

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
STATED SESSION MEETING  
June 21, 2017

**I.** The Session of the Northminster Presbyterian Church of Sarasota, Florida, held a stated meeting on June 21, 2017. The meeting was called to order in the Library at 7:00 P.M. by the Moderator Pastor Wally Johnson who opened the meeting with a devotion from Psalm 63 and with prayer.

**II. A quorum was established:**

**THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT:** **Moderator** – Pastor Wally Johnson  
**Ruling Elders** –Larry Brown, Mark Goslin, Nancy Haas, Sally Kirby, Tom Latimer, Dick McGuire, Sanford Mullet, Ron Myers, and Robert Silver;  
and **Business and Ministries Administrator** Jack Tibbets

**EXCUSED:** Ruling Elders Betty Miller, Bob Price and Harry Wilde

**GUEST:** Al Eckes

**III. The Agenda was approved as amended (adding item IV. And VIII. C.)**

**IV. PASTOR’S REPORT (May 2017 to present) – Pastor Wally Johnson**

This report focuses on how I have spent my time since arriving on the job. My time has been spent in the following areas:

1. Getting to know the congregation here. By the time we meet we will have had 14 different Coffee times and I have enjoyed them immensely. This has allowed Joyce and I to get to know quite a few, and allowed folks to learn more about each other.
2. Sermon prep always takes a chunk of each week.
3. Committee meetings. I made all the meetings with the exception of fellowship. This will not always be the case, but I will make as many meetings as I can on a regular basis.
4. Visits – this is the area I hope to focus on after the initial 3 weeks of coffees. I am thankful for the efforts of so many to assist in this area. I know Jack Tibbetts, Ray Davies, the deacons, and others have been a great help in this.
5. I met with several area ministers (Mike Mansperger, Father Chuck Mann, Glen Bell)
6. I am leading an effort to establish a Lectionary Bible Study among the area ministers. It looks like this will kick off in the fall.

7. Listening and exploring ways we can reach out into the community. I sense the congregation is ready to move in this area and I am excited by that prospect.

**V. Presentation on Mid-Day History at Northminster – Al Eckes**

*Ron Myers made a motion which was properly seconded to approve the 2018 series of Mid-Day History at Northminster: Four Presidents Who Helped Transform Today's World. The motion passed.*

**VI. OMNIBUS MOTION: A motion was made by Bob Silver and properly seconded, to approve Item VI. A. – C. as set forth in the Omnibus Motion. The motion passed.**

**A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** 4/19/17 Stated Session Meeting, 4/23/2017 and 5/17/2017 Called Session Meetings and 5/28/17 Called Congregational Meeting

**B. APPROVAL OF THE 5/18/2017 PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE – Sanford Mullet**

Peace River Presbytery gathered for its quarterly Stated Meeting on Thursday, May 18, 2017 at First Presbyterian Church, 209 West Hickory St. Arcadia, Florida 33904. Attending from Northminster were: Commissioners Sally Kirby and Sanford Mullet; and Jack Tibbets.

The theme of this Presbytery was Inspiring and Engaging Worship. Rev. Bill Teng, the panel of 4, and Winston Lawson presented various aspect of worship. The overriding factor in worship is a personal relationship with God and God is the seeker of the worship experience. Worship takes many forms and includes all aspects of our sensors: seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, and tasting. Worship involves participation of the people. Pillars of worship include the gathering, presentation of the scriptures, offering (responding to God's message), taking the Sacraments and sending forth. These pillars may be expressed via a children's hour, communion, confession of sins, singing, bells, choirs, dancers, plays, stained glass windows, banners, all designed to lead people into a better personal experience with God. Presentations must communicate to the culture of the people where they can connect with the Lord in their own language and understanding. Special displays can reflect the church season that inspire a closer relationship with God. The Liturgy provides a statement of beliefs. Truth is based upon the Holy Scriptures.

We did have table discussions that addressed the following questions.

1. What makes worship inspiring and engaging for you and for a new person in your congregation?
2. Think about the difference between living/vital traditions in our worship and dead traditionalism in our services.
3. Think about the relational qualities of worship that affect our experience of it.

During the business meeting Rev. Wally Johnson, Northminster Presbyterian Church, was welcomed to Peace River Presbytery as a new member. The Presbytery also celebrated the retirement of Rev. Chris Carlson from Northminster Presbyterian Church. Rev. Dr. Christopher Carlson's request to transfer his membership to the Presbytery of Florida, ECO, effective June 1, 2017 was approved.

Worship service began around 1:30 pm and included a choir, bell choir, sermon, visual displays, to conclude with communion led by Rev. Bill Teng. The final portion of the business meeting followed.

The next Presbytery meetings are scheduled for September 12 and 13, 2017. The theme of these Regional Presbytery meetings will be Radical Generosity.

### C. APPROVAL OF A REPORT FROM A STANDING COMMITTEE

#### 1. Fellowship Committee – Mark Goslin

- a. **Fellowship Coffee.** Coffee after the service is suspended during the summer as we have done in previous years. We will resume once the weather cools in September or October.
- b. **Hot Diggity Dog.** We will kick off the Independence Day Holiday on July 2<sup>nd</sup> with our traditional hot dog luncheon. On the menu will be hot dogs (including chili or sauerkraut, if desired), chips, baked beans and apple pie for dessert.
- c. **Presbyterians Eating Out** continues to be a big hit with great participation. The PEO for July will be on July 21<sup>st</sup> at Lee Roy Selmon's at 5:00 P.M. We are also making plans for a **Presbyterians Eating In** with a partially catered dinner in the Fellowship Hall.
- d. A **Florida Studio Theater** play outing is planned for Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. The play is a new comedy called "Double-wide". We will arrange drivers for those who don't drive after dark and may have dinner in the Green Room prior to the play for those who are interested. Sign-ups will begin soon as we must have a minimum of 20 to get the significantly discounted rate of \$29.00.

### VII. REPORTS SET ASIDE FOR DISCUSSION:

#### A. Treasurer's Report – Bob Silver and Harry Wilde

**MAY 17, 2017**

#### 1. Operating Fund Results

	<u>April 2017</u>	<u>Year to Date 2017</u>
Income	\$34,282.99	\$ 132,848.63
Expense	<u>30,057.11</u>	<u>115,290.43</u>
Net Income	\$ 4,225.88	\$ 17,558.20

2. Operating Fund Balance

Iberia Bank \$50,904.17 + PILP Money Market \$22,642.16 = \$73,546.33

3. Capital Campaign Fund Balance

Scott Trade \$ 100.10 + PILP Money Market \$55,879.10 = \$55,979.20

4. Mortgage Balance as of April 30, 2017: \$389,888.58 (Est. 5-11-17 \$369,000.00)

Required Monthly Payment: \$2,867.88

Breakdown: Principal - \$1,545.88  
Interest - 1,322.00  
Revised Payment Est.: \$ 2,867.88

**JUNE 21, 2017**

1. Operating Fund Results

	<u>May 2017</u>	<u>Year to Date 2017</u>
Income	\$23,657.32	\$ 156,505.95
Expense	<u>32,743.03</u>	<u>148,013.17</u>
Net Income	\$ -9,085.71	\$ 8,492.78

2. Operating Fund Balance

Iberia Bank \$46,179.68 + PILP Money Market \$22,642.16 = \$68,821.84

3. Capital Campaign Fund Balance

Scott Trade \$ 100.10 + PILP Money Market \$36,937.80 = \$37,037.90

4. Mortgage Balance as of May 31, 2017: \$366,203.86

Required Monthly Payment: \$2,867.88

Breakdown: Principal - \$1,545.88  
Interest - 1,322.00  
Revised Payment Est.: \$2,867.88

Interest Rate: 4.0980

Sanford Mullet *made a motion, which was properly seconded, to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed and the full report filed for audit.*

## **B. Finance Committee Report – Jack Tibbets and Tom Latimer**

1 Operating Fund results for May, 2017: Expenses for May exceeded income creating a -\$9,086 net income. The two factors creating this negative income are the postponement of a significant pledge normally received during May and a \$3,500 repair to the sanctuary AC system.

For the year to date, income has exceeded expenses creating a net income of +\$8,493. This compares to a May 2016 year to date net income of +\$9,043.

We are moving into our slower /lower income months and we will continue to remind our congregation to stay current in their giving.

2016 Operating Fund Financial Review: The “Audit” team of Tom Lefferson and Ron Handwork completed their work in May and submitted their report which was reviewed by the Session.

***The Finance Committee moved that the Financial Review be accepted and that a note of appreciation be sent from the Session to the “audit team”. The motion passed.***

Mortgage Principal: As of June 1, 2017 our mortgage Principal is \$364,658. We continue to anticipate a balance of less than \$300,000 in January 2018. The Capital Campaign Bridge Team will announce this progress to the congregation.

Comcast Internet and Phone: An offer from Comcast to change our service from Frontier resulting in a monthly savings of \$79, with an additional phone line and double the internet speed to 150MBS was received. We have accepted this for a three year contract and will be switching over in July.

## **C. Communication/Evangelism Committee Report – Ron Myers**

1. This Committee has become very active and is dealing with many methods of communication. Judy Egan is working with the *Sarasota Herald* and *Bradenton Herald* to advertise our Worship Services on a regular basis and to bring the ads up to date. A news release about Pastor Wally’s arrival has been sent in as well.

2. Other methods of communication are being prepared: update on the video at the movie theater, ads sent to Mobil Home Parks and the Meadows, mailings to new area residents, information to be placed in the pews, etc.

3. The Communication/Evangelism Committee has prepared a draft of the “Mission and Vision of the Marketing and Outreach Team” and moves the following:

***The Committee moved that the Session approve of the “Mission and Vision of the Marketing and Outreach team”. The motion passed.***

The Committee feels that a name change would more accurately reflect what its mission is so it makes the following motion:

***This Committee moved that its name be changed to “Marketing and Outreach Committee”.***

***A motion by Bob Silver, and properly seconded, was made to amend the original motion by changing the name of the Committee to “Outreach and Marketing Committee.***

***The amended motion as amended was passed.***

#### **D. Worship Committee – Sanford Mullet**

1. At the Committee meeting a brief summary of the May Presbytery was given with the theme “Inspiring and Engaging Worship.” The overriding factor in worship is a personal relationship with God and God is the seeker of the worship experience. Worship takes many forms and includes all aspects of our sensors: seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, and tasting. Worship involves participation of the people. Pillars of worship include the gathering, presentation of the scriptures, preaching, offering (responding to God’s message), taking the Sacraments and sending forth. These pillars may be expressed via a children’s hour, communion, confession of sins, singing, bells, choirs, dancers, plays, stained glass windows, banners, all designed to lead people into a better personal experience with God. This was followed by introduction of Worship Committee members who described the roles they perform in our worship process.

2. The following items were discussed:

- a. Each worship service including funerals and Memorial Services will begin with the pouring of water into the baptismal font. Ron Myers will ensure that baptismal font is in place before each service.
- b. Helen Healy with the support of Ron Myers will operate the TV at the entrance of the sanctuary. We still require a program to prepare and maintain pertinent material to show.
- c. Church decorations including banners are under the watchful eye of Marlys Miinch.
- d. Cyndi Carlson has prepared the communion bread for the June communion. Valerie Wilde will prepare the bread for the July communion. Marlys Miinch will prepare the bread for the August communion. We continue to look for a person or persons who will serve by making this bread. Diane Price has the recipe for this task.
- e. Bob Olson will be out of town until August 1, 2017. Sanford Mullet will ensure that candle maintenance and lighting are performed during his absence.

f. Ed Stiles plans to be on vacation for several weeks starting June 14. He will be on vacation for the following Sundays: June 18, 25 & July 9.

g. The choir is on vacation through August. Ed Stiles is developing plans for music programs during the summer months.

h. New ushers will have their duties assignments and responsibilities explained to them by Ron Myers.

i. The Installation Service for Wally Johnson date and details are to be determined.

j. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration is scheduled the first Sunday in July. Pastor will be gone the first Sunday in August. Labor Day weekend is on the first Sunday in September.

***The Worship Committee moved that communion be scheduled on the second Sunday of the month for July, August and September. The motion passed.***

**The issue of scheduling communion will be discussed at a later Session meeting.**

**E. Clerk of Session Report – Sally Kirby**

1. At the Request of the Clerk of Session:

***Bob Silver made a motion, which was properly seconded, to approve the removal of the following member from the NPC membership rolls: Virginia McIntyre who has transferred her membership to First Congregational Church, Sarasota, Florida. The motion passed.***

2. The Clerk of Session read a Thank You note from Cyndi and Chris Carlson.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS: None**

**IX. NEW BUSINESS:**

***A. Nancy Haas made a motion which was properly seconded to appoint Dick McGuire as a Ruling Elder to serve on the Nominating Committee. The motion passed.***

***B. Mark Goslin made a motion which was properly seconded to appoint Jim Stoltie as Moderator of the Nominating Committee. The motion passed.***

***C. Sally Kirby made a motion which was properly seconded to accept the Resignation of Arianne Dahlem from the Board of Deacons. The motion passed.***

**X. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

A July 23, 2017 is the Installation Service of Rev. Wally at 4:00 P.M.

B. July 11, 2017 at 6:30 P.M. is a presentation of emergency scenarios and a guide for an emergency action plan for Houses of Worship by the Sarasota Police Department. Pastor Wally plans to attend.

C. The Anna Maria Island Concert Chorus and Orchestra has asked that we reserve Saturday, February 24, 2018 for their use.

D. We have received an invitation from First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota to attend the dedication of their renovated Sanctuary on Friday, June 23, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT & CLOSING PRAYER**

There being no further business to come before the Session, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Pastor Wally at 7:45 P.M.

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Pastor Wally Johnson, Moderator

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Sally A. Kirby, Clerk of Session