

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

November 21, 2017

The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Sheridan, Wyoming convened a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at 7:02 p.m. in Westminster Fellowship Hall. Pastor Paul Hayden, Transition Pastor, moderated the meeting.

**QUORUM**

**Ex Officio:** Pastor Paul Hayden, and CJ Clem, Minister to Youth and Children

**Elders present:** Jon Botten, Mary Ludemann, Carla White, Jeri Joy, Doug Moore, John Lundberg, Janis DeVore, Loren Ruttinger, Dennis Schreffler, Linda Luegge, Teresa Williams, Kim Kozel, and Beth Bailey

**Elders absent:** Aaron Gray, Sam Herring, Jerry Saunders, Linda Luegge, Peggy Blaha, Tina Anderson

**WORSHIP**

Pastor Paul opened the meeting with prayer.

**INTRODUCTION**

Pastor Paul opened the meeting with a discussion from Chapter 17 of the Book of Luke. He spoke about the ten lepers and how our church and people fit into the story, and the various interpretations which can be made. He summed it up with three words: cleansed, healing, rise and go, as faith has made them/us well.

**AGENDA**

The agenda was approved.

**CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk's report and minutes of the last session meeting were approved as corrected. The motion to approve was made by John Lundberg, seconded by Dennis Schreffler and carried. The clerk also noted the following action was taken by e-vote in late October prior to this session meeting:

1. Pastor Paul notified us of his being on vacation Feb. 4, 2018. He suggested we invite Rev. Tamara Mitchell to fill the pulpit and serve communion. By e-vote the Session approved his vacation request and to invite Rev. Mitchell to fill the pulpit on that Sunday. The vote was unanimous.

The clerk also presented a written report and gave an informal update on work currently being done by the Nominating Committee in conjunction with new session members, and new

members to comprise a Mission Study Committee. She reported we must replace 11 session members and form a 5-7 member team for the Mission Study committee. To date, we have 9 persons willing to accept a session position and 6, possibly 7, to serve on Mission Study.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The financial reports were received. Beth Bailey presented and explained them in the absence of Dennis Heizer, financial manager. A motion was made and seconded to receive and accept them, and the motion carried. The October Balance Sheet reflects the following:

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Total assets:                 | \$3,800,429.29 |
| Total liabilities:            | \$ 49,221.60   |
| Reserves (Retained Earnings): | 76,044.41      |

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

|                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| September Income:   | \$38,216.55   |
| September Expense:  | \$26,252.56   |
| September Net Gain: | \$11,963.99   |
| YTD Net Loss:       | - \$12,870.69 |

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Budget Finance & Stewardship** November 14, 2017

An oral and written report were presented by Beth Bailey. Session action requested:

1. Accept financial reports as presented. They were accepted by session and evidence is in the Treasurer's report above.
2. Motion to get session approval for selling gold coins in our possession at or near a price of \$1,280.00, rather than \$1,311.00 as was approved earlier. The committee would like for the sale to occur in this calendar year. Janis DeVore suggested that we explore selling them for "coin" value, as well as the gold value. The motion carried.
3. Motion to recommend the income be increased to match expenses to balance the 2018 budget presented. Beth presented the draft budget in the amount of \$336,468.20, which represents a 1.5% increase over the 2017 budget. She presented a motion and noted that a final budget will be increased by \$5,000 annually due to the requested establishment of an accrual account for inside maintenance (HVAC and other expenses). The final budget will be presented in December and will reflect the new accrual account amount. There will be zero increases in employee compensation. The motion carried.

**Personnel** November 14, 2017

The written report presented by Jon Botten reflected no action requested by committee. He reported that Louise Semino has been hired as choir director. They reviewed annual staff evaluations and will meet individually with staff.

**Fellowship** November 14, 2017

Dennis Schreffler reported. No session action was requested. Please refer to the written committee report for detail on activities. Christmas tree cutting will take place on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Properties** November 14, 2017

Doug Moore reported. No session action was requested. At our last session meeting the committee made a motion to sell the church van. A **motion to table** the sale of the church van was made at that meeting by Dennis Schreffler, seconded by Linda Luegge and carried. Since there was no further action at this meeting, the tabled motion is now dead. After a complete cost analysis, it was decided we should retain the van. Additional discussion included snow removal bids, and various repairs on church property. It was decided to cease collecting cans for recycle.

**Membership and Evangelism** November 8, 2017

Mary Ludemann reported and referred to the written report. Session action was requested as follows:

1. Motion to remove Gunder Hanson from the church rolls, as he has entered the Church Triumphant. The motion carried.

Mary discussed the committee work to clean up our church rolls. A letter to encourage spiritual growth will be sent to members who have not attended for some time to see if they still want to continue to be on our rolls. Paul explained the difference between inactive members and affiliate members. Affiliates are often "snow bird" people who only attend our church occasionally, and do not count us as their main church. A possible get together during the holidays for college students is in the planning stage.

**Mission and Outreach** November 14, 2017

John Lundberg reported and referred to the written report. The committee requested no session action. He reported on the upcoming vouchers being prepared for contributions to various organizations which the committee does annually.

**Worship** November 14, 2017

Loren Ruttinger reported. The following session action was requested:

1. Cancel the 8am service on December 17<sup>th</sup>. The motion carried. A special choir presentation will take place at the 10am service on this Sunday.
2. Cancel the 8am service on December 24<sup>th</sup>. The motion carried.

Other discussion included continuing electrical work in the sanctuary and Christmas decorating of the church on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Christian Education** November 14, 2017

Janis DeVore reported. No action was requested from session. She reported notebook packets have been well received by children at worship, as Sunday School is not being offered at this time. Since the Sunday 9am small group church study has averaged 25 participants, CE would also like to get feedback on whether this is a good time slot for an adult Sunday School class. LOGOS has concluded for the fall semester, and averaged 20-25 children and adults. Four youth attended the Senior High Youth Retreat recently in Casper.

#### **Presbyterian Women** November 2017

No report was presented.

#### **C.J. Clem, Minister to Youth and Children Report** October 2017

C.J. presented an oral and written report. She detailed many past and upcoming activities including the annual Senior High Retreat and the upcoming Christmas Program on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. She reported on a chili cook-off on Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, adding that it may include a silent auction to raise money for Camp Story tuition for children. The chili cook-off proceeds will benefit a kid's mission trip.

#### **Pastor Paul's Report** September 2017

Pastor Paul presented an oral report. Paul discussed the recent church wide study which has just concluded. Additionally, he and Terri recently hosted Dr. Mary Neal and her husband, as Mary Neal did a presentation at the church that was very well received.

#### **Other Business**

Pastor Paul's Mother recently passed away and the memorial service for her will be held on Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>. He will have a substitute pastor in place on Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, as he will not be able to return in time for that Sunday. Paul suggested when session meets on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, we meet at his home at 75 Hillcrest Court for a small Christmas party with snacks. Session members only will attend. Paul also raised the concern of the recent Texas church shooting. In response to the discussion, he suggested forming a committee to share information to session as to how to proceed to protect our church and congregation. We have several persons in the congregation who are involved in law enforcement who could perhaps assist.

#### **CAMP STORY DISCUSSION**

No report was given.

#### **REFLECTION**

#### **WORSHIP**

Pastor Paul closed the meeting with prayer.

**SESSION ADJOURNED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45.

**ATTEST:**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carla J. White".

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Carla J. White, Clerk of Session