

January 16, 2012 Stated Session Meeting

Session met for its monthly meeting on January 12, 2012 from 7:00 to 9:30 pm in room 7.

Elders present: Leona Bernard, Becky Brown, Charlie Cleneay, Sheri DeGrace, Sharon Dickson, Kendra Folh, Steve Glasgow, Nancy Hamilton, Sue Maple, Dick Meyer, and Theodora Pounds

Staff present: Nora Fitch and Christy Gurley

Church Officers present: Fred Hamilton, Clerk

Guests present: David Goodall, Susan Grant, and John Woodhouse – retiring elders of the Class of 2011; Boone Vastine; and Justin Smith (electrical contractor)

A quorum was present and the meeting was called to order by moderator Nora Fitch. Nora opened the meeting with prayer and Dick Meyer presented a reflection on the importance of leadership. This was followed by discussion regarding pastoral joys and concerns.

Clerk's report: Session approved the minutes from the December 12, 2011 regular session meeting; December 18, 2011 congregational meeting; and January 4, 2012 called session meeting. Session approved a letter of transfer for the Kumars to Pines Presbyterian Church.

Treasurer's report: The December financial reports were distributed electronically. Through the end of 2011, \$67,660 in contributions was received above pledges (due primarily to a large end-of-year donation). Total income and expenditures for 2011 were approximately \$515,000 and \$444,600, respectively. Capital campaign contributions and expenditures as of December 31, 2011 were approximately \$249,000 and \$162,000, respectively.

Pastor's report: Session received the pastor's report.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministries report: Session received Christy Gurley's report. Key points from her report included:

- The Children's Worship program is going very well.
- Prayers were asked for a possible Children's Choir including a volunteer to lead it.
- Ten youth will be attending the Presbyterian Conclave at Cho Yeh the first weekend in March; a male chaperone is still needed.
- Session approved the recommendation that youth lead the service and serve communion via intinction on May 6.
- Session approved the recommendation that the youth participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring on February 5 and allow them to collect money and food donations for the St. Thomas food pantry.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- a) **Sanctuary Lighting:** Justin Smith (Electrical design contractor) updated session on the status of the sanctuary lighting project. While new bids were solicited, no additional bids were submitted – due to difficulty of working with an old system, limited specifications that do not allow for substitutions, and the height of the ceiling. We still have the original bid. Justin's company will submit an inclusive bid. Installation of the new lights could be done by Easter.

- b) **Elder Resignation:** Session received the resignation of Brenda Thompson.
- c) **New Members:** Session joyfully received new members Richard and Bonnie Swersey and Jim Fitch.
- d) **Congregational Meeting:** Session approved calling a congregation meeting on Sunday, February 5 to receive the 2011 annual report, present the 2012 budget, elect Boone Vastine as a ruling elder to fill an unexpired two-year term in the class of 2013, elect the congregational members for the 2012 Nominating Committee, and amend the St. Thomas Presbyterian Church bylaws to reflect changes in the Book of Order 2011/2013.
- e) **Presbytery Meeting:** Session elected Becky Brown and Sheri DeGrace as commissioners for the Saturday, February 11, 2012 Presbytery meeting at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church.
- f) **Installation Worship Service:** Session approved the installation service for Rev. Dr. Nora Fitch as Designated Pastor on February 19 at 4 pm.
- g) **2012 Budget:** Session approved the 2012 proposed budget of \$478,225.
- h) **Personnel:** Dick Meyer reported that staff salaries will be evaluated in the second quarter of 2012, to become effective in the summer, and to include a merit component.
- i) **Membership rolls:** Session tabled voting on the Membership Committee's report, dated December 12, 2011, until members in question are sent letters regarding their standing.
- j) **Committee Structure and Elder Assignments:** The session approved the new structure and assignments as proposed by Sheri DeGrace, Nora Fitch, Dick Meyer and Theodora Pounds, which included consolidating committees under the essential elements of the vision for 2012. The new committee structure and elders are as follows:

Committee	Chair/Co-Chairs	Areas of Responsibility	Staff Liaison
Discipleship	Kendra Folh Sharon Dickson 3 rd elder position to be filled by elder replacing Brenda Thompson	Adult Ministry, Family Ministries	Kay Cronk, Christy Gurley
Worship	Becky Brown Sheri DeGrace	Worship, Visual Arts, Prayer	Nora Fitch
Outreach	Nancy Hamilton Theodora Pounds	Mission, Evangelism, Communication, Boy Scout Troop	Nora Fitch
Nurture and Care	Leona Bernard Sue Maple	Small Groups, Congregational Care, Fellowship	Kay Cronk
Property	Charlie Cleney	Property	Nora Fitch
Stewardship/ Finance	Steve Glasgow	Stewardship, Finance	Nora Fitch
Personnel	Dick Meyer	Personnel	Nora Fitch

- k) **Pentecost Celebration:** Session approved the worship committee's recommendation that the celebration be held on Sunday, May 20, 2012 (instead of May 27, which is Memorial Day weekend and Mo Ranch weekend).
- l) **Boy Scout Sunday:** Session approved the worship committee's recommendation that Scout Sunday be observed on February 19 or 26 (depending on the Boy Scout Troop's input).
- m) **Good Friday Service:** The worship committee reported that the Good Friday service be held at 6:30 pm on Friday, April 6.
- n) **Ash Wednesday:** The worship committee reported that the Ash Wednesday service will be on February 22 at 7 pm.
- o) **Acolytes:** The worship committee is initiating a monthly child/youth acolyte program on the first Sunday of each month.
- p) **Immunization Clinics:** St. Thomas will be partnering with Children Foundation's Care Van Program to provide quarterly immunization clinics again in 2012 on February 21, May 15, August 21, and November 13 from 4 to 6:30 pm.
- q) **Class of 2011:** A slide presentation was shown highlighting the service of the retiring elders of the Class of 2011: David Goodall, Jr., Susan Grant, Patty Koontz, Vicki White and John C. Woodhouse. The session thanked them for their service.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Valentine Soup, Sandwich and Chocolate Fountain: February 12
 Dr. Rev. Nora Fitch's Installation Service: February 19 at 4pm
 Boy Scout Sunday: February 19 or 26
 Congregational Care: Monthly Ministry Focus for February

Nora closed the meeting in prayer. The next scheduled Session meeting will be on Monday, February 13, 2012, at 7 pm in Room 7.

Yours in Christ,

Theodora Pounds, on behalf of the entire Session

If you have comments or suggestions regarding this report, please contact Theodora Pounds or any other Session member.

Leona Bernard, Nurture and Care	Becky Brown, Worship	Charlie Cleneay, Property
Sheri DeGrace, Worship	Sharon Dickson, Discipleship	Kendra Folh, Discipleship
Steve Glasgow, Stewardship/Finance	Nancy Hamilton, Outreach	Sue Maple, Nurture and Care
Dick Meyer, Personnel	Theodora Pounds, Outreach	