

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATED SESSION MEETING
October 18, 2017

I. The Session of the Northminster Presbyterian Church of Sarasota, Florida, held a stated meeting on October 18, 2017. The meeting was called to order in the Library at 6:51 P.M. by the Moderator Pastor Wally Johnson who opened the meeting with a devotion on “Salvation/Eternal Life is to know God” based on Exodus 33 and with prayer.

II. A quorum was established:

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT: Moderator – Pastor Wally Johnson
Ruling Elders – Larry Brown, Mark Goslin, Sally Kirby, Tom Latimer, Dick McGuire, Betty Miller, Sanford Mullet, Ron Myers, Bob Price, Bob Silver and Harry Wilde.

EXCUSED: Nancy Haas and Business and Ministries Administrator Jack Tibbets

III. The Agenda was approved as amended.

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

IV. PASTOR’S REPORT: (September 2017)

1. Met with the committee charged with finding a new organist/accompanist. Conducted interviews and auditions. Hired Gail Ledgister.
2. Met with Graham Hart and Cuba Team and attended a meeting with representatives from Cuba along with Bob Silver.
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. Irma – need I say more.
7. Attended a meeting of the Sarasota Ministerial Alliance at St. Wilfred Episcopal Church.
8. We had the Squares Dinner and had a good turnout. I think we will form 2 or 3 new Squares.
9. Prepared for Cuba Trip in October.
10. Began Tuesday Bible Study on the Reformation.

Betty Miller made a motion which was properly seconded to approve the Pastor's report. The motion passed.

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

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 9/26/2017 Stated Session Meeting

B. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Membership – Valerie Wilde

- a. On October 15, 22, and 29. Pastor Wally will hold an Inquirers Class for potential new members and anyone interested in learning more about our Presbyterian Faith.
- b. On September 27, the Membership Committee along with the current Square groups hosted a dinner for those interested in becoming part of a Square group. We had 39 in attendance, 19 of whom expressed interest in becoming part of a Square group. We are excited and hope to get two new groups started shortly.
- c. We need to do more on following up on visitors and welcome them back to our church. At present mugs are given as a gift for first time visitors and a post card to thank them for attending but we need a program to further track and follow up with visitors.
- d. We are looking forward to welcoming back our Snow Birds and welcoming all new visitors here for the winter months.

2. Outreach and Marketing – Ron Myers

- a. The Worship service attendance is slightly ahead of last year. The goal is average attendance of 177, and the actual average attendance is 159.
- b. The Bible studies are underway although the mailers sent has not generated any new attendees.
- c. The mobile home newsletter ad was reviewed. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the ad to run for six (6) months in four (4) parks, a 1/8th page ad in the Ledger for three (3) months, and a 3"x5" color ad for four (4) months in the *Meadoword*.
- d. Update on the electronic sign: As of 10/10, \$11,000 has been donated of the required \$17,000. The process for obtaining permits has been started.
- e. The contract with the Parkway Cinema is due for renewal in late November. Jack Tibbets and Ron Myers plan to screen our ad later in October and consider the need for updating. At this time, it is our plan to renew the contract.
- f. Sally Kirby will serve as the O & M Committee liaison to the Midday Programs and assist with the marketing of the program.

- g. Judy Egan has updated the newspaper listings to note the Bible studies and Wednesday prayer times. To date, the newspapers have not published the release.
- h. Rich Rhodes and Betty Miller will work with Pastor Wally to develop and distribute the promotion materials for Christmas. The materials will be distributed after Thanksgiving.
- i. Sally Kirby will obtain information on the G4NP (Google for Non Profits) a social media program and report back to the Committee. Pastor Wally and Sally will review the Facebook program to better utilize it as a marketing tool.
- j. The rack for the information cards has been built and will be installed shortly.
- k. The O & M Committee decided to have this Committee make arrangements for the Angel tree. Ron will contact Jim & Bev Christie and Jim & Mary Stoltie who are interested in resurrecting the program at NPC.
- l. The Committee members were asked to be planning for 2018 budget needs.

3. Worship – Sanford Mullet

- a. Barbara Clark has agreed to identify communion servers. The communion services are scheduled for November 5, 2017, December 3 & 24 (5:00 P.M. service), 2017 and January 7, 2018.
- b. 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.
- c. The Music Committee selected Gail Ofterdinger-Ledgister as our `organist/pianist. There is some issue with the organ bench. This is being addressed by the church property personnel.
- d. The pastor and his wife joined other members of the Presbytery on a trip to Cuba October 5-10, 2017. They had discussions with members of Presbyterian churches in Cuba. Rev. Lyn Olson served as guest pastor October 8, 2017.
- e. The Church will be decorated for the Christmas season December 2, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.
- f. The chairman shall find couples who will light the advent candles and discuss the meaning of each candle. In addition to the four advent candles, one being lit at the beginning of the service for the first four Sunday's in December, the Christmas candle will be lit on Christmas Eve.
- g. The Christmas Cantata will be performed December 10, 2017 during the Sunday Worship Service.

- h. The Christmas Eve service is scheduled Sunday December 24 at 5:00 pm. This service will include two anthems, communion, and a candle light closing. Helen Healy will insure that the candles are prepared for the candlelight service. Regular Sunday morning service will be held on the same day.
- i. The Christmas decorations will be taken down on Saturday January 6, 2018.
- j. Baptism of the Lord Sunday is January 7, 2018. The baptismal font needs to be placed so that members may renew their baptismal vows.

VI. REPORTS SET ASIDE FOR DISCUSSION:

A. Treasurer’s Report – Bob Silver and Harry Wilde

1. Operating Fund Results

	<u>September, 2017</u>	<u>Year to Date 2017</u>
Income	\$19,006.80	\$ 244,806.98
Expense	<u>29,804.27</u>	<u>270,221.97</u>
Net Income	\$-10,797.47	\$ -25,414.99

2. Operating Fund Balance

Iberia Bank \$19,449.38 + PILP Money Market \$22,676.24 = \$42,125.62

3. Capital Campaign Fund Balance

Scott Trade \$ 100.04 + PILP Money Market \$28,977.79 = \$29,077.83

4. Mortgage Balance as of September 30, 2017: \$322,706.79

Required Monthly Payment: \$2,684.92

Breakdown: Principal - \$1,616.58

Interest - 1,068.34

Revised Payment Est.: \$ 2,684.92

Interest Rate: 3.9720

Bob Price 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 Projection Based upon preliminary data for the month, the following is the projection.

September will show a significant net loss for the month and YTD. This results from a decreased income specifically in pledge income. There is optimism that our pledge income will rebound in October through December and will be close to our budgeted amount of \$235,000 for the year. Our current deficit in giving is approximately \$18,600. In October we will be receiving an annual pledge which we normally receive in May or June. There are other annual pledges which we expect in December. It appears that we have budgeted \$5,000 in pledges that we will not receive due to moves and changes in individual circumstances. To offset this, we have pledges from new members which were not included in the budget.

Other Sources shows a net loss, but this is simply a matter of timing with October through May being the heavy income months for this category. It will be on budget by year end.

Expenses are currently exceeding budget by \$25,414.99 YTD. The majority of this overage is in Property, and we will continue to be over budget by at least \$10,000 by year end. Two key factors are responsible: extraordinary capital expenses (AC Compressors, Fire Panel Failure, Landscaping, Sprinkler, etc.); and expenses connected with Irma.

On a brighter note, the income for Sunday 10/1/17 was about 10% ahead of the first Sunday of October of last year.

For 2017 we will need to go to the congregation early November for additional funding to meet the expenses.

Motion: The Finance Committee moves that a direct appeal be made to the congregation by the Finance Committee to provide additional funds for the operating budget. The motion passed.

2. 2018 Budget Planning It is time to ask our committees to prepare their requested budget for 2018 which will allow us to incorporate the need in our Stewardship Campaign in January. A copy of the worksheet is attached. Committee Chairs are asked to prepare their budget request for 2018 and submit it by November 15.

3. Cornerstone Fund The mailing has been received and several responses have been received totaling \$250.

4. Sign Upgrade Robson Sign is submitting our sign permit request. As of this week we have received a total of \$10,950 (including the initial donation of \$8,500). We need to encourage everyone who wishes to participate to get their money in so we can have the sign up by Advent.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Records Review: 15 Clerks of Session from Peace River Presbytery will come to Northminster Saturday, October 21st to have their churchs' records reviewed. Presbytery Stated Clerk will run a workshop for the clerks and the records will be reviewed by Presbytery appointed reviewers Charmaine Ponkratz, Edward Maassen and Sally Kirby. Valerie Wilde will represent Northminster at the review.

B. The Midday Prayer program on Wednesdays was reviewed and discussed.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. The Presbytery Gathering is on October 24, 2017, 9 A.M. in Port Charlotte. We will be represented by Pastor Wally, Larry Brown, Tom Latimer, Sanford Mullet And Jack Tibbets.

B. The next Peace River Presbytery Stated Meeting is November 16, 2017 at Kirkwood P.C. Bradenton

X. ADJOURNMENT & CLOSING PRAYER

There being no further business to come before the Session, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Pastor Wally at 7:30 P.M.

Pastor Wally Johnson, Moderator

Sally A. Kirby, Clerk of Session

