

MINUTES

STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION Room 222 South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church Jacksonville, Florida December 19th, 2011

The moderator, Dr. Vincent Kolb, called the regularly stated meeting of the Session of South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church to order at 7:00 pm on December 19th, 2011.

Elder John Ranney gave the devotional and opened the meeting with prayer.

Rev. Takis led the Session in its Covenant of Leadership

A quorum was declared by the clerk.

Attending were:

Class of 2011

Ray Adams
Laurie Ballasso
Marilyn Carpenter

Steve Coates
David Dunkley Jr.
Auburn McClure
John Ranney

Class of 2012

Beverly Campbell

Coleman Hawk
Greg McMillan
Benford Samuels
Connie Smith

Class of 2013

Jim Campbell

Kelly King
Anthony Mortimer

Susan Waldeck

Also attending: Dr. Vincent Kolb, Moderator, Rev. Susan Takis, and newly elected elders: Charlie Eddins, Carol Meek, Brendan Ranney, & Judy Tygart

Excused absences: Dick Cheatwood, Cheryl Dore, and Mitch Turknett Absent: Merry-Carol Duce

Motion and second to adopt the docket. **Motion carried.**

Motion and second to approve the amended minutes of the Stated Meeting of November 21st, 2011.

EXAMINATION OF ELDERS: Charlie Eddins, Carol Meek, Brendan Ranney, Judy Tygart

- Dr. Kolb welcomed the newly elected elders and reminded the Session that the additional newly elected elders - Laurie Ballasso, Kelly Flythe, and Jim Montgomery - had been previously examined and ordained.
- Each of the newly elected elders was asked about the essential tenant that spoke to them most.
- They were also asked to name SJPC's greatest strengths and weaknesses.
 - Strengths included the involvement, growth, quality and commitment of the youth and the youth program; and the worship services.
 - Weaknesses included the fact that we are essentially all white, the youth are involved in activities but not in worship, and many of our shut-ins are being forgotten.
- Motion and second to approve the examination of C. Eddins, C. Meek, B. Ranney, and J. Tygart with the ordination/installation service to be on January 8th, 2012 at both services. **Motion carried.**

CLERK'S REPORT: Greg McMillan

- The Statistical Information since the last meeting shows 2 baptisms, 1 new member by letter of transfer, and 1 death.
- Communion was served on December 4th.
- Motion & second to approve the serving of communion at the Session meeting on December 19th. **Motion carried.**
- Motion & second to approve the serving of communion on January 1st at the 11AM service. **Motion carried.**
- Motion & second to approve the serving of communion at the Session meeting on January 23rd, 2012. **Motion carried.**

ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT: Rev. Susan Takis

- Rev. Takis reminded the Session of the new Wholly Wednesday classes that will be offered beginning in January, and that Presbytery Exec. Paul Hooker will reprise his class on the new Book of Order/Form of Government at the Presbytery's Spring Enrichment to be held in March at Camp Montgomery.

MODERATOR'S REPORT: Dr. Vincent Kolb

- Dr. Kolb reviewed the Strategic Plan and highlighted where the church has made considerable progress:
 - Youth programming (We-Tweens, LOGOS, children and youth) numbers are up.
 - Communication efforts are increased due to multi-media efforts.
 - The Site Plan is addressing a more approachable and accessible church.
 - We are being better stewards by lessening the use of paper products at dinners.
 - The daily devotional reaches many outside our walls.
 - We continue to look at restructuring Sunday Mornings and find creative non-traditional ways to worship at Ten @ 10.
 - We continue to re-examine programs and services to determine where or not they are working and should continue.
 - We have increased our interaction externally through programs like Solace for the Children, ICARE, and even the baseball game and pulpit exchange with Woodlawn.
 - Will implement a new Session committee structure in 2012.
- Reminded the Session that although a lot of the Strategic Plan had been addressed, not all of it had. And that the plan was essentially to last from 2009-2012.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Leadership & Administration: Laurie Ballasso

- Moved that the Session approve the revision of the Preschool By-Laws. **Motion carried**
 - The revision will allow for a more manageable and efficient executive group with subcommittees.
- Moved that the Session elect Greg McMillan as Clerk of the Session for 2012. **Motion carried**
- Moved that the Session elect Benford Samuels as the church attorney for 2012, **Motion carried**
- Moved that the Session elect Benford Samuels and Greg McMillan as commissioners to Presbytery for 2012. **Motion carried**
- Moved that the Session approve the restructuring of the 8 Session Committees into 11 Areas of Ministry Concentrations.
 - Lengthy discussion surrounding this motion centered on communicating the change to the congregation and soliciting support in the form of volunteers for the Ministries.
 - Each Session member will be asked to submit his/her passion for the Ministry Concentrations.
 - **Motion carried**

Evangelism: Susan Waldeck

- No report. .

Buildings & Grounds: David Dunkley, Jr.

- Reported that the sanctuary windows' repair is complete; Performance Painting has completed the painting of the interior of the sanctuary and are painting the Prayer Chapel and hall; and the committee has a plan to repair or replace the Steeple Cross.

Stewardship & Finance: Steve Coates

- Moved that the Session approve the replacement of the windows in the Counseling Center building with vinyl clad new windows – cost not to exceed \$16,000 taken out of future Repairs and Replacements. **Motion carried**
- Moved that the Session approve the use of up to \$20,000 of Capital Campaign funds, previously set aside for “addressing “ the Thacker Avenue entrance to the Sanctuary, to fund the next phase of the Site Plan initiative which will address the Thacker Avenue Entrance. **Motion carried**
- Gave the Session a 2012 Pledge update: 164 units have pledged \$612,500. There could be as much as \$85,000 outstanding from 2011 pledging units that have not pledged yet for 2012. The \$670,000 base line for the 2012 budget may be within sight.

Worship: Greg McMillan

- No Report.

Christian Education:

- No Report.

Mission & Outreach: Ray Adams

- No committee report but brought the information about the International Mission Trip to Guatemala.
 - Considerable discussion including:
 - The process and the lack of Session involvement.
 - The lack of response so far – resulting in delayed deadlines
 - Vetting process and the safety of the final decision.
 - Insurance and the Session's/Church's responsibility.
 - Ultimately, the Session requested more information be made available including answers to the questions about insurance and the safety of the location. At least one of the Youth Directors will be available to respond to questions at the January meeting.

Congregational Care: Auburn McClure

- Reported that the new church photo directories are here and being distributed and the phone tree has been updated

PRESCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD: Laurie Ballasso

- In addition to the new structure, reported that the standard for infant cribs has changed and although on order, we will NOT be in compliance because the crib manufacturers' demands have far exceeded inventory.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A letter to the originator of the PW's "A Gift from one Generation to the Next" will be sent stating several concerns that need to be addressed before the Session can act upon the request.
- The Building Usage Policy will be addressed at a later time.
- Beverly Campbell reported on the Special Meeting of the Presbytery of St. Augustine which was held on December 8th. The Presbytery voted in favor of empowering the moderator, stated clerk, and the moderator of the Committee on Ministry to name an administrative commission to visit the Orange Park Presbyterian Church, and to inquire into and settle difficulties therein. Several members of the commission are well known at SJPC: Sandra Hedrick, Bill Hoff, and Cynthia Montgomery (moderator).

NEW BUSINESS:

- None

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

- The Session recognized the outgoing class of elders and thanked them for their service over the past several years. Many went above and beyond the call of duty and dealt with a variety of difficult topics and decisions. Those rotating off include: Ray Adams, Marilyn Carpenter, Dick Cheatwood, Steve Coates, David Dunkley, Jr., Auburn McClure, and John Ranney. Laurie Ballasso was also thanked not only for her 3 years of service but also for her willingness to commit to another 3 years.

LORD'S SUPPER

- The Session celebrating the Lord's Supper and concluded their time together by singing "Silent Night" and lighting candles.

Motion and second that the meeting be adjourned. **Motion carried.**
The meeting adjourned at 10.08 pm.

Greg McMillan, Clerk