

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATED SESSION MEETING
September 26, 2017

I. The Session of the Northminster Presbyterian Church of Sarasota, Florida, held a stated meeting on September 26, 2017. The meeting was called to order in the Library at 6:50 P.M. by the Moderator Pastor Wally Johnson who opened the meeting with a devotion based on Matthew 21 verses 24-27 and with prayer.

II. A quorum was established:

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT: Moderator – Pastor Wally Johnson
Ruling Elders – Larry Brown, Nancy Haas, Sally Kirby, Tom Latimer, Dick McGuire, Betty Miller, Sanford Mullet, Ron Myers, Bob Price, Bob Silver
and Harry Wilde and Business and Ministries Administrator Jack Tibbets

EXCUSED: Mark Goslin

III. The Agenda was approved as amended.

*Bob Price made a motion which was properly seconded
to approve the agenda. The motion passed.*

IV. PASTOR'S REPORT: (August 2017)

1. Met with the committee charged with finding a new organist/accompanist. Conducted interviews and auditions.
2. Met with Graham Hart and Cuba Team.
3. Met with Daniel Rosales.
4. 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.
5. Participated in a Clergy Cohort Group in Sarasota.
6. Strategic Planning Day – August 19 – about 40 in attendance. We have already enacted some of the goals set forth.
7. Took 3 days of vacation to attend nephew's wedding in Tulsa.
8. Memorial Service for Trudy Gremp.

*Sanford Mullet made a motion which was properly seconded to
approve the Pastor's report. The motion passed.*

V. **OMNIBUS MOTION:** *A motion was made by Nancy Haas and properly seconded, to approve Item V. A. as set forth in the Omnibus Motion. The motion passed.*

A. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES as amended:** 8/16/2017 Stated Session Meeting

VI. **REPORTS SET ASIDE FOR DISCUSSION:**

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

1. Operating Fund Results

	<u>August, 2017</u>	<u>Year to Date 2017</u>
Income	\$17,777.67	\$ 225,800.28
Expense	<u>31,554/25</u>	<u>240,417.70</u>
Net Income	\$-13,776.58	\$ -14,617.52

2. Operating Fund Balance

Iberia Bank \$27,463.34 + PILP Money Market \$22,659.10 = \$50,122.44

3. Capital Campaign Fund Balance

Scott Trade \$ 100.03 + PILP Money Market \$31,817.13= \$31,917.16

4. Mortgage Balance as of August 31, 2017: \$326,241.96

Required Monthly Payment: \$2,684.92

Breakdown: Principal - \$1,525.05

Interest - 1,159.87

Revised Payment Est.: \$ 2,684.92

Interest Rate: 3.9720

Betty Miller 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. August Operating Fund Because of the storms, we do not have the final results for August and Year to Date numbers to give you. Our preliminary results show that both our pledge and non-pledge regular giving income was lower than we expected in August. This coupled with continuing high building and grounds expenses resulted in a net loss of income for August.

In the October *Good Tidings*, we are reminding our congregation that each of us needs to examine our giving and make sure we are current with our pledges and planned giving to the operating fund.

2. Mortgage Balance We continue to make very good headway on reducing our debt. As of the beginning of September our remaining debt is below \$325,000.
3. New Electronic Sign With the approach of Irma, the committee decided to postpone the kickoff for fund raising until 10/1. Following the storm and the relatively quick recovery for our area, Pastor Wally and Jack Tibbets decided to kick off the program on 9/24 in the hopes that we can have the sign up by Advent.
4. The Committee is rejuvenating the Cornerstone Fund.
5. Below, is a brief overview of the preparations and aftermath involved with hurricane Irma. (Jim Christie reporting)

Preparations:

- Sandbagged door openings in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.
- In addition, installed wooden dams on two flood prone doors; the band room and manse front door.
- Expenses were incurred because soil bags were purchased due to the difficulty in obtaining sandbags.

Outcome and recommendations:

- The buildings survived with no water intrusion or wind damage. The sandbags were removed and stored in the rear AC fence area until hurricane season is over.
- Three trees went down. One blocking the West parking lot entrance across the street fell on wires and will be worked on by Comcast. (Most likely there will be further cleanup needed when Comcast is done). The second tree, which fell in the North parking area was cut up and cleared by church members. The resulting debris will have to be removed. The third tree fell out along Lockwood Ridge Rd. It was staked up and watered for several days with the hope of it surviving.
- The Fellowship Hall and church offices were without power for about a week. This resulted in the closure of the offices and may have caused financial consequences.
- Sunday services were canceled the weekend of the hurricane. This may affect our income for the month.

Just previous to the hurricane, there was flooding in the band storage room due the torrential rains. The carpet and baseboard were removed. The demolition waste was temporarily stored in the dumpster area. The resulting debris will be taken to the dump. A solution to the drainage problem in the low lying in front of the band room should be pursued. Also, a new floor and baseboard in the band room should be considered. Perhaps the Suncoast Band would be willing to donate some money towards the repairs.

Bob Silver made a motion which was properly seconded to approve the Finance Committee report. The motion passed.

C. Clerk of Session Report – Sally Kirby

Betty Miller made a motion, which was properly seconded, to remove Mary Louise Edmunds from our Active Rolls at her request. The motion passed.

D. Worship Committee Report – Sanford Mullet

1. Gerry Mead has been identifying communion servers. Due to her health, she will no longer be performing this function. We want to thank her for serving in this capacity for the past year. We have a requirement to find a replacement person to coordinate the communion servers for future communion events. World communion Sunday is the first Sunday in October.
2. Once a month, at the end of a worship service, the pastor will invite people in the congregation who may desire a special prayer to come to the pastor for a private prayer. If the number of people desiring private personal prayer, additional elders or deacons will be available to offer prayers as needed.
3. Auditions are underway to find a permanent organist/pianist. The pastor was on study leave September 20-23. Ray Davies preached on September 24.
4. The pastor and his wife will join other members of the Presbytery on a trip to Cuba October 5-10, 2017. They will be having discussions with members of Presbyterian church in Cuba. Rev. Lyn Olson will serve as guest pastor October 8, 2017.
5. Church will be decorated for the Christmas season December 2, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. following a special choir rehearsal. The church will be invited to help and at the same time participate in a chili cookoff where people can display their skills at making chili. Chili cooks will be judged and may compete against store bought chili. The event is planned to have fun while the Christmas decorations are put in place.
6. The Christmas Cantata will be performed December 10, 2017 during the Sunday morning worship service.

7. Christmas Eve service will be scheduled Sunday December 24 at 5:00 pm.
This service will include two anthems, communion, and a candle light closing.
Regular Sunday morning service will be held on the same day.
8. Christmas decorations will be taken down on Saturday January 6, 2018.
9. Baptism of the Lord Sunday is January 7, 2018. The baptismal font needs to be placed so that members may renew their baptismal vows. Communion will also be served at this service

The Worship Committee moved that the Session approve Christmas Eve and Baptism of the Lord Communion Services. The motion passed.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Pastor Wally gave an update on the search for our organist/accompanist.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Sunday, October 1, 2017, is World Wide Communion. The Deacons will take Communion to the home bound. Session Members were asked to help.
- B. Pastor Wally challenged the Session to prayerfully consider, in the life of this congregation, ways to reach that God has for us to reach out to the community.
- C. Pastor Wally will be with 22 Cuban pastors, their spouses, 18 Peace River Pastors and their spouses next week in Cuba. October 4-10. Lyn Olson will preach on October 8, 2017.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. October 21 Records Review- Clerks of Session from Peace River Presbytery will come to Northminster to have their records reviewed. Valerie Wilde will bring our records since Clerk of Session Sally Kirby is one of the reviewers.
- B. Bob Silver suggested that there be someone to assist the liturgists to go up the steps to the pulpit. Ron Myer will ask the ushers to do this.

X. ADJOURNMENT & CLOSING PRAYER

There being no further business to come before the Session, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Pastor Wally at 7:38 P.M.

Pastor Wally Johnson, Moderator

Sally A. Kirby, Clerk of Session

