

The session of Westminster Presbyterian Church ("WPC") convened for a stated meeting at 5:05 P.M. on 18 November 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 Pastors Betty Berghaus and Paul Ransford were present¹.

Elders Kathryn Bunch, 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 Bruce Cunningham was absent and excused.

WPC staff members Barbara Fletcher and Nancy Rozak² were present.

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

The Moderator declared a quorum present.

MINUTES

Draft minutes of the Stated Meeting of the Session on 21 October 2007 were distributed at the beginning of the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Motion: A motion to dismiss Robert and Barbara Yurkutat to Highland Presbyterian Church in Winston-Salem, NC, and Leigh Darby to Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church in Mount Pleasant, SC was made, seconded and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Organization of Session for 2007/2008:

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

PNC

John Graham reported that the PNC has provided a draft of the completed CIF for review and comment by Interim Pastor Jack Walchenbach and Executive Presbyter Barbara Campbell-Davis. The Moderator reported meeting with PNC Moderator Bill Bartholomay; a special session meeting will likely be called in the coming weeks to review and approve the CIF when completed by the PNC.

¹ Absent and excused when the meeting convened, but later joined the meeting in progress.

² Joined the meeting in progress.

Annual Session Retreat:

The Moderator reported that the Retreat Steering Committee met on 27 November to review program recommendations and make other plans for the upcoming session retreat. The Committee has decided that this year's program will be based on the book Resident Aliens by Stan Hauerwas and Will Willimon. The books have been ordered and should be available soon.

REPORTS

Worship: (Kathryn Bunch) 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 2 December 2007 will be coordinated by John Graham for the 8:30 A.M. service and by John Dancy for the 11:00 A.M. service.

The feedback on the changes to the order of worship has been largely positive.

Christian Education: (John Dancy) The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday 20 November. There was nothing further to report.

Ways and Means: (Shayne Ruffing) The Ways and Means Commission's 10 October 2007 meeting minutes, 14 November 2007 meeting agenda, the Proposed Operating Budget Summary for 2007-2008 and WPC Financial Statements for October 2007 were distributed via the Session Packet mailing.

The stewardship campaign is progressing on schedule. To date, increased pledges outnumber decreased pledges by more than five to one. The Stewardship Committee will identify members who have not yet responded as of about 1 December, and elders will be asked to make follow-up reminder phone calls shortly thereafter.

Ways and Means is continuing to evaluate a possible \$250,000 capital campaign in the 2nd quarter of 2008.

A proposed 2008 operating budget should be available for the session's review at its December stated meeting.

Recommendation: Ways & Means moves that the session modify the approved staffing of the Ways & Means Commission to add Howard Pedersen as an At-Large member.

Action: Approved.

Nominating: (Alex Denson) There was discussion about Scotti Harwood's resignation from the Diaconate, and whether a replacement would need to be called to serve for the remainder of the current church year. No action was taken.

Personnel: (Bruce Cunningham) No report.

Youth Council: (Susan Landis) The youth will be serving the shelter meal November, and preparations are well underway for this year's Lovefeast.

Transition: (Shayne Ruffing) No report.

Diaconate: (Betty Berghaus) Scotti Harwood has resigned from the Diaconate for personal reasons.

The Deacons have decided to designate the Christmas Eve offering to YO Durham, to continue the mission focus of children at risk for another year, and to designate one-half of the Easter offering in 2008 to the Durham Nativity School.

Inquirers' Class: (Sara Pottenger) The new Inquirers class includes a dozen or more prospective members. The session will meet for dinner with those who wish to join WPC at our December stated meeting.

Seminarians: (John Dancy) No report.

Global Missions: (John Dancy) The Committee received a request from NCCU's campus ministry requesting support for a gulf coast relief trip, and plans to transfer up to \$1,000 from Katrina funds in support of the request.

There was additional discussion and concerns were expressed for the critical funding needs of international missionaries that have been supported by the Presbyterian Church everywhere and, in particular, the Wehmeyers in Merida.

Local Missions: (Alex Denson) No report.

Assimilation: (Sara Pottenger and Claudia Draffin) The Assimilation Committee's 7 November 2007 meeting minutes were distributed via the Session Packet mailing.

The Committee is working on an acknowledgment process to insure that all members who respond to the time and talent survey receive a postcard or phone call.

Congregational Care: (Eric Wolf) The Committee met once since the session's last meeting, to train new care team leaders.

Fellowship: (Holly Schmidt) The Fellowship Committee's 5 November meeting minutes were distributed via the Session Packet mailing.

Darren Skeen has agreed to serve as co-moderator. The Committee is working on a bus trip to a Stagville Christmas event, a spring family picnic and softball game, and Christmas Eve dinner.

Boy Scouts: (Holly Schmidt) The Scouts are waiting to hear a response to their request for expanded use of building facilities for meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposal to Consider Changing the Session's Stated Meeting Schedule:

There was discussion about a proposal, presented for comment and consideration by Susan Landis, that the session should change its meeting schedule so as to avoid meeting on Sundays whenever possible, thereby enabling and providing leadership for Sabbath-keeping practices. There was discussion about the pros and cons of changing to a weeknight meeting schedule; the fact that some churches schedule much or all of their committee work on a given weeknight; the prospect of a fellowship evening that could include dinner and meetings; and the likelihood that such global changes in schedules could take quite some time to implement.

Members were asked to give the proposal further consideration in the coming weeks, and to forward a note conveying any strong feelings for or against the proposal to the Clerk of Session in preparation for further discussion at the December stated meeting.

STAFF REPORTS

Nancy Rozak reported excitement and enthusiasm among the many leaders and members actively engaged in planning for the Advent evening program, and urged the session's strong support for the program.

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

Concerns were expressed for Judi Hendrixon's father Ronald Hughes, Eric Wolf's friend, John Dancy's friend Susan, and Norman Gaddis.

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

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Kathryn Bunch at 6:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Wellemeier
Clerk of Session

Jack Walchenbach
Moderator