



First Presbyterian Church of Sheridan, Wyoming  
Minutes of Regular Session Meeting

March 20, 2018

---

The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Sheridan, Wyoming convened a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 7:01 p.m. in the Westminster Fellowship Hall. Pastor Hayden, Transition/Interim Pastor, moderated the meeting.

#### QUORUM

**Moderator:** Pastor Paul Hayden

**Ex Officio:** Dennis Heizer, Financial Manager, and CJ Clem, Minister to Youth and Children

**Elders present:** Ted Knapp, Doug Beagle, Beth Bailey, Gareth Dixon, Jeri Joy, Linnet McGoodwin, Judy Garber, Loren Ruttinger, Tod Windsor, Teresa Williams, Kim Kozel, Janis DeVore, Doug Moore, Jean Morgan, Carol Davis, Jim Lyon, Tina Anderson, Peggy Blaha, Kathy Lundberg and Carla White

**Elders absent:** David Motsick

#### WORSHIP

Pastor Paul opened the meeting with prayer.

#### INTRODUCTION

Pastor Paul conducted a discussion from Philippians, Chapter 2:5-11 prior to the business meeting. He asked us to be mindful this week of Jesus' journey to the cross. Jesus emptied himself of everything when he came to earth, up until his last day. He gave up his place in heaven and his home. He laid down his crown, his comforts, and took on the form and role of a servant.

#### AGENDA

The agenda was approved with a motion by Doug Moore and seconded by Tod Windsor, and carried.

#### CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report and minutes of the last session meeting were approved as corrected with a motion and a second. The motion carried. Under Clerk business, Carla White asked for another volunteer from session to be a member of the Nominating Committee for the year 2018. Judy Garber volunteered, and this will now complete the committee. The 2018 committee is now

made up of Jim Blaha, Lorrie Ledgerwood and Dorothea Doerr from the congregation, and Judy Garber and Jeri Joy from session.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Dennis Heizer, financial manager, presented the financial reports and explained them. The February Balance Sheet reflects the following:

Total assets:	\$3,844,386.73
Total liabilities:	49,887.27
Reserves (Retained Earnings):	62,707.61

The Treasurer's Monthly Report was also received and reflected the following:

February Income:	20,365.03
February Expense:	26,506.73
February Net Loss:	- 6,141.70
YTD Net Gain:	11,639.89

Ted Knapp questioned Dennis about a budget for the newly formed Tech Committee. Dennis explained that amounts from other committee budgets will be redirected in the budget to the newly formed committee and line item accounts will be set up. The committee will need to wait until the next year's budget is formed for new monies. Dennis also noted we had a short month for February and charitable giving was down. Additionally a bad blizzard took place on one Sunday and attendance was down on that day.

The financial reports were approved during the Budget and Finance Committee report below.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Budget Finance & Stewardship** March 13, 2018

Oral and written reports were presented by Beth Bailey. Session action requested:

1. Accept financial reports as presented. The motion carried and the reports were accepted as presented.

The committee has discussed direct deposit payroll options for church employees. Further research will be done.

#### **Personnel** March 13, 2018

Teresa Williams gave an oral and written report. No session action was requested. The committee will be reviewing all job descriptions and the employee handbook. The committee will be meeting with the Budget and Finance Committee to review and recommend CJ Clem's pay and hours, once Pastor Paul takes over as head of staff. The maintenance man position remains unfilled.

### **Technical and Communications** March 13, 2018

Ted Knapp presented a written and oral report for the newly formed committee. The purpose of the committee is to address the growing communication needs within the church. Ted's written committee report listed a session action request for the purchase of a camera for sermon videos. However, only discussion occurred on the request and no formal request or motion was made for the purchase of it. The committee has been extremely active in examining our technology needs, and will install equipment and make upgrades to current equipment as outlined in their written report. Much of the work will be done and equipment donated by committee members. Jae Satterlee has offered his expertise in the way of services and equipment to a great extent. Several committee members will assist with installation processes.

After discussing various options for internet speed and upgrade, the committee agreed to sign a three year contract extension with our current provider, ACT. The committee will apply for a 501(c)3 IRS designation. This designation will assist the church to access TechSoup discounts and other freebies.

### **Fellowship** March 13, 2018

Kim Kozel reported. No session action was requested. Please refer to the written committee report for detail on activities. Upcoming activities will include PIGG Group activities, Easter services, a Cubs and Rockies baseball trip, folk dancing lessons, and a possible talent show.

### **Properties** March 1, 2018

Doug Moore presented a written and oral report. No session action was requested. Committee discussion included replacing locks on church doors with coded door lock systems. Additionally, duct cleaning will take place when dust levels subside after construction site work is more complete near the church. A search for a replacement for the maintenance position is ongoing.

### **Membership and Evangelism** March 14, 2018

Tina Anderson reported. The following session actions were requested:

1. Reinstate Bill and Linda Pruitt to active status church members.
2. Accept the transfer of membership for John Jackson and Su Rapplewe from FPC in Skagway, Alaska.
3. Forward a certificate of membership for Garry and Nancy Rains from FPC, Sheridan to FPC, Kinston, North Carolina. They will be dropped from our church rolls.

The motion carried.

### **Mission and Outreach** March 13, 2018

Peggy Blaha reported and referred to the written report. The committee requested the following session action:

1. A committee motion to approve an invitation to Jerimiah and Katana (last names unknown at this time) to present a minute for mission. They are missionaries who represent TMS Global. Most likely this will be done in the fall. The motion carried. A love offering may be considered for them at the same time, however that determination will be made later and no action was taken on the offering.

The committee will continue to research and study missions and ministries recipients when requests for assistance are made, and to whom they donate to. The committee is also exploring other ideas to promote "Just Coffee."

### **Worship** March 13, 2018

Loren Ruttinger reported. The following session action was requested:

1. The committee motion requests that Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Kelsey will serve Communion to the participants at the conclusion of "30 Hours of Famine" on April 28<sup>th</sup>. The motion carried.

Discussion centered around Holy Week activities coming up.

### **Christian Education** March 13, 2018

Janis DeVore reported. A written report was presented as well as oral one. There was no session action requested. In other committee business, she reported the committee approval to allow our youth to participate in the Mobile VBS in Encampment this summer. An updated list of FPC children and youth has been made. Easter handouts have been approved for children. All Church Bible study groups will begin meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Presbyterian Women** March 2018

No report was presented.

### **C.J. Clem, Minister to Youth and Children Report** January 2018

C.J. presented an oral and written report. CJ reported she is still seeking adult volunteers to assist with the "30 Hour Famine" event on April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers will serve for two hour periods.

### **Pastor Paul's Report** January 2018

Pastor Paul presented an oral and written report. Paul reported on a workshop he attended in Big Horn which addressed "How to Discuss Difficult Topics." Pastor Paul also noted National Day of Prayer will be on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will host a breakfast at the church on that day. We are seeking volunteers to assist with several areas.

### **Other Business**

### **CAMP STORY DISCUSSION**

No report was given. Director Alicia Ford, was not in attendance. There will be a Camp Story Spring into Spring Craft Fair on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Camp Story registration deadline is March 25<sup>th</sup>. The next Camp Story Commission meeting is in Gillette on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **REFLECTION**

## **WORSHIP**

The business portion of the meeting adjourned at 8:18, and Pastor Paul asked elders to come into the Sanctuary for a time of worship and spiritual renewal. Pastor Paul had requested before our session meeting, that each elder come prepared to bring and discuss a list of items that we, as church leaders, need to discuss. The following is a condensed list of the topics discussed:

1. A discussion of the sacraments, but especially communion, and how we as "First Presbyterian Church" would like to see it and expect it to be done. Apparently there are some frustrations and disappointments on the lack of consistency and ritualistic nature of communion.
2. Guns in church. How do we make our church a "safe" place? Safe from what? How do we fulfill the word of our Lord that we are to be "Wise as serpents but gentle as doves?" How do we make it a safe place for people? For the newcomer to the community who is looking for a church family? For someone who may have rejected the church years ago and for some reason is coming back?
3. How do we assimilate people into the life of the church? FPC is a strong and loving body of people. Many of our people have been friends with each other for years. How does a new person enter this established system with deep and meaningful friendships? Or do we work hard at creating new entry points and what would that look like?
4. Emergency Preparedness...for the church and for those who are members.
5. We say we want to be an "Open Church," but then we talk about locking our doors. Are these things in opposition to each other? Do we want to be a church where people can find refuge, i.e., on a cold night a person can find an open door and shelter? In like fashion, how do we live our beliefs?
6. Worship styles. Do we follow current trends? Do we reject current trends to maintain our traditional style? What are our priorities in worship that we do not want to compromise?
7. Parent involvement. Our children, under the beginning driver's age of 16, must have parents and/or grandparents to get them to church. No driver...no participation. So, how do we engage parents? How do we create a culture of parental participation so they (and we) can better pass on the faith to the next generation? Ultimately parents must answer this question.
8. Are we front and center? Are we visible in the community? Do people even know where we are located? How can we become more visible?
9. Age. How can we help those who are aging within the community and the church? 1/3 of Sheridan are retired folks. Of that group 60% will be at some level on the dementia spectrum. Training is available to make FPC a dementia friendly organization.

10. How should we organize our congregation for the greatest support and spiritual life? It used to be the Presbyterian Church had a very stable fellowship/service structure of Presbyterian Women, Presbyterian Men, and Presbyterian Mariners. These groups provided fellowship, spiritual growth, and a primary avenue of church and mission support. Over the course of time both PMs dissolved. PW continues strong but in most churches it is filled with the senior women of the church.

That having been said, should we create a structure into which every member/regular attendee can be encouraged to attend for their spiritual growth and fellowship? Many churches now organize around the cell (small group) and celebration (worship) model. What might work for us?

Pastor Paul closed with prayer.

**SESSION ADJOURNED**

The meeting adjourned at 9:11.

**ATTEST:**



---

Carla J. White, Clerk of Session