



## First Presbyterian Church of Sheridan, Wyoming

### Minutes of Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 27, 2019

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#### MEETING

The Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Sheridan, Wyoming convened a special meeting on **Sunday, January 27, 2019** at 11:45 A.M. in Westminster Hall. Interim Pastor Paul Hayden moderated.

#### QUORUM

Pastor Paul opened the meeting with **prayer** following a potluck luncheon. Pastor Paul also wished Mary Holstedt and Dr. Jerry Saunders a very "Happy Birthday."

Pastor Paul declared there was a quorum.

#### DOCKET

The docket was explained and **approved**. The minutes of the last congregational meeting were approved by session one year ago. The moderator asked for the congregation to give approval also. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the congregational minutes from 2018. As a matter of note, our church is 115 years old this year.

#### CLERK OF SESSION REPORT

Active Members as of 01/01/18	299
New Members Joining in 2018	2
Deaths and Dropped from the Rolls	6
Active Members as of 12/31/18	295

#### MEMORIALS FOR 2018

Bill Davis	January 6, 2018
William H. Porter	June 28, 2018
Jean Walters	November 15, 2018
Jane Giese	November 17, 2018
Karen Warren	December 11, 2018
Dorothy Shrum	December 28, 2018

## 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, 2018 cash was \$155,014.07. Special funds are \$98,633.69. An amount of \$25,000.00 was transferred this year from Reserves to a Pastor Nominating Committee account. Any unused portion of that figure remaining in the account will be transferred back to Reserves after all new pastor expenses have been paid. There was a net gain of \$18,572.11 for 2018.

Financial Secretary Dennis Heizer reviewed the budget for 2019. Tithes and Offerings and other incomes are estimated to be \$348,385 for 2019, projecting a balanced budget. Session sets the budget for the church. A motion was made by Jeri Joy to receive the financial reports. It was seconded by Carla White, and the motion carried.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Nominating Committee:** Jim Blaha reported. The Nominating Committee was hard at work this past year as we added eleven nine elders who were installed in December.

Our By Laws indicate we should have 21 elders serving each session period. For the record, the following persons will serve as session members, and the date of expiration of their term follows their name:

### Current members:

Tina Anderson – 2019  
Beth Bailey – 2019  
Jeri Joy – 2019  
Doug Moore – 2019  
Judy Garber – 2019  
Linnet McGoodwin – 2019  
Tod Windsor - 2020  
Kathy Lundberg - 2020  
Jim Lyon - 2020  
Carol Davis - 2020  
Jean Morgen - 2020  
Doug Beagle -2020

### Newly elected members:

Brett Burtis - 2019 (1 year term)  
Shelley Cundiff – 2021 (3 year term)  
Howie Fitzpatrick – 2021 (3 year term)  
Beth Lenz – 2021 (3 year term)  
Jerilea Phillips – 2021 (3 year term)  
Chris Smith – 2021 (3 year term)  
Kim Wells - 2021 (3 year term )  
Teresa Williams – 2021 (3 year term) renewed her term  
Cheryl Kelsey – 2021 (replaces Gareth Dixon -resigned)

A new Nominating Committee was also formed for the year 2019 and the following agreed to serve and were elected from the congregation: **Becky Motsick, Peggy Blaha and Rhea Dixon.** A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the nominations from the congregation to the Nominating Committee. Two more members must be elected from session at the next session meeting.

**Pastor Nominating Committee:** Doug Moore reported. He thanked the committee members. They are Carla White, Carol Maloy, Jim Blaha, Marian Reed, Amy Turpin, Doug Moore, Kim Kozel, Rex Arney and Jeri Joy. He reported the Church Leadership Connection has sent us over

90 matching Personal Information Forms (PIFs). The committee has identified several possible candidates and are preparing for interviews. Additionally, he thanked Pastor Paul for guidance.

**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 reported the church had a net gain of \$18,572. Special gifts throughout the year included \$15,469 in gold coins, \$2,500 for the new sound board, \$9,123 designated for building maintenance and \$10,000 from the Don DeLapp Trust. Memorials were allocated to a number of projects and members continued to financially support Camp Story. She also reported a good financial review from our auditors. The overall financial success of the church is the result of the commitment by every member, friend and staff providing their gifts including time, talents and finances, she reminded everyone.

**Worship:** Loren Ruttinger referred to his written report. 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 people 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. Louise also serves as bell choir director.

We continue to offer worship at Elmcroft Retirement Living. Duties have been split with Paul Hayden, Jan Leupold, Lorrie Ledgerwood and Loren Ruttinger. Sound system operation has been going well. We have replaced the sound board and will be replacing the keyboard soon. Lorrie Ledgerwood continues to secure and arrange communion servers each month. Homebound communion is still offered to those members who cannot attend church. It is a very meaningful part of their lives and they are deeply grateful for this ministry, and connecting them to their church family.

Pastor Paul has continued to provide exceptionally inspirational and spirit filled sermons to the congregation. The congregation and church leaders are extremely grateful for them. As an interim pastor his leadership has been exceptional, and we have experienced spiritual growth with each of his sermons, study classes and fellowship opportunities.

Ted Knapp, Tod Windsor, Craig Clem and Jae Satterlee have worked tirelessly to improve the operation of the projector and screen for visuals.

**Fellowship:** Kathy Lundberg referred to the written report. Kathy thanked the committee members for all their work this year, as well as members of the congregation who make activities possible. This committee is known as the "Fun Development" committee. Their goal is to bring people together through a variety of activities and events in order to strengthen our relationship with Jesus Christ and each other, His family. Kathy spoke of many of the activities of the past year and told of upcoming ones.

**Properties:** Doug Moore reported, and referred to the written report. We have an aging building, and have recognized the need to set up accrual fund accounts to be used to accumulate monies for building costs and issues which are likely to occur in the future. Doug thanked the many volunteers who helped to do committee work this year. Highlights of the year's activities include sprinkler system update and expansions, service contract for HVAC maintenance, sewer system repairs, fire code updates, tractor repairs, installation of keyless

entry system, and columbarium plans. Future plans include establishing comprehensive capital improvement and maintenance plans, boiler evaluation assessment and parking lot repairs.

**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. Sunday School was restored and revitalized in 2018. Additionally CE provides support for Camp Story, LOGOS and Triennium involvement. Jim Lyon and Teresa Williams have led Logos this year. Church Youth have had various fundraising activities this year to raise money to go to Triennium. Church-wide small group studies were held this year, as well as a church-wide Lenten study. All were well attended.

**Mission:** Doug Beagle spoke and referred to the written report. Additionally he explained that the committee has worked very hard doing many things this year. He indicated mission giving from this church during the year totaled \$31,159. Many checks were issued to organizations this year and they were listed on the written report. Unified Mission support was split with 80% (\$16,800) going to Presbytery of Wyoming and 20% (\$4,200) going to General Assembly. A table showing expenditures to special funds was included in the report, with a total of \$6,737. He also reported the sale of 345 bags of Just Coffee for a total of \$3,275. The Angel Tree Project was changed this year to include purchase of books for teachers and schools. The project was very successful, as about 118 books were purchased by congregation members for four new teachers. Mission work, no matter how large or small, makes a tremendous difference in the lives of people. Doug passionately told a story about making a difference and it follows:

### **The Starfish Story**

A man was walking along a deserted beach at sunset. As he walked he could see a young boy in the distance, as he drew nearer he noticed that the boy kept bending down, picking something up and throwing it into the water. Time and again he kept hurling things into the ocean. As the man approached even closer, he was able to see that the boy was picking up starfish that had been washed up on the beach and, one at a time he was throwing them back into the water. The man asked the boy what he was doing, the boy replied, "I am throwing these washed up starfish back into the ocean, or else they will die through lack of oxygen. "But", said the man, "You can't possibly save them all, there are thousands on this beach, and this must be happening on hundreds of beaches along the coast. You can't possibly make a difference." The boy smiled, bent down and picked up another starfish, and as he threw it back into the sea, he replied, " **But it made a difference to that one.**"

**Membership & Evangelism:** Tina Anderson referred to the written report. Tina introduced and thanked committee members for their hard work. Tina gave special thanks to long term committee members of the past, Marjorie Windsor and Jeanette Trohkimoinen who have worked hard over the years on the committee. Linda Johnson has joined the committee and will help coordinate funeral dinners. Jean Morgen is a valuable committee member as well. Additionally she described the duties of the committee. She reported the numbers of new and removed members, and they are the same numbers shown in the Clerk of Session report above. As of January 1, 2019, our total membership is 295. She reported the committee has spent substantial time in cleaning up the church rolls, so they reflect accurate numbers.

**Technology & Communications:** Tod Windsor reported. The committee has been working to upgrade technology infrastructure and enhance the effectiveness of all church communications. Upgrades were made to internet speed and capacity and it is wired

throughout the church now. The analog soundboard mixer was replaced with a digital one. Sound is much improved in the sanctuary. Upgrades were also made to provide for increased reliability of A/V presentations in the sanctuary. A new logo was created for the church, and a managed website for greater web presence.

**Personnel:** A written report was included in the packet and presented by Teresa Williams. She thanked her committee members and employees of the church. The committee's biggest task this year was revising all staff job descriptions. CJ Clem's title was changed to Coordinator of Family and Student Programs. Pastor Paul now oversees all staff. Because interim pastors are hired by session pursuant to an employment contract, there is no need to present the customary Pastor's Terms of Call for approval by the congregation at the annual meeting.

**Presbyterian Women:** Sharon Brown reported. PW is a vital part of our church family. All women of the church are invited and encouraged to attend the monthly PW events. Sharon Browne and Sherry Laughton were co-moderators for 2018. Many worthwhile programs and business meetings were presented throughout the year. Two successful ABC sales were held. Sharon explained that no products go to waste from these two events. Memorial services were held for four women who entered the Church Triumphant in 2018. They were Rosemary Brouwer, Marge Jenrich, Lois Morton, Joanne Kemper and Betty Frey. PW has provided treats for coffee fellowship for many years. That task will now be offered to all congregation members on Sundays of their choice. Sign-up sheets are available. Donations to many local missions were made. PW is rooted in faith and offers their gifts and talents as guided by the Holy Spirit for the mission of the church.

**LOGOS:** Jim Lyon referred to the written report and gave an oral one. He report attendance average of seven students in the spring of 2018. However, in the fall, meeting times were changed to the second and fourth Sunday afternoons/evenings, and attendance went up to an average of sixteen. In the spring 2019 semester, activities scheduled will be forty-five minutes in duration. Jim Lyon and Teresa Williams served as co-directors for Logos

**Coordinator of Family and Student Programs:** C.J. Clem referred to her written report and gave an oral one also. She reported on many activities which took place this year. Again she invited participation from the congregation to assist. She reported eight children are going through confirmation studies. Darcy Lyon accepted the call to be Sunday School Superintendent.

**Pastor Paul's Report:** Pastor Paul presented a written report and addressed the congregation, summing up his time with us as interim pastor. He spoke of the hills and plateaus of our church and spiritual life, and the work we have done together in the past twenty one months. He spoke of the mission study work, our bible study classes, and our times of fellowship and mission. He thanked the congregation for being warm and welcoming to him and to Terri. He spoke of their love of the time they have spent with our church. He spoke of the foundation we have laid and what may come to the church in our future.

To quote Paul, "As a result of what we have done, I pray we are renewed, stronger, better focused and excited for what is ahead. I am reminded of St. Paul's words in Philippians 3:13b-15, this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you."

Certainly, we do not know what lies ahead, only the good Lord does know. And all of us can participate and experience the blessing of being part of God's work.

Members thanked Pastor Paul for the outstanding work he had done, and the care and concern he put into helping us to transition to a new permanent pastor.

**Election of Corporate Trustees:** The following people were nominated as trustees: **President – Carla White; Vice President – Carol Maloy - Secretary – Linnet McGoodwin, Treasurer – Peggy Blaha.** Nominations were called for from the floor. There were none. Kathy Lundberg made the motion to elect the nominated slate. Scott Hollingsworth seconded it, and the motion carried. The corporate meeting was called for this purpose only, and the congregational meeting briefly adjourned to complete the business, and later reconvened.

**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 90 campers in various camps last summer. That is up by 30 from the previous summer. This was a year of improving the appearance and function of Camp Story. The interiors of the dining hall, the chapel, the Sheridan cabin and the Wolves Den Cabin were finished. A new deck was added to the front of the lodge. Two cabins have been started for the cook and other staff. A "Heart of God" reflection area has been started and will include engraved bricks made available by purchase. A volleyball court has been dug out, a 20x30 garage and also a picnic shelter are being planned.

The current lease expires in September 2020. A team has been appointed by Presbytery Council to recommend a new lease. Rental and camper fees have fallen short of expectations. There are still enough funds to cover the next two to three years if income does not change. They are working on increasing rentals and campers. Currently, they have been running a deficit of about \$20 to 25K in 2018. The plan is to be even in funding by the start of the next lease.

#### **Other Business:**

#### **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.

Pastor Paul closed the meeting with a motion by Peggy Blaha which was seconded and carried. Prayer was offered by Pastor Paul. The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.

#### **ATTEST:**



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Carla J. White, Clerk of Session