

August 9, 2010 Stated Session Meeting

Session met for its monthly meeting on August 9, 2010 from 7:00 pm to 9:45 pm in room 7.

Elders present: Leona Bernard, Becky Brown, Sheri DeGrace, Susan Grant, Patty Koontz, Richard McLean, Donnie Rice, Mark Ridgaway, Vicki White, and John Woodhouse

Elders excused: David Goodall, Jr., Nancy Hamilton, Dick Meyer, and Tabitha Wagner

Staff present: Tom Atkins

Church Officers present: none

Guests present: Dennis Cornwell and Deb Unruh

A quorum was present and the meeting was called to order by moderator Tom Atkins. Pastor Tom opened the meeting with prayer and Patty Koontz presented a devotional on accepting, nourishing and using our talents based on Luke 12:48. This was followed by discussion regarding comments from the congregation and/or staff and pastoral joys and concerns.

Clerk's Report: Session approved the minutes from the July session meeting.

Treasurer's report: no report

Children, Youth, and Family Ministries Report: Session received Christy Gurley's report and approved the following action items:

- classes & leaders as listed in the report
- Leah White to sell CDs at the Fall Festival with a portion of her proceeds going to Children's Ministry (note: Leah will be singing in worship and during the Fall Kick-Off on September 12th).
- Approval for youth who are regular participants in worship to distribute bread on World Communion Sunday.

Pastor's Report: Tom's written report was received by the session. Action items from that report are outlined below.

Adult Ministry Report: Dennis Cornwell presented his report which included a listing of all the Adult Ministry offerings for the fall. Included in the report are

- Two Sunday School classes: Discipleship, Part II, led by Boone Vastine and Dennis Cornwell; and Great Characters of the Bible led by Hobert Plunkett, Sheri DeGrace and two other leaders TBD.
- Wednesday Bible Study led by Pastor Tom: Tom has chosen a video series called "When Christians Get It Wrong" to use as the basis of his Wednesday Bible Study offering at 11 AM and 7:15 PM beginning September 22nd.

- **Special Sunday AM classes:** On October 3rd and 10th, Tom has secured the services of Rev. Dr. Andy Dearman of the Fuller Theological Seminary extension here in Houston to do a study on Hosea. Dr. Dearman will be publishing a book on the topic this fall. This class should be very interesting for the congregation and will provide an excellent outreach opportunity for STPC.

All classes and leaders were approved by Session.

Dennis also updated Session on plans for the Fall Kick-Off which will be held during the Sunday School hour and after worship on September 12th.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Donnie Rice reported that the committee has asked members of the congregation to nominate individuals to serve on Session in the class of 2013. A congregational meeting to vote on the committee's nominations is scheduled for 9/26.

PRAYER COMMITTEE

Deb Unruh provided an overview of the first three Prayer Services. The average attendance has been around twelve, including two visitors. (one person responded to the sign message); she feels that the services have gone very well to date.

The Prayer Booklet III which includes pictures of hands being washed that were taken by Allyn Dukes is available. The theme is washing and cleansing the soul.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Master Schedule (Tom Atkins):** Tom suggested that committee chairs and staff meet semiannually to create a master church schedule. Tom will organize the first meeting for this fall.
- Capital Campaign Progress Report (Rich McLean, Mark Ridgaway, and J. C. Woodhouse):** Mark and Rich will make the presentation to the congregation on August 15th. Letters/pledge cards will be mailed to the congregation on Saturday, the 14th. Dedication Sunday is the 29th. Total amount pledged will be announced on September 12th with the celebration BBQ to follow on September 26.
- Presbytery Day of Service project report (Sheri DeGrace as reported in church on Sunday):** A van full of new items was delivered to Houston Area Women's Center on Saturday, the 7th. St. Thomas was very generous.
- Giving visitor's names to ushers and greeters (Worship - Vicki White and Becky Brown):** Becky asked that the Membership Committee (and anyone else who meets visitors) pass on visitor names to Becky and Vicki (usher coordinators) who will then pass the names on to ushers.
- MAM request for space to teach two ESL classes (Tom Atkins) –** Session supports this idea providing that certain issues are addressed. These include child care, crowd

control, availability of rooms, and access to buildings. Tom will contact MAM with these questions. There was no formal motion voted on at this meeting.

- f. **Soundboard operators** - Session suggested that we try to recruit volunteers to help run the audio/visual equipment on Sunday mornings.
- g. **Fire Alarm permits due and infractions fixed before August 19th (Mark Ridgaway):** If we are not in compliance we could be fined as much as \$2000. Status: The fire alarm has been installed and Mark is working with ADT to have it monitored.
- h. **AED Equipment (Tom Atkins):** The Philips-brand AED with cabinet and extra keys costs \$1,503.98. The order will be placed this week.

Pastor Tom closed the meeting with prayer at 9:45 pm.

Yours in Christ,
 Sheri DeGrace, on behalf of the entire Session

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

Leona Bernard, Fellowship	Becky Brown, Worship	Sheri DeGrace, Communications
David Goodall, Jr., Youth	Susan Grant, Membership	Nancy Hamilton, Mission
Patty Koontz, Fellowship	Rich McLean, Stewardship & Finance	Dick Meyer, Adult Ministries & Personnel
Donnie Rice, Evangelism	Mark Ridgaway, Property	Tabitha Wagner, Membership
Vick White, Worship	John C. Woodhouse, Stewardship & Finance	

The next scheduled Session meeting will be on Monday, September 13, at 7 pm in Room 7.