

MINUTES OF THE SESSION

Stated Meeting, August 27, 2023

The Session of First Presbyterian Church, Ada, Oklahoma, met in a regular stated meeting Sunday, August 27, 2023, at 12:14 p.m. in office conference room of Westminster Center. Moderator Scott White called the meeting to order, and he then offered the opening prayer.

Those present included Session members Margaret Barton, Bruce Weems, Amy Elliott, Ed Perkins (by phone), Brooke Jackson-Holman, Terry Holman, and Justin Isaacs. Terry Holman, Session member-elect, was present. Carol Peshehonoff was absent with excuse. Moderator Scott White declared a quorum present.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the agenda as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve Stated Session Minutes, June 25, 2023, as written, and Called Session Meeting Minutes, August 6, 2023, as written.

FROM THE TREASURER

Bruce Weems, Finance Chair, presented financial reports as of June 30 and July 31, 2023.

	<u>June 30, 2023</u>
Operations Fund Income	5,945.74
Operations Fund Expenses	14,344.39
Net Income – Operations	(8,398.65)
Total Checking/Savings	101,203.51
Total Other Current Assets	-0-
Total Current Assets	101,203.51
TOTAL ASSETS	101,203.51

	<u>July 31, 2023</u>
Operations Fund Income	24,117.82
Operations Fund Expenses	15,507.22
Net Income – Operations	8,610.60
Total Checking/Savings	109,866.61
Total Other Current Assets	-0-
Total Current Assets	109,866.61
TOTAL ASSETS	109,866.61

Session reviewed financials. July was a very good month and right on schedule with pledges and regular giving and non-pledge. Motion made, seconded, and approved to receive the financial report as of June 30 and July 31, 2023.

FROM THE CLERK OF SESSION

- Session minutes will be posted on our church website www.fpcada.org under **Staying Connected**. Minutes will be posted after they are approved. June Session Minutes and Minutes of Called Session meeting, August 6, were approved in today's meeting and will be posted to the website.

- Received thank you note from Ada High School staff for the coffee Deacons provided for their break room.
- Thank you picture postcard from the Washington Girls Softball Team thanking FPC for their overnight stay at Westminster Center in April.
- Thank you note from Osi' Bryant Kofi Robertson and parents for his baptism celebration and luncheon on June 4.
- E-vote moved by Justin Isaacs and Ed Perkins on July 7 to approve a building usage request by Classic Arts Academy for a music camp to be held at Westminster Center on July 17-21 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. By a vote of 6 yes and 0 no, the motion was approved.
- E-vote moved by Justin Isaacs and Edmon Perkins on July 13 to approve a building usage request by Teresa White for a recital in the sanctuary August 27. By a vote of 7 yes and 0 no, the motion was approved.
- E-vote moved and seconded by Justin Isaacs and Edmon Perkins, Nominating Committee Co-Chairs, to call a congregational meeting on August 27, 2023, immediately after worship service in the sanctuary. The one item of business for the meeting is to hear the nomination of Terry Holman to fill the vacant seat in Session of the Class of 2024 and elect. By a vote of 8 yes and 0 no, the motion succeeded, and the congregational meeting was called.
- Received letter from INP Nominations and Representation Committee reaching out to the INP membership for volunteers to serve on vacancies for the Class of 2026 on several INP committees. If anyone is interested, call Scott for more information.
- Wesley Allen Banks, child of Christopher Banks and Chloe Saunders of Ada, Oklahoma, born August 20, 2023, was baptized August 21, 2023, at Oklahoma University Children's Hospital by Scott White, Minister of First Presbyterian Church of Ada, Oklahoma. Witnesses were Casey Saunders, Cathy Blackburn, Betsy Banks, and parents Christopher and Chloe. Wesley Allen Banks passed away on August 23, 2023.

Mass e-mail mailings from Indian Nations Presbytery are forwarded to Session members, Moderator, and Treasurer.

- 7-5-23 – E-mail from INP – Invitation from Indian Nations Presbytery - Night at the Ballpark, August 1, to attend an OKC Dodgers game. Laureen will publish in church newsletter.
- 8-8-23 – E-mail from INP – Minimum Salary Requirements 2023-2024
- 8-10-23 – E-mail from INP – Employee Retention Credit
- 8-16-23 – E-mail from INP – Oklahoma Youth Retreat – Save the Date – St. Crispin's Conference Center and Camp – Wewoka, OK – 6th – 12th graders
- 8-16-23 – E-Mail from INP – Stewardship Basics – Last Chance to Register

THE MINISTRIES, BY COMMITTEE

1. From Christian Education Committee by Brooke Jackson-Holman.
 - Back to Sunday School breakfast on September 10, 2023.
 - CE would like to have a fall festival in October – will put together ideas and present at next meeting.
2. From Congregational Life and Membership Committee by Margaret Barton.
 - Committee will coordinate and help with Back to Sunday School breakfast on September 10.
 - Luncheon in July was well attended with plenty of food and visiting.
3. From Deacons by Justin Isaacs.
 - Deacons provided coffee to Ada High staff and donuts to Jr. High staff.
 - Deacons were responsible for a large and successful garage sale bringing in approximately \$5,500.00.

4. From Finance Committee by Bruce Weems.

- Meeting on July 27, minutes attached.
- BUDGET REVIEW - June financials were reviewed and approved with a few comments concerning some line items:
 1. Utilities expenses continue to be high and perhaps some new procedures might be considered.
- NEW BUSINESS
 1. Members were given a homework assignment: 2024 Budget...can we get to \$160,000? Discussion left little hope of getting to this level of financing. We still are going to depend on the FPC of Ada Foundation for paying property and other insurance needs.
 2. The committee discussed the sale of the church property as approved by the congregation but also addressed the sale of the entire property. Charles Mayhue suggests that selling all the property rather than just the east side might be a better option. Selling the east side provides a short term gain but restricts the ability to sell the remaining property.
 3. Motion from Finance Committee was approved that session take the necessary steps to have a formal appraisal of the east side and all 10 acres of the church property. Session discussed thoroughly and this is only to get an appraisal. A congregational meeting would need to be held to decide whether or not to sell any property.
 4. Motion from committee was approved to set the annual rental of space for the Adult Day Care Center at \$1000 per month.
- Meeting on August 24, minutes attached.
- OLD BUSINESS
 1. Proposed property sale. No progress since the session needs to respond to the July recommendations of the committee.
- BUDGET REVIEW
 1. July Financials were reviewed and approved with a few comments concerning some line items.
 - a. Utilities expenses continue to be high and perhaps some new procedures might be considered:
 - Do we need all 12 exterior lights (OG&E costs could be reduced)
 - Could we get a grant for solar power for church?
 - Keep lights off on the exterior for more hours (church steeple, etc.)
- NEW BUSINESS
 1. Members were provided a draft 2024 budget of approximately \$175,000 for discussion. Members made several suggestions and a few adjustments but approved this as a draft budget that session members should use as a starting point for the next year. That budget is attached.
 2. Motion from Finance Committee was approved by Session for approval of the following timeline for the 2024 Financial Campaign:
 - Aug. 27: Finance Committee provides a 2024 draft budget to session
 - Sept. 24: Session committees submit a proposed budget
 - Oct. 22: Session approves a 2024 Budget for the financial campaign
 - Nov. 1: Campaign letter is sent to the congregation
 - Nov. 5: Finance Committee arranges for a presentation to the congregation during Sunday service

- Nov. 12: Finance Committee arranges for a presentation to the congregation during Sunday service
- Nov. 29: Pledge Sunday
- Nov. 19-21: Follow up on campaign donations
- Nov. 21: Finance Committee recommends a final 2024 Budget
- Nov. 26: Session approves a final budget for 2024

5. From Mission and Evangelism Committee by Bruce Weems.

- World Communion Sunday on October 1.

6. Nominating Committee by Justin Isaacs.

- On July 14 an e-vote was moved by Justin Isaacs and Edmon Perkins, Co-Chairs of Nominating Committee, to call a congregational meeting on August 27 to hear the nomination of Terry Holman to fill the vacant seat in Class of 2024 and elect. The motion succeeded.

7. From Personnel and Administration Committee by Amy Elliott.

- Will meet in late September and have talked to some staff members.

8. From Property Committee by Justin Isaacs.

- Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve building usage request by Harry Miller District Committee to conduct adult Youth Protection Training in Westminster Center on September 5, 2023, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

9. Worship Committee by Edmon Perkins.

- Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve purchase of four silk flower arrangements for each season to put in sanctuary for worship services.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

- Discussed prospective sale of the east grounds during Finance Committee report.
- Protection against active shooter violence: first recommendations from Scott (attached), with two attachments.
- Scouting Unit 4–Kurt Jackson, Charter Organization Representative – no report

NEW BUSINESS

- Thank you note to Scouting Unit 4 for the significant donation to FPC garage sale.

UPCOMING KEY DATES: (September calendar, attached.)

Elder of the Month for September – Amy Elliott

Scott on vacation September 5-10 (Deacon Bobby Saunkeah from St. Luke's Episcopal Church guest preacher Sept. 10) Scott on study leave September 11-17 (Deacon Robert Willis from St. Luke's Episcopal Church guest preacher Sept. 17)

Next Session meeting: September 24, 2023

ON THE ANNUAL PLANNING CALENDAR

Reviewed for August and September.

SHARING TIME

Discussed FPC/Ada distinctives and benefits to the Pontotoc County community.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 p.m. with prayer offered by Scott.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Mayhue, Clerk of Session