

**SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, January 25, 2009**

The 133rd Annual Meeting of Second Presbyterian Church was held on Sunday, January 25, 2009, following the worship service in the sanctuary. The congregation bylaws set the meeting date, and notices of the meeting were given on previous Sundays during the worship service, in the weekly bulletins, and on the Church's web site. Dr. Daniel S. Williams, Moderator, called the meeting to order, opening with prayer at 12:10 p.m. A quorum (10% of the active membership) was present.

The agenda provided in the Handbook of Reports was adopted.

Ecclesiastical Business

1. **Minutes Review.** As directed by the *Book of Order*, the Session had reviewed and approved the minutes of the congregational meetings of January 27, 2008, and October 26, 2008.
2. **Review of Annual Reports.**
 - a. **Program Reports.** All program reports in the handbook were reviewed. A prayer was offered in memory of those members deceased in 2008.
 - b. **Financial Reports.** The financial reports including the Treasurer's Report, Report of Funds held by Shenandoah Presbytery Corporation, and Presbyterian Women Finances were reviewed and discussed. It was noted that \$18,000-19,000 over budget was spent in 2008 for building repair and maintenance. Expenses for building repair and maintenance are included in the 2009 Budget.
 - c. **Composition of the Session.** The following information about the composition of the Session was included in the Clerk's Report: The Session consists of eighteen members, not counting the pastor/moderator, of which 11 are men and 7 are women. The age range of the session members is from the early 50's and up. This corresponds to the composition of the congregation (G-10.0301), with the exception of the ratio between men and women; the imbalance is mainly in the Class of 2009.

The moderator thanked those members of the Session, Class of 2008, who completed terms of service and were not re-elected to the Class of 2011: James Mader and Nancy Swisher. Elder Carolyn Rush (Class of 2008) died on May 21, 2008.

3. **2009 Budget Presentation.** The 2009 Budget adopted by Session on January 7, 2009 was reviewed and discussed. The Budget reflects a 4.5% cost of living increase for all employees. It was noted that transfers from the investments (line item #1399) make the Budget balance. Elder Jerry Fry, Chairperson of the Stewardship and Finance Committee, commented on the anticipated decrease of 8.2% in regular giving, attributed largely to the continuing decline in membership, and the 400% increase in maintenance expense. The dilemma stated simply is that invested funds will allow us to continue with unbalanced budgets for several more years. After that, what? The answer to our financial future lies in getting more members. The following suggestions were offered by the congregation:
 - Invite more "seniors" to join
 - Contact those persons listed on the Active Roll who do not attend regularly
 - Send cards and advertise our availability as a downtown church
 - Forward all ideas to the Membership and Outreach Committee
 - Invite members of "senior centers" to our church
 - Advertise our web site on the sign board in front of the church
 - Staunton Choral Society is being courted to use our sanctuary for its Spring Concert
 - Members were encouraged to support this possibility
 - List the church's web site with the Chamber of Commerce
 - Update the Church Brochure and make it available at local Bed and Breakfast sites and local hotels.
4. **Pastor's Terms of Call.** Session is required to review and take responsibility for adjusting the Pastor's Terms of Call. At the request of the Pastor, Session approved redistributing money out of salary into housing, resulting in gtax savings for him. A motion affirming that the Session has maintained adequate review of the Pastor's Terms of Call was approved on December 3, 2008. A motion by Jo Fields, seconded by Pam Snyder, noted the congregation's approval of Session's action.