

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

September 19, 2017

The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Sheridan, Wyoming convened a regular meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 at 6:57 p.m. in Westminster Fellowship Hall. Pastor Paul Hayden, Transition Pastor, moderated the meeting.

QUORUM

Ex Officio: Pastor Paul Hayden, Financial Secretary Dennis Heizer, and CJ Clem, Minister to Youth and Children

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

Elders absent: Aaron Gray, Tina Anderson

Guests present: Dick Birkholz and Alicia Ford, representatives of Camp Story

WORSHIP

Pastor Paul opened the meeting with prayer.

INTRODUCTION

Pastor Paul led a discussion on passages he presented at the wedding of Alex and Samantha Burtis. The messages were of kindness, health, passion, and forgiveness as God in Christ has forgiven us. Also, letting the peace of Christ dwell in you richly. We must let go, let the peace of Christ dwell in our hearts was also in the message.

AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report and minutes of the last session meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial reports were received. Dennis Heizer presented and explained them. A motion was made and seconded to accept them, and the motion carried. Dennis Heizer presented and explained them. The September Balance Sheet reflects the following:

Total assets:	\$3,795,652.58
Total liabilities:	\$ 53,239.78

Reserves (Retained Earnings): 76,044.41

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

August Income: \$18,289.07

August Expense: \$33,645.09

August Net Loss: - \$15,356.02

YTD Net Loss: - \$21,665.58

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget Finance & Stewardship September 12, 2017

Beth Bailey reported and referred to the written report. Session action requested:

1. Accept financial reports as presented. They were accepted by session and evidence is in the Treasurer's report.
2. Requested authorization to sell 11.202 gold ounces, plus one gold coin in our possession under safekeeping in our safe deposit box. It was moved, seconded and carried by session to give permission to sell them at \$1311.00 per ounce or above. The gold was originally gifted to the church.

Beth reported about on our completed audit with Jamie Newbrough of Ruski, Marshall, Newbrough CPA's. There were only minor findings during the audit. She asked that budget worksheets be returned by the October meeting of the committee. She also suggested amortization categories be made in the budget for large and ongoing expenses.

Personnel September 12, 2017

The written report presented by Jon Botten reflected no action taken or requested by committee. He reported they are receiving back evaluation forms from employees as required. He reported the new choir director search is ongoing. Louise Semino is covering until such time as a new one is hired.

Fellowship September 12, 2017

Dennis Schreffler reported. Please refer to the written committee report for detail on activities. He reiterated that Pastor Paul will start small study groups on Oct. 8th. Dennis also reported that in an effort to recruit potential new members to committees, Nov. 5th has been designated "Committee Fair Day" at the church. The date was chosen as it is a communion Sunday and there will only be one worship. Each committee will sponsor a booth and posters designed to educate the congregation regarding the function of each committee to potential new members. In addition there will be a cookie contest among the committees for "best cookie". Session approval was given for the date of the event.

Properties September 12, 2017

Doug Moore reported. No session action was requested. Doug reported that we have learned our building is not up to fire code for long term use of non-church groups such as Head Start or any future preschool. Pastor Paul indicated he was searching for possible grants which could help fund upgrades and will research them. He reported on billing issues with our air condition repair and Kubota tractor lawn tractor repair. Oct. 28th is road and ditch clean up. Jerry Saunders reported we have an infestation of yellow jackets in the columbarium. We will take care of this problem.

Membership and Evangelism September 12, 2017

Mary Ludemann reported and referred to the written report. No session action was requested. Mary reported business cards have been order for distribution to new attendees at church. Next new member classes may be after Thanksgiving and after church studies are complete.

Mission and Outreach September 12, 2017

Peggy Blaha reported and referred to the written report. The committee requested no session action. She reported \$2,500.00 has been sent to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund, with the money coming from the endowment fund. The committee is asking for a volunteer for the Angel Tree Project which will be upcoming soon. The Little Red School House funds will be going to Big Horn Schools.

Worship September 12, 2017

Jeri Joy reported. No session action was requested. She reported the committee is working to resolve some unfinished business with ComTech, who installed with our sound system. The choir has started up with 20 members, and the bell choir with only three. The committee hopes we can get online sermon service going in the near future.

Christian Education September 12, 2017

Janis DeVore reported. No action was requested from session. She reported packets will be given to children during children's time at worship since Sunday School is not being offered at this time. There will be a three prong approach to learning with the packets: to learn scripture, showing LOGOS to be thematic, and the learning of leadership skills. LOGOs has started and will be held on Wednesday nights at various times for the ages attending. October 8th is the kick off of the church wide small group study entitled "What do Presbyterians Believe?" It will last six weeks and will cover 10 core beliefs the first two weeks, then will address church leaders, then two weeks on spiritual gifts, and conclude with a yet to be determined topic. All bible study groups will become small groups of around 12 persons. At this time we have over 70 people signed up for the studies. Many time slots are available as to accommodate as many members as possible.

Presbyterian Women September 2017

No report was presented.

C.J. Clem, Minister to Youth and Children Report September 2017

C.J. presented a written report. She detailed many activities and meetings. She reported that we will most likely have a youth mission trip to Houston or another Texas location in the spring or summer. She reported a total of 14 kids who attended the first LOGOS session. There will be a Chili Cook Off on Jan. 21st.

Pastor Paul's Report September 2017

Pastor Paul presented an oral report. He listed many events in which he participated this month. These included 21 visits, 19 church related events, 7 community events, Presbytery, 6 Worships, 7 classes, counseling and one wedding. Additionally, he will be going to a prayer retreat in Cody. He reported that an insurance claim for Bethany Hunter has been processed with the church insurer. Bethany injured her arm on church property. He reported on visits to Scott Hollingsworth, who is recovering from heart surgery.

Other Business

Pastor Paul reported Betty Frey, long time member, has passed away. He indicated Chris Smith's mother recently passed away also.

CAMP STORY DISCUSSION

A general report on Camp Story was given by Dick Birkholz and Alicia Ford. Dick also introduced Alicia Ford as the new Camp Story director. Dick indicated that around \$38,000 was raised this summer through campers (\$16,000) and rentals (\$22,000). A complete financial report was not available. He reported that we have received \$40,000 of a matching grant. Dick also detailed capital improvements both finished and to be done in the future. Alicia reported there will be theme camps next summer, and some camps will be offered more than once. The goal is to have 150 campers next summer. She reported camps will be set by late November and fliers sent to churches by mid-December. She will be visiting ministerial associations in various towns to promote the camp.

REFLECTION

WORSHIP

Pastor Paul asked that we end our meeting by going into the sanctuary and be seated in small numbered groups for an exercise. The purpose of the exercise was to explore questions and answers for questions Paul posed to us about new persons interested in our church. How we can best answer questions to those people and make them understand what our church and ministry can offer them. He gave us three different categories of possible interested persons: a) a retirement age (or nearing retirement) couple, b) a family seeking a church, c) a "seeker". Our ideas and answers were explored together in group discussion at the end. The exercise

gave structure and information to each session member as to how to attract and answer inquiries on the part of interested persons. Pastor Paul Hayden closed the meeting in prayer.

SESSION ADJOURNED

The meeting adjourned at 9:10.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carla J. White". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Carla J. White, Clerk of Session