



First Presbyterian Church of Sheridan, Wyoming

Minutes of Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 28, 2018

MEETING

The Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Sheridan, Wyoming convened a special meeting on **Sunday, January 28, 2018** at 11:45 A.M. in Westminster Hall. Interim/Transition Pastor Paul Hayden moderated.

QUORUM

Pastor Paul opened the meeting with **prayer**.

Pastor Paul declared there was a quorum.

DOCKET

The docket was **approved**. The minutes of the last congregational meeting were approved by session one year ago. As a matter of note, our church is 114 years old this year.

CLERK OF SESSION REPORT

Active Members as of 01/01/16	338
New Members Joining in 2017	16
Deaths and Dropped from the Rolls	38
Active Members as of 12/31/17	313

MEMORIALS FOR 2017

Rosemary Brower	January 10, 2017
George Harper	March 4, 2017
Marge Jenrich	April 11, 2017
Lois Morton	May 24, 2017
Joanne Kemper	June 25, 2017
Betty Frey	September 16, 2017
Gunder Hansen	November 5, 2017

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Financial Secretary Dennis Heizer. Dennis summarized the amounts in the Balance Sheet. As of December 31, 2017 cash was \$109,298.80 plus \$79,369.41 in reserves. Special funds are \$49,566.58. We have a gold coin donation listed as an asset currently in the amount of \$14,691.60. The Budget and Finance Committee has acted to sell the coins and the amount realized will now be transferred from an asset account into the Reserves Account to replenish some special expenses in 2017. There was a net loss of \$4,945.57 for 2017.

Financial Secretary Dennis Heizer reviewed the budget for 2018. Tithes and Offerings and other incomes are estimated to be \$334,441.20 for 2018, projecting a balanced budget. Session sets the budget for the church. A motion was made by John Lundberg to receive the financial reports. It was seconded by Brooke Holstedt, and the motion carried. Pastor Paul complimented Dennis for the outstanding job he has done with our financial reports over the past 32 years.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance: Beth Bailey reported and referred to the written report, and repeated the figures and information stated in the Treasurers report shown above. She thanked everyone for an amazing year. She spoke of special expenses we have incurred this year due to the retirement of our long time pastor. She also reported we received a good financial review from our auditors. Procedures are in place to insure ongoing success. Our success is due to members who continue to contribute in every way to allow the church to continue our programming.

Worship: Loren Ruttinger referred to the written report made by Tracey Burke, former chairman. The Worship committee is responsible for anything that occurs in the sanctuary during the worship service including music, ushers, communion servers, worship leaders, children's sermons and AV operation. He thanked and spoke about the behind the scenes volunteers who do so much to obtain a smooth outcome of the worship services. Louise Semino, Miriam Nance and Elizabeth Windsor continue as choir director, organist and pianist respectively. The biggest projects undertaken this year and last, were the installation of new audio visual equipment and the sound booth. The system has provided greatly improved sound and sight opportunities.

Fellowship: Kim Kozel referred to the written report. The Fellowship Committee has encouraged participation in the many activities offered each year. Additionally she asked for suggestions from our membership. The committee is very willing to commit to offering new activities to foster fellowship. Kim listed the many activities the committee promoted this year. The committee goal is to bring people together in order to strengthen relationships.

Properties: Doug Moore reported, and referred to the written report. He explained that the committee has seen inconsistent membership the past year and they hope to overcome that this year. Unforeseen expenses occurred with the failure of our sump pump system and air conditioning issues. We have an aging building and have recognized the need to set up accrual fund accounts to be maintained and for the use of building costs and issues which are likely to occur in the future. A new kitchen floor, new office window blinds, new sanctuary lights and replacement computers for staff were purchased this year. Doug thanked the many volunteers

who helped to do committee work this year. We are currently without a maintenance man and are searching for the right person for the job.

Christian Education: Janis DeVore reported and referred to the written report. She reported this is a very busy committee. The CE Committee oversees the adult education program, Sunday School, and Vacation Bible School. Additionally they provide support for Camp Story, LOGOS and Triennium involvement. Sunday School and VBS were cancelled in the spring due to lack of attendance and volunteer support. Sunday School workbooks were offered in place of active Sunday School. Sunday School is being offered again starting January 2018. Adult studies have consistently seen good attendance, with over 100 persons taking the church wide Bible Study. LOGOS averaged around 15 children attending weekly.

Mission: Peggy Blaha referred to the written report. Additionally she explained that the committee has worked very hard doing many things this year. She indicated mission giving from this church during the year totaled \$33,000. Many checks were issued to organizations this year. She explained that we are fine tuning our Mission Guidelines to help us in discerning which missions to support.

Membership & Evangelism: Mary Ludemann referred to the written report. She reported the numbers of new and removed members, and they are the same numbers shown in the Clerk of Session report above. Additionally she described the duties of the committee. As of January 1, 2018, our total membership is 313. Mary reported we are a new Chamber of Commerce member. Pastor Paul regularly attends meetings. New welcome postcards are being sent out to visitors.

Personnel: A written report was included in the packet and presented by Jon Botten. The committee's biggest task this year was hiring an interim pastor. Pastor Paul Hayden was hired with a contract which took effect on April 25, 2017. Interim Pastors are hired by Session pursuant to an employment contract. Therefore, there is no need to present the customer Pastor's Terms of Call for approval by the congregation at the annual meeting. Teresa Williams asked for prayers for our Interim Pastor as he guides us through the processes and transitions of hiring a new pastor.

Presbyterian Women: Kathy Beagle reported. Nancy Cook was the moderator for 2017. Sharon Browne and Sherry Laughton will be co-moderators for 2017. She reported that Kathy Lundberg will be the moderator for the State Presbyterian Women and Louise Semino was elected Vice Moderator. Kathy reported PW does extensive work throughout the church in the way of mission support, bereavement dinners, committee work and Lunch Together. She thanked the many women who work very hard.

LOGOS: CJ Clem referred to the written report and presented a profit and loss report. LOGOS is celebrating their 19th year. She asked us to keep them in our prayers as they go forward. Fifteen to twenty kids attended each week. She thanked volunteers and invited people to participate in the program.

Choir Director: Louise Semino reported. She reported that she has permanently taken the job of choir director after Kathy Lundberg stepped down. Louise reported on the many talents of musicians in our congregation. Those mentioned were Elizabeth Windsor, Miriam Nance, Doug

Moore, Luke Sherman, Loren Ruttinger, Susan Smith and Karen Schreffler. The choir directly benefits from the talents of these persons.

Homebound Communion: Linnet McGoodwin reported. Eleven Presbyterians have regularly received Communion in their homes or care centers this year. It is a very meaningful part of their lives and they are deeply grateful for this ministry, and connecting them to their church family. Those serving in 2017 were Kim Kozel, Kim and Carter Wells, Phyllis Wilhelm, Rhea Dixon, Lorrie Ledgerwood, Tracey Burke, Peggy Blaha, Judy Palm and Linnet McGoodwin.

Angel Tree Project: The committee worked with the Coffeen Elementary School Counselor to identify our 7 Angel Tree families. They provided needs and wants for 18 children. Families received \$200 gift certificates from Ridley's, and frozen turkeys from Frackelton's.

Minister of Youth: C.J. Clem referred to her written report. She reported on many activities which took place this year. Again she invited participation from the congregation to assist.

Pastor Paul's Report: Pastor Paul presented a written report. He spoke of his deep love for certain Bible passages and why. He asked that during this time of transition, we stay focused. During this time we will see much change. As Jesus was preparing his disciples for the greatest transition in their lives, his death and resurrection, he put an exclamation point on the second half of these two great commands. In John 13;34-35, He said: A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this shall all people know you are my disciples, by your love for one another. His prayer for all of us is that months from now we will celebrate the culmination of God's directing and the growth of our love for one another. Several persons thanked Paul for the work he has done for us so far.

Camp Story: Alicia Ford reported. The Camp Story Commission is the governing body of Camp Story. Our interim pastor also holds a seat on the commission. There were a total of 73 campers in six camps last summer. There were seven rentals throughout the summer. A total of \$38,245 in revenue was brought in. There will be seven themed camps offered this year, and there will be something for all ages. Additionally the standard camp such as Day Camp, Starters Camp, You and Me Weekend and Junior and Senior High Leaders camps will be offered. The goal is to have twenty kids in each camp. The capital improvement team has been hard at work with many substantial projects completed. The Heart for God fire pit patio will be put in this spring. It is a fundraising effort, with bricks being sold with names engraved on them for \$100 each. Camp rentals will be widely advertised as well.

Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee was hard at work this past year as we added eleven new elders who will be installed on Feb. 11th. Additionally, a Mission Study Committee was formed. The following persons agreed to serve:

Session:

Jim Lyon

Jean Morgan

Ted Knapp (1 year term)

Tod Windsor

David Motsick (1 year term)

Kathy Lundberg

Mission Study:

Rex Arney

Miriam Nance

Kathy Lundberg

Linnet McGoodwin

Brooke Holstedt

Dave Engels

Carol Davis

Mitzi Knapp

Doug Beagle

Judy Garber (2 year term)

Gareth Dixon

Linnet McGoodwin (2 year term)

Our By Laws indicate we should have 21 elders serving each session period. Elders going off session at year end 2017 included Jerry Saunders, Dennis Schreffler, Jon Botten, Aaron Gray, Sam Herring, Mary Ludemann, Linda Luegge and John Lundberg. Pastor Paul and the congregation thanked them for their service.

A new Nominating Committee was also formed for the year 2018 and the following agreed to serve and were elected from the congregation: Lorrie Ledgerwood, Jim Blaha and Dorothea Doerr. Jeri Joy was elected from session and one additional session nomination will be made at the next regular meeting. A motion was made by Brooke Holstedt, seconded by Esther McKenzie to accept the nominations for elders, Nominating Committee and Mission Study. The motion carried.

Election of Trustees: The following were reelected: President – Esther McKenzie; Vice President – Carla White; Secretary – Carol Maloy, Treasurer – Linnet McGoodwin. Dennis Heizer made the motion to reelect them, Ron Patterson seconded it, and the motion carried. A corporate meeting was called for this purpose and the congregational meeting briefly adjourned to complete the business, and later reconvened.

Other Business: Terri Hayden recognized and thanked congregation members who currently deliver Meals on Wheels for the Sheridan Senior Center/The Hub. Barbara Hill, a visitor to the church this day complimented several church members for their community involvement. Those included Leonard Hurst and Esther McKenzie and Paul and Terri Hayden. Barbara's Citywide Prayer Group made the Interim Pastor of our church a focus of their prayers. Barbara feels as though it has paid off, as the church seems to have flourished under Pastor Paul's leadership.

Approval of Pastor's Call:

Because Interim Pastors are hired by Session pursuant to an employment contract, there was no need to present the customary Pastor's Terms of Call for approval by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting.

For the record, the following persons will serve as session members, and the date of expiration of their term follows their name:

Current members

Newly elected members

Peggy Blaha- 2018

Ted Knapp 2018 (1 year term)

Janis DeVore-2018

David Motsick 2018 (1 year term)

Kim Kozel-2018

Judy Garber 2019 (2 year term)

Loren Ruttinger 2018

Linnet McGoodwin 2019 (2 year term)

Carla White- 2018
Teresa Williams- 2018
Tina Anderson 2019
Beth Bailey 2019
Jeri Joy 2019
Doug Moore 2019

Doug Beagle 2020
Jean Morgan 2020
Carol Davis 2020
Jim Lyon 2020
Tod Windsor 2020
Kathy Lundberg 2020
Gareth Dixon 2020

Pastor Paul closed the meeting with a motion by Jim Blaha which was seconded and carried. Prayer was offered by Pastor Paul. The meeting adjourned at 12:40.

ATTEST:



Carla J. White, Clerk of Session

Paul Hayden, Interim Pastor