this month. Mitch Dozier will attend the September meeting of the Diaconate. Liaison assignments for the new church year will be made at the stated meeting of the session in September.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Barbara Fletcher presented the WPC Financial Statements for July 2009 which were distributed via the session packet mailing, and then led a very informative discussion to better acquaint the session with the content of the monthly statement entitled "Summary of Restricted Accounts".

COMMISSION & COMMITTEE REPORTS (as requested)

Worship: (Eric Wolf) Copies of the Worship Commission's recommended funeral policy had been made available for review in advance, and the Moderator asked for comments and suggestions. A number of constructive criticisms were discussed and noted, and Eric proposed that the Commission be permitted to address them in a final draft of the policy. The session acknowledged the exceptional work of the Worship Commission on this document and affirmed that it is "a great gift to the church".

Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday 6 September 2009. Dana Lange will coordinate for the 11:00 A.M. service.

Ways & Means: The Ways and Means Commission's 12 August 2009 meeting agenda was distributed via the session packet mailing.

Sam Bryan reported on behalf of the Stewardship Committee that great plans are in place for campaign publicity and rollout. It was noted that the Committee has developed a practice of including more extensive Bible study at each of its meetings, and other Committees were encouraged to do more of the same.

Barbara Fletcher reported that letters and worksheets for the 2010 operating budget will be distributed to departments and committees around 1 September. A 30-day turnaround will likely be requested. It was noted that this year's initial budget proposal will be based on "realistic, not wish-list" budget estimates.

Personnel: (Claudia Draffin) Claudia reminded the session that the Personnel Committee is staffed by elders from each officer class in a normal rotation. Mary Beck Sutton will join the Committee this year as Moderator Bruce Cunningham rotates off. A review of the Parish Nursing ministry is underway and will be completed before year-end.

Assimilation: (Sara Pottenger) The Assimilation Committee's 20 July 2009 meeting minutes were distributed via the session packet mailing.

OLD BUSINESS

August shelter meal update:

Holly reviewed plans and schedules that were previously communicated for preparation and service of the shelter meal by the session on Tuesday 25 August, and members thanked Holly for her outstanding work.

Girl Scouts request for Project Linus support:

Betty is coordinating the church's support for the previously approved Girl Scout project involving engagement between girl scouts and women of the church as recently requested by Girl Scout Troop 1152 leader Lauralee Moran.

Report of elder commissioners on July presbytery meeting:

Claudia and Shayne reported on somewhat routine events of the recent presbytery meeting in Cary, and on the recognition ceremony for Lois Bender and other outstanding older adults from throughout the presbytery.

Committee assignments 2009-2010:

The Moderator reported the following committee assignments for new elders: Dave Snider will serve with Sam Bryan on the Nominating Committee; Frank Falkovic will join the Worship Commission; Sally Keener will continue to serve on the Christian Education Commission; and Mary Beck Sutton will join the Personnel Committee.

Review of rolls update:

Sam Bryan reported for the Ad-hoc Committee for Roll Review that phone calls to church members are continuing, but the Committee has not met again since last month.

Membership information vs. privacy:

The Moderator reported that discussion is continuing and some further technical advice regarding website options is still needed before recommendations can be offered.

NEW BUSINESS

Inquirers class:

Sara Pottenger reported that another new Inquirers' class is underway. Elders were asked to join class sessions during the Sunday school hour on 23 August, 30 August, 12 September and 20 September. Inquirers who decide to join WPC will meet with the session during the 20 September stated meeting to be examined and received for membership.

Session dinner and fellowship:

The service of the four retiring elders and the answer to a new call to serve by the four newly ordained and installed elders will be celebrated by the session with dinner, fellowship and prayer together on Sunday 20 September 20 at the home of Dana and Russ Lange.

Joint meeting of session and diaconate 10 October 2009:

Mitch and Sam will join the Moderator and deacon representatives to plan the annual Joint Meeting to be held at New Hope Camp and Conference Center on Saturday morning 10 October.

STAFF REPORTS

Rebecca Mattern:

Rebecca reported on the extensive summer mission adventures of the WPC youth. The session was reminded again that the youth of the church are an exceptional and awesome group, all of whom consistently show up in the world as remarkably thoughtful, insightful and spiritual people. Rebecca shared endless stories about the summer adventures of youth and leaders, and encouraged everyone to engage these members of our church in conversation about their summer service. The youth will lead both worship services on Sunday 23 August and tell stories about where they saw God and how their faith was shaped during their summer trips.

GRATITUDE

The Moderator gratefully acknowledged the service of retiring session members Kathryn Bunch, Bruce Cunningham, Sara Pottenger and Shayne Ruffing, and expressed the thanks of the church for that strength of leadership commonly observed in the many significant contributions from this class, but especially the willingness to serve in the face of the many unknown challenges that might have been ahead when they answered the call to serve three years ago.

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

Remembrance and sympathy:

Other concerns: Don Huffman is improving; Doris Huffman is seeking more WPC connection; Holly asks for prayers for her uncle Carlisle (Doris' brother); Carlisle Willard's cousin Kelly Willard suffered a stroke on 4 July and remains in a coma; Susan Ketch's dad, Vern Gibson, is recovering from brain surgery; George Beischer, Frank England, Chris Kelly, Ginger Smith and Barbara Walker continue in treatment for cancer.

Celebrations: Maggie Hall's baby is due soon. Grayson Schmidt will begin her freshman year at Guilford College in the coming week. On behalf of the entire office staff, Barbara Fletcher acknowledged the excellent work and valued service and friendship of Jonathan Burig who volunteered this summer to work in the church office.

The Session's current business having been completed, the Moderator declared the meeting adjourned.

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Eric Wolf at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Wellemeyer
Clerk of Session

Chris Tuttle
Moderator