

Regular Stated Meeting of Session, Northminster Presbyterian Church: November 18, 2008

The Moderator, Pastor Dwight McCormick, opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00 PM in the Family Room. The Moderator then led a brief discussion of Chapter 3 from the book Holy Conversations. Session members were encouraged to identify the Biblical story that is being lived out right now both as individuals and as the congregation as a whole. Chapter 4 will be discussed at the December meeting, and members were asked to be thinking about selecting a planning committee. We will also consider the results of Revision study done about three years ago and the action items from the May 2008 retreat.

Elders present: Sally Asper, Butch Dodds, Carol Emerich, Paul Good, Bud Graves, Diana Harrison, Emily Spriggs, Kent Sherry, Cindy Ater, Gary Molnar, John Roberts, Jim Twiggs, Bill Chesnut, and Lois Shroyer, clerk.

Elders excused: Jim Griffin.

Others present: Deacon's representative, Mark Brush, and Treasurer Bill Harrison.

A quorum was present.

Approval of minutes: On motion/second, Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of October 21, 2008 were approved as distributed.

Clerk's report:

- Changes to the Roll: On motion/second approved a request from Judy Jones to move Michael (#995), Judy (#996), Kristin (#1020) and Ryan (#1084) Jones from the Active to the Inactive Roll. This family has moved out of state but hasn't yet found a church home in their new location.
- At the Presbytery of Miami Session Records Review held at Northminster on October 29, 2008, the Session Minutes from September 18, 2007 to August 19, 2008 (along with the Church Register) were approved without exceptions.

Pastor's report: Pastor McCormick reported that he preached at Xenia, Memorial Presbyterian Church on October 26th as a part of their stewardship campaign. He has spent significant time these past weeks serving on an Investigative Committee of Presbytery. He has participated in planning with the Music and Worship Committee, as well as with other committees of the church.

On November 15, 2008 he participated in the wedding of Stephanie Molnar and Ryan Whiteside in Northminster's sanctuary. Former pastor Rev. Scott Loomer officiated at the wedding.

Elder Lois Shroyer, Commissioner to the November 8, 2008 Meeting of Presbytery at Hamilton, Westwood, briefly reported on the meeting.

Session Committee Reports

Deacons: Mark Brush, Moderator of Deacons, reported that planning is well underway for the December 21st dinner to be held after the morning worship service (which will

include the Children's Christmas program). Marcia Barga is again organizing the Adopt-a-Family program. Care packages were sent to all the college students on the congregation member/friend list.

Deacons' communion servers for 2009: team # 1, Elise Spriggs and Greg Veith; team# 2, Chuck Mansfield and LeaAnn Hoefer. Mark Brush will be available as a substitute.

Christian Education Committee: No action items.

Church Nominating Committee: Chair Bud Graves reported that the committee is preparing a slate of candidates for Elder and Deacon for the class of 2012.

Worship/Music Committee: Chair Gary Molnar referred to a written report, and explained that the committee requests permission to remove the choir risers from the chancel area. By consensus session granted permission to remove the risers.

Mission and Outreach Committee: Elder Carol Emerich gave an update on the Habitat for Humanity Apostle Build project that was approved at the last session meeting. There will be a work schedule of 14 Saturdays from March through June, 2009; Northminster will be responsible for one Saturday. Pastor McCormick reported that about \$500 has been donated toward the project, plus the \$2000 from the Picnic Shelter fund.

Special Projects: No report.

Property Committee: Elder Paul Good, chair, requested that all committees or groups that need to rearrange furniture in the sanctuary, the Family Room, etc. let the Property Committee know in advance what is needed. If the request is made in a timely manner, the Property Committee can coordinate the work with Mark Brush and/or Greg Veith.

Finance Committee:

- On motion from the committee Session approved the following resolution: It shall be our policy to adopt an accountable business expense reimbursement arrangement for our Pastor or any other Party. The Church agrees to reimburse the Pastor (or other Party) for those business expenses that are properly substantiated as to date, amount, place, and business purpose; and the Pastor (or other Party) is required to return any excess reimbursements to the Church. The Pastor's reimbursement limits are determined by his terms of call. Other Parties are expected to have an authorization for expenditures over \$50.00. Such authorization may be included in a committee's budgeted line item, and if it is not, an authorization should be secured by committee meeting and/or session approval.
- Elder Jim Twiggs, chair, reported that 2008 income and expenses are very close to the budgeted amounts, with a current deficit of \$12,424. As giving is usually up during the last few weeks of the year, some of the deficit may be made up.
- For the 2009 budget, assuming an income of \$184,850 (approximately the same as 2008) and expenses of \$219,517 (approximately \$24,500 more than 2008),

there is a deficit of \$34,667. But so far the amount pledged is approximately \$45,000 less than last year (several pledge cards still have not been turned in). So the 2009 budget may have to be trimmed significantly.

Administration Committee: Diana Harrison, chair, presented a written report, with no action items.

Consecration/Stewardship Committee: Chair Butch Dodds reported that 18 congregation leaders met with the Rev. Dr. Joe Hookey on November 3rd. There were 129 present at the Consecration Sunday lunch on November 9, 2008. Expenses totaled \$2100. A different program will be used next year.

Presbyterian Women reported they have given \$1000, each, to Interfaith Hospitality Network, The Salvation Army, and the Christ Episcopal food pantry.

Old Business: Elder John Roberts has conducted the annual insurance review, and all coverage is up to date.

New Business: By consensus, the Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on January 25, 2009, immediately following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting is for the congregation to receive reports from the Pastor, the Deacons, committees and organizations of the church, to receive the budget for 2009, and to vote on changes in the Pastor's terms of call.

The Moderator relayed a request from a local dulcimer club to use the family room for weekly meetings on Thursday evenings from 6-9 PM, if their current meeting location becomes unavailable. On motion/second session approved the request.

Next Session Meeting: December 16, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Session members are to read chapter 4 of Holy Conversations.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 9:00 p.m.

Lois A. Shroyer, Clerk

Rev. Mr. Dwight McCormick II,
Moderator