

**STATED SESSION MEETING
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA
October 29, 2008**

The Session of Second Presbyterian Church held its October Stated Meeting on Wednesday, October 29, 2008 at 7:10 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Dr. Daniel S. Williams, Moderator, called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. A quorum was present.

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Chuck Blackley, Frank Brown, Andy Easley, Danny Fields, Earl Flower, Jerry Fry, William Jack, James Mader, Mary McNamara, Kay Mader, Mary Rainey, Bob Ridle, Stewart Sherwood, Nancy Swisher, Eve Thomas, Caroline Woebke, Paul Wolfe and Dan Williams.

Excused: No elders were absent or excused.

AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

MINUTES REVIEW

The minutes of the October 1, 2008 Stated Meeting were approved with the following corrections:

- On page 24, line 4 – insert the words ‘Foundations of’ Presbytery Polity....
- In the Attendance Record: Present – add the names of William Jack and Eve Thomas
- On page 25, line 19 – change ‘with’ to ‘will.’
- On page 25, line 40 – after the word "are" insert "no"

The minutes of the October 26, 2008 Congregational Meeting were approved.:

REVIEW OF THE TREASURER’S REPORT

The Treasurer’s Report was reviewed and filed for audit. It was noted that the Church is on target with the 2008 projections. The Church year is 75% complete and 73% of the expected income has been received. An explanation on inclusions in Board of Pensions benefits was given. As of this date, Hunger offering monies have not been paid.

CLERK’S REPORT

1. Membership Actions - none
2. Average worship attendance: October 5-26= 78
3. Correspondence:
 - Received a letter from Thomas D. Hay, General Presbyter, announcing that he has accepted the position of Director of Operations for the Office of the General Assembly in Louisville, effective December 15, 2008.
 - Receipt of a newsletter from our missionaries, Bruce and Lora Whearty was noted.

PASTOR’S REPORT

1. **Worship Attendance.** Worship attendance is down significantly (10 — 15 attendees per Sunday) and Pastor Williams requested assistance in making him aware of absent members. Elders were asked to encourage members to be more regular/ faithful in attendance (refer to Care Lists).
2. **November Meeting.** The regular date for the November meeting will conflict with the Thanksgiving Eve service. A motion to postpone the committee meetings and the Session meeting to Wednesday, December 3, 2008 was approved.
3. **First Sunday in Advent.** Elders scheduled to serve communion on Sunday, November 30 were reminded of their responsibilities.
4. **Thanksgiving Eve Service.** A motion to continue the cooperative service, with First Presbyterian Church hosting this year, was approved.
5. **Advent Notes.**
 - Christmas poinsettias will be \$5.50 this year, providing we order 50 six-inch pots.
 - The Advent special focus this year will be lighting the Advent candles of Peace, Hope, Joy and Love. The Adult Choir will be presenting a cantata on Sunday, December 14 that is based on these candle designations. Sermon messages will also follow these themes. Worship and Music committee will secure families to lead the candle lighting each Sunday.
 - Youth/other interested people will go Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 21, beginning at 4:00 p.m.
 - The annual Christmas Eve candlelight communion service will begin at 7:30 p.m.
6. **Organist.** A motion to approve Allen Archer as our regular organist (not interim) was passed.

7. **Form of Government.** The FOG Task Force, on which Dr. Williams serves, has completed its revision of the Foundations and Government sections of the Book of Order. These are now available on Task Force's web page, www.pcusa.org/formofgovernment/.
8. **Personnel Committee recommendations.** A motion to approve a 4.5% COLA for all staff for the year 2009 was adopted. Dr. Williams and Elder James Mader abstained from voting. It was noted that recognition for volunteer service to the choir by Pam Snyder was warranted. Elder Paul Wolfe offers his work as custodian and caretaker as a personal tithe, and he was commended for his continuing service.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Membership and Outreach

- Committee has filed paperwork with Congressman Bob Goodlatte for a tour of the White House to view the Christmas decorations. No word has been received at this date for approval of the request.
- Cards have been sent to shut-ins and members who have recently been absent from Worship.

2. Mission

- World Food Day offering totaled \$290. Committee recommended designation of the funds for the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. Session approved the recommendation.
- Five committee members attended the Ethiopian Partnership Banquet.
- Committee will sponsor the Joy Gift covered dish supper, program and offering on Sunday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m.
- Committee will sponsor the November 19th Church Night. The program will feature Dave and Carolyn Thalman, who will report on the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and discuss developing a local Disaster Preparedness Plan for our Church.
- Committee requested that a review of the Boswell Jones Fund be done.

3. Property

- Committee is working on snow removal plan for the Church

4. Stewardship and Finance

- 2009 Estimate of Giving cards are due on November 16.

5. Worship and Music

- Hanging of the Greens is scheduled for Sunday, November 30.
- Lay readers, ushers, and families to lead the candlelighting during Advent are needed.

6. Christian Education

- Committee received a letter from Kemper Snyder, thanking them for their financial support of her attendance at the Youth conference.
- Youth activities planned include:
 - ▶ November 2 — Hike around Sherando Lake
 - ▶ December 14 — Craft Workshop
 - ▶ December 21 - Caroling

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Community Service Committee** has planned a Work Day at the Salvation Army on November 22, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Ten to twelve workers are needed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Presbytery Commissioner.** Jerry Fry was elected commissioner to the November 11 and February 14 meetings of Shenandoah Presbytery.
2. **Upcoming meetings:**
 - a. **Session:** Wednesday, December 3 — 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
 - b. **Shenandoah Presbytery:** Tuesday, November 11, 2008 at Keyser, WV, Presbyterian Church(9:30 a.m.) and Saturday February 14, 2009 at Massanutten
 - c. **Highland-Augusta Mission Community:** Thursday, November 6 at First Church Waynesboro (6:30 p.m.)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned with prayer.

Nancy C. Swisher
Clerk of Session