

The session of Westminster Presbyterian Church ("WPC") convened for a stated meeting at 5:00 P.M. on 21 October 2007 in Room 105 of the Holderness Mission Center. Moderator Jack Walchenbach was present and called the meeting to order. Clerk of Session Doug Wellemeyer was present.

Associate Pastor Betty Berghaus was present. Associate Pastor Paul Ransford was absent and excused.

Elders Bruce Cunningham, John Dancy, Alex Denson, Claudia Draffin, John Graham, June Jones, Susan Landis, Sara Pottenger, Holly Huffman Schmidt, Shayne Ruffing and Eric Wolf were present. Elder Kathryn Bunch was absent and excused.

Elder Kay Wellemeyer was also present as a visitor.

WPC staff members Barbara Fletcher and Nancy Rozak were present.

The meeting was opened with a reading in unison of the WPC Mission Statement, followed by a devotional by June Jones.

The Moderator declared a quorum present.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Stated Meeting of the Session on 16 September 2007, the Called Meeting of the Session on 30 September 2007, the Called Meeting of the Session via Email on 4 October 2007, and the Called Joint Meeting of the Session and the Diaconate on 13 October 2007, all of which were distributed with the Session Packet mailing, were read.

Motion: A motion to approve the minutes with minor correction was made, seconded and approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Correspondence:

The Clerk reported receiving a letter dated 10 October 2007 from the Moderator of Presbytery Council, requesting review of the church's ministry to support members who move to another community, as directed by the Book of Order [G-10.0302(2)(c)]. The Clerk and the Moderator will confer with office staff as necessary to complete the review.

The Clerk also reported that a letter dated September 2007 was received from the Moderator of the governing board for the NCCU Presbyterian Campus Ministry seeking increased support for 2008. The letter was forwarded to Betty Berghaus for action by the Deacons.

Baptisms:

Motion: A motion to authorize the baptism of Roger Carlan Eubanks, Jr., one-year-old son of Shelly and Roger Eubanks on 11 November 2007, and the baptisms of Claire Ashley Samuels, infant daughter of Leah and Brian Samuels, Cecelia Wade Meath, infant daughter of Dexter and Peter Meath, and Weston Michael Lane, infant son of Nicole and Brian Lane on 9 December 2007, was made, seconded and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Review of Rolls of WPC:

The Moderator reported that staff determined that one of the pastors should send a letter to inquire about the intentions and preferences regarding the membership of the following WPC members:

Harriet Henderson	John Cowan
Catharine & John Hennessy	Sandy McNutt
Maggie Barry (daughter of Shirley Rufty)	

The staff also determined that no action presently will be required regarding the membership of the following WPC members:

Chris & Elena Crenshaw

Organization of Session for 2007/2008:

The Moderator requested a report on the revised session assignments for the coming church year, based on discussions and developments during the past week, and the Clerk reported that the previous session assignments have been revised as follows:

<u>SESSION COMMISSIONS</u>	<u>Moderator</u>	<u>Moderator</u>	<u>Past</u>
Christian Education	J. Dancy	<u>Elect</u>	<u>Moderator</u>
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<u>OTHER SESSION OFFICES</u>	<u>Assigned Elder</u>		
Fellowship Committee Moderator	H. Schmidt		

A handout was provided to members in attendance containing the revised assignments for reference.

Alex Denson reported that he had again compiled the elders' responsibilities for the coming year on a one-page reference chart, and provided a copy of the chart to members in attendance.

Elder Commissioners to Stated Presbytery Meetings in 2007/2008:

A sign-up sheet was circulated during the meeting for volunteers to fill out the assignments for two WPC elder commissioners to each of the stated presbytery meetings scheduled during the 2007/2008 church year.

Annual Session Retreat:

The annual Stated Session Retreat is scheduled for the weekend of 18-20 January 2008 at the Trinity Center in Salter Path, NC. The Moderator requested an update on plans for the retreat program. Convenor Bruce Cunningham reported that he will call a meeting to include Kathryn Bunch, Shayne Ruffing and Jack Walchenbach within the next month to begin the planning process.

Annual Session Reception and Dinner:

Following the prayer service on the evening of Sunday 28 October, the current Session and retiring Elders will gather for dinner together at the home of the Densons.

REPORTS

Worship: (Claudia Draffin) The Worship Committee's 7 October 2007 meeting minutes were distributed via email from Kathryn Bunch on 21 October 2007.

The celebration of Holy Communion on 4 November 2007 will be coordinated by Susan Landis for the 8:30 A.M. service and by Bruce Cunningham for the 11:00 A.M. service.

By acclamation, the session endorsed Betty Berghaus' proposal to lead a service of wholeness at the prayer service on Sunday evening 25 November.

The changes to the order of worship were instituted in services today. Blair Chesnut will be asked to update the instructions for lectors.

June Jones is looking for additional people to assist the Sanctuary Guild. The 11:00 communion responsibilities have recently been expanded to include taking care of the communion linens.

Christian Education: (John Dancy) The Christian Education Committee's 22 September 2007 meeting minutes were distributed via the Session Packet mailing.

The Spiritual Enrichment events of this weekend were a triumph. Planning for an Advent Evening Program is well underway. The new confirmation class numbers 11. In November, Nancy will solicit adults to serve as mentors.

Ways and Means: (Shayne Ruffing) The Ways and Means Commission's 12 September 2007 meeting minutes, 10 October 2007 meeting agenda and WPC Financial Statements for September 2007 were distributed via the Session Packet mailing.

A copy of the charter for the Ways & Means Commission updated as of 21 October 2007 and outlining the proposed staffing of the Commission for the coming year was distributed during the meeting.

Recommendation: Ways & Means moves that the session approve the proposed staffing of the Ways & Means Commission as required annually by the delegated mission from the session, and that the Moderator of the Board of Deacons or her/his designated representative receive a standing invitation to attend all meetings of the session.

Action: Approved.

Discussion of the security system proposal for the church campus which was postponed at last month's meeting was resumed.

Recommendation: Ways & Means moves that the session authorize the expenditure of \$25,000, to be paid from current cash reserves, to proceed with implementation of the security system proposal under the supervision of a committee that will assume responsibility for all implementation and maintenance procedures.

Action: Approved.

There was discussion of the need to begin considering a capital campaign for next year. In addition to repaying ourselves for the security system and other minor expenditures recently authorized by the session (garage security \$1,500; network server upgrades \$7,500), the proposed phase II of sanctuary renovation work is expected to cost nearly \$100,000.

The session asked that the Ways & Means Commission bring back a recommendation and timeline for a capital campaign to be organized and conducted after the close of this year's stewardship drive.

This year's stewardship drive and budget preparation are being conducted somewhat earlier than in the past in an effort to finalize and secure congregational approval for pastoral housing allowances by year-end, as required by IRS rules.

Nominating: (Alex Denson) No report.

Personnel: (Bruce Cunningham) The Committee is working on a performance evaluation process; an instrument suitable for our use is under development, and will be tested prior to its implementation sometime within the next year.

A subcommittee of the Personnel Committee has been formed to manage the work of paid child caregivers, both adult and youth. A handout was distributed during the meeting outlining the charter of the subcommittee.

The Personnel Committee has committed to provide Ways & Means with a salary budget by 1 November as requested.

Youth Council: (Susan Landis) The Youth Council's 14 October 2007 meeting minutes were distributed via the Session Packet mailing.

The lock-in for middle school youth will be held next week on Saturday 27 October at WPC.

The high school youth will return to Montreat on the weekend of 9 November, and they were offered free lodging for this trip in response to their very responsible conduct and care for their housing last year.

Transition: (Shayne Ruffing) No report.

Diaconate: (Betty Berghaus) The Diaconate's 30 September 2007 meeting minutes were distributed via the Session Packet mailing.

The Board of Deacons and its Congregational Care Committee have approved a proposal to establish a parish nursing ministry as of the first of the year. Kay Wellemeyer will present more information later in this meeting.

The Deacons' work day will be held on the morning of Saturday 10 November.

The Deacons' committee liaison responsibilities have now been confirmed. Holly Borden will serve as Deacon liaison for the Christian Education Committee; Carol Kelly will serve as Deacon liaison for Inquirers; and Bill Hatch will continue as Deacon representative to the Nominating Committee.

Inquirers' Class: (Sara Pottenger) No report.

Seminarians: (John Dancy) John reported that he has just recently started the process of contacting Marian and Tully as the newly assigned Session liaison.

Global Missions: (John Dancy) Planning is underway for the Alternative Gift Shop and One World Market, to be hosted by the Global Missions Committee on Sunday 9 December at WPC

Local Missions: (Alex Denson) No report.

Assimilation: (Sara Pottenger) The Assimilation Committee's 4 October 2007 meeting minutes were distributed via the Session Packet mailing. There was no further report.

Congregational Care: (Eric Wolf) No report.

Fellowship: (Holly Schmidt) Darren Skeen, Rob Wilgus and Walt Beckwith have volunteered to help organize and work on the newly constituted Committee. The desire is to promptly recruit a number of other church members and set a regular monthly meeting schedule. The Committee has already committed itself to proactive event planning.

Boy Scouts: (Holly Schmidt) Troop and Pack leaders have been contacted.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposal for a Parish Nursing Ministry:

Elder Kay Wellemeyer delivered a presentation, provided various handout materials and answered questions regarding the establishment of a parish nursing ministry at WPC. Kay has offered to work on a part-time basis as an unpaid staff member for a period of one to two years beginning 1 January 2008 to help WPC evaluate the possibility of an ongoing ministry of this nature, and determine how it could best be developed to meet the needs of WPC's members. The proposal has been reviewed and wholeheartedly endorsed by the Congregational Care Committee and the Board of Deacons.

Recommendation: The Board of Deacons moves that the session approve the establishment of a parish nurse ministry on an interim basis as proposed.

Action: Approved.

The Moderator thanked Kay for her presentation, and she was excused.

Review of the Interim Pastor's Contract:

The Moderator excused himself for the discussion of this matter. There was brief discussion of the terms of the current Interim Pastor's Contract. The initial 12-month term of the contract is set to expire on 15 November 2007, and the current contract provides the option for two separate 6-month renewals by agreement of both parties.

Motion: A motion to renew the Interim Pastor's contract for six months ending May 15, 2008 was made, seconded and approved.

The Moderator then rejoined the assembly, and was offered a 6-month contract renewal, which he accepted.

Report of Elder Commissioners to the Stated Presbytery Meeting:

June Jones and Susan Landis reported on the events of the Presbytery of New Hope's stated meeting on 20 October 2007, hosted by Outer Banks Presbyterian Church in Kill Devil Hills. Of particular interest was the report of missionary Sue Makin on the General Assembly's Mission Challenge '07 Initiative, a program launched in an effort to deepen the relationships between PC-USA missionaries and particular congregations, and its impact on missionaries and their continued work.

Resolution of Appreciation:

Motion: A motion to adopt the attached Resolution of the Session Westminster Presbyterian Church of appreciation for the service and dedication of Dailey J. Derr as Clerk of Session was made, seconded and approved.

STAFF REPORTS

Nancy Rozak expressed appreciation and excitement about the opportunities created by the recent changes in leadership for the Fellowship and Christian Education Committees, and commended Holly Schmidt and John Dancy for their initiative and cooperative spirit.

The Spiritual Enrichment Weekend featuring Frances Taylor Gench was a great success. Nancy encouraged members of the session to thank Richard Draffin for a job well done for advance planning and coordination to produce this special weekend in the life of our church.

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

Remembrance and sympathy: Hazel Gaddis died on Saturday 13 October, and a memorial service was held on Friday 19 October at WPC.

Celebration: Lila Grace Keir was born to Shelley Warburton and Steve Keir on October 19th. Lila's grandparents are Woody & Marty Warburton.

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

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Susan Landis at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Wellemeyer
Clerk of Session

Jack Walchenbach
Moderator

**RESOLUTION OF THE SESSION
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

WHEREAS Dailey J. Derr, a long-time and faithful member of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Durham, North Carolina, who was ordained as a Deacon in 1975 and as an Elder in 1976, and who served as Clerk for nearly two years during his term on the Session, was called again to serve as Clerk of Session on September 20, 1998 and served continuously thereafter for more than nine years until his retirement from that office on September 30, 2007; and

WHEREAS, during his long tenure in that important and demanding office of leadership, Dailey attended innumerable Stated and Called Meetings of the Session; and

WHEREAS, for all such Meetings, he diligently and with special care recorded the words that were spoken and the decisions and actions that were taken by the Session for its Minutes, and in addition he planned, drafted agendas, oversaw special tasks, guided deliberations, coordinated committee work, and provided invaluable direction and counsel to the Elders about the responsibilities of their office whenever necessary, at all times employing his remarkable mastery of the Book of Order to ensure the Session's compliance with it and other rules of the Presbytery and the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work at Session Meetings, he maintained communications with the Presbytery of New Hope, received and initiated correspondence with third parties on behalf of the church such as wedding and baptism requests and other matters, and maintained various Sessional Records, and he worked collaboratively with the Senior Pastor, Associate Pastors, and the Interim Pastor, the Moderator, Acting Moderators, and the church staff to complete the important administrative work of the church, keep the Session running smoothly and preserve proper procedure in all workings of the Session; and

WHEREAS he devoted countless hours to accomplish these multiple tasks without compensation at a time when he was employed full-time and had other responsibilities, and he did all of these things willingly and cheerfully, always sharing a smile and good humor, and for no other purpose than to be a faithful servant to God and His church,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SESSION OF WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, on behalf of the congregation and all of its prior members, that we express our thanks to God and our deep appreciation to **Dailey J. Derr** for his enduring and faithful service to Westminster Presbyterian Church. This resolution shall be spread upon the Minutes of the Session and made a permanent part of the record.

Adopted unanimously by the Session on this the 21st day of October 2007.

Doug Wellemeier, Clerk

Jack Walchenbach, Moderator