

THE WOODLANDS COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATED SESSION MEETING
February 20, 2007
(For Approval)

The Session of The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church met for a stated meeting on February 20, 2007. The following members were present, constituting a quorum: Moderator, Rev. David Jones and, and Elders Bob Huck, Laura Stanton, Russ Simpkins, Bob Craig, Ginger Sloop, David Castro, John Thompson, Steve Schlacks, Doug Cordier, Melanie Harrison and Skip Cain.. Rev. Gene Price, Dan Summers-Minette, Debbie Atwood, Carl Wickizer, Pam Broussard, Regina Garner, Dave Wilkins, and Cynthia Oliver were excused. Bruce Lee was present representing the Board of Deacons.

The Moderator, Rev. Jones, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with an opening prayer.

A TIME FOR WORSHIP AND PRAYER AND A SEASON OF PRAYER

The Pastor led the Session in a period of worship, study and prayer, reading from the scriptures and emphasizing the upcoming season of Lent as a time to take steps to work on enriching spirituality. He emphasized that this can be done either by making a decision to deprive oneself of a pleasure or convenience, or it can mean adding more time to advance the habits of prayer and spiritual worship. A closing prayer was initiated by Elder David Castro and completed after intercessional prayers from other members of the Session by the Pastor.

APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET AND PRESNETATION OF THE CONSENT DOCKET

The Docket was approved and the following motion was approved by the consent of the Session:

Motion: The minutes of the Stated Meeting of the Session of January 30, 2007, were approved.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Bruce Lee presented the report of the Board of Deacons including information that the Board is going to assign each Deacon to a WCPC family. The purpose of this will be to establish a relationship in case there is a need to communicate to the members quickly, and to identify those members who need more regular contact. A number of Session members strongly recommended that this new approach NOT referred to as Shepherd Groups. This was discussed briefly with the main concern being that the Shepherd Groups were not uniformly successful, that the name would imply to some that there would actually be a group approach and that the name might be confusing in light of the move to a small-group approach to ministry. Bruce promised to take these concerns back to the Board.

CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk advised that Diana Lawton has agreed to serve as Membership Secretary.

PASTORS’ REPORT

The Pastor encouraged the Session members to attend as many of the Lenten activities as they could, including Ash Wednesday services, the Lenten dinners beginning February 28, Maundy Thursday worship and all other events. He emphasized the importance for the Session to be visible at these events both as the spiritual leaders of the church and as a part of their role in support of the church activities.

REPORT FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

Steve Schlacks reported on the February 10 meeting of New Covenant Presbytery attended by the Associate Pastor, Carl Wickizer and himself. He reported that among the actions was to fund from an endowment certain needs that had been put in jeopardy due to the mismanagement of Presbytery funds. This vote passed at Lufkin, but requires a second vote to be held at a called meeting of the Presbytery on February 27, 2007 at St. Phillips Presbyterian Church. Bob Craig and Melanie Harrison were appointed as commissioners and will attend along with the Pastor.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

It was reported that the Nominating Committee will move to the Congregation at the previously called meeting on February 25, 2007, that an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee of nine, to include two youth members, be approved and filled. The Nominating Committee will bring nominees to fill the nine positions. The Pastor reported that the creation of the APNC has been approved by Presbytery.

FINCANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ginger Sloop explained the final details of the budget, noting that the errors that delayed final action on the budget had been reconciled and recommending a final budget.

Motion: After explanation and discussion, a final budget was approved as follows:

**The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church
Summary of Expenses by Category
For the 2007 Year**

Budget 2007

Total Contributions	\$	1,050,850
Total Miscellaneous Income	\$	48,400
Total Other Revenues	\$	750
TOTAL INCOME	\$	1,100,000

Building & Grounds	\$	174,100
Insurance	\$	25,698
Mortgage	\$	122,136
Administration	\$	47,876
Personnel	\$	426,074
Finance	\$	2,073
Long Range Planning	\$	4,000
Facilities Plan/Long Range Implementation	\$	-
Total Operations & Maintenance	\$	801,957
Worship	\$	37,773
Christian Education	\$	85,500
Youth	\$	17,000
Anniversary	\$	1,000
Nurture	\$	8,100
Diaconate	\$	895
Presbyterian Women	\$	1,000
Stephen Ministry	\$	1,750
Total Ministries	\$	153,018
Total Benevolence	\$	112,375
Total Mission Outreach	\$	5,850
Total Contacts & Connections	\$	26,800
Total Outreach	\$	145,025
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	1,100,000
NET TOTAL	\$	-

The budget will be made available to the Congregation and will be discussed briefly at the meeting set for February 25, 2007. At that time the congregation will be advised of certain items that are not in the budget, but that the Session is hopeful funds can be raised to accomplish.

The Session anticipates expending funds, but has not budgeted for, the following:

\$15,500	Projections System
\$ 1,650	Stephen Ministries
\$10,000	Facility Planning
\$ 2,000	Leadership Conference – LRPC
\$ 1,077	Additional funds for Stewardship

Finally, the Session is praying for additional income from the congregation that would allow increases in budgeting and spending as follows:

\$10,000	Additional funds for Facility Planning
\$25,000	Maintenance, for training to avoid contracting costs
\$20,000	Fellowship Hall Sound Proofing

DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

During the course of the evening the Pastor and Session members pointed out important activities and actions of their committees for note by the entire Session. These included new publications that will be made available during Lent. The Pastor also advised that responsibilities for the Life of the Church and the Newsletter will be taken over by staff and that the Session should remember to thank Debbie Atwood for all her good work in a job that was never intended to permanently be a volunteer position. The Pastor also thanked Melanie Harrison for her work as editor of the Newsletter, a position she will relinquish after great service to the church following completion of the May Newsletter.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Russ Simpkins announced the hiring of Shirley Barclay as the new secretary. He encouraged the Session members to welcome her to her new position.

As had been previously announced, Music Director Beth Thompson will be reducing her role beginning June 1.

Motion: After discussion it was approved to compensate Beth Thompson at a reduced rate reflecting the change in her responsibilities and for the budget to reflect that amount.

Russ Simpkins discussed the retention of a new staff position to handle a number of job functions including leading the non-traditional service, directing the Heart & Voice (Youth) Choir and taking a role in the High School Youth Program. He advised that a candidate had been identified and asked the Session for authority to approach and retain that individual.

Motion: After extensive discussion it was approved that the Personnel Committee is authorized to make an offer to a specific individual as identified to join the staff on or before June 1, 2007 to fill a position to handle the job functions of leading the non-traditional service, directing the Heart & Voice (Youth) Choir and taking a role in the High School Youth Program at an amount that will be reflected in the budget not to exceed a definite amount and for the budget to be adjusted to reflect that hire if it occurs..

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by the Clerk of Session at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Craig
Clerk of Session