

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATED SESSION MEETING
March 21, 2018

I. The Session of the Northminster Presbyterian Church of Sarasota, Florida, held a stated meeting on March 21, 2018. The meeting was called to order in the Library at 6:54 P.M. by the Moderator Pastor Wally Johnson who opened the meeting sharing a devotion based on Mark 11:1-3 followed by 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, Harry Wilde and Business and Ministries Administrator Jack Tibbets.

III. The Agenda was approved subject to necessary changes.

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

IV. PASTOR'S REPORT: (February, 2018)

1. Lectionary Bible Study among the area ministers
2. Participated in a Clergy Cohort Group in Sarasota
3. Attended a meeting of the Sarasota Ministerial Alliance
4. Led Tuesday Bible Study
5. Chairing the Blessing Grants Task Force for Peace River Presbytery
6. Serving on the Planning Committee for PRP and Cuba Task Force
7. Visits - 12
8. 4 Counseling Sessions
9. Began Lent with our Ash Wednesday Service
10. Mid-Day History and Music continued and were very successful.
11. Took 2 days of vacation (2 for the year so far)
12. Conducted Celebration of Life for J.J. Sosnowski
13. Presbytery Meeting on Feb. 22

14. ROMEO and PEO

15. Registered to attend GA in June

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 Betty Miller and properly seconded, to approve Item V. A. as set forth in the Omnibus Motion. The motion passed.*

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Stated Session Meeting February 13, 2018, Annual Congregational Meeting February 25, 2018

B. APPROVAL OF DEACONS MINUTES – Mary Lou Lefferson

1. Robin distributed copies of the year 2017 Deacons Report and extra blank deacon quarterly
2. Report Cards: It was decided they be turned in at the April meeting.
3. Pastor Wally and Mary Lou visited two different florists. The information will be given to the Worship Committee
4. It was suggested that Deacons attend John Sosnowski's memorial on Friday, February 16 at 3PM in the sanctuary.
5. Matt and Colette Stephenson, Rita Dralus, and Diane Ray are nominated Deacons to be voted on Feb 25th and installed in April. It would be nice if we would welcome them and help them.
6. Eileen McKenzie has agreed to another 3 year term starting in April.
7. As a rule of thumb, Deacons should make contact at least once per year with EVERY assigned member, but the focus is those who are hospitalized, homebound, in nursing homes, or in re-hab.
8. A temporary list of Fran McGuire and Mary Ann Colter congregants were assigned to present Deacons February through March. New assignments will be made in April.

C. APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSIONERS REPORT OF THE PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY STATED MEETING, FEBRUARY 22, 2018 – Sanford Mullet

1. Peace River Presbytery gathered for a Stated Meeting on Thursday, February 22, 2018 at First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota, Florida. Attending from Northminster were: Pastor Wally Johnson, Commissioners Betty Miller and Sanford Mullet; Ruling Elders Sally Kirby and Larry Brown; and Jack Tibbets. The Keynote and theme of the Stated Meeting was “Incarnational Leadership and Effective Leadership,” presented by Doctor Deborah Rundlett. The component parts of effective leadership include Self Awareness, Self Management, Social Awareness, and Relational Management. The challenge for good leadership comes during the attempt to bring about change in an organization. This was broken down into four parts: Vision, Relationship, Ministry (programs), and Structure. Any one of these may come into the predominate element leading to or opposing change. To be a sustainable effective leader, one needs to recognize the cycle of sacrifice and renewal whose parts include mindfulness, hope, compassion, laughter, joy, and playfulness.
2. The afternoon worship service featured Rev. Dr. Ary Fernandez Alban from Cuba, who preached and assisted in the communion service. This service included a joint choir, and brass band that helped lead the congregational singing and two special music presentations.
3. Ruling Elder Charmaine Ponkratz conducted the business portions of this Presbytery Meeting.
4. The offering taken at this meeting, \$1,251 was given to Beth El.
5. The next Peace River Presbytery Stated Meeting is scheduled Thursday, May 17, 2018 at St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church, North Port, Florida.

D. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORT

1. OUTREACH AND MARKETING COMMITTEE – Ron Myers

- a. The average Sunday worship attendance is one (1) less than 2017 but with stronger attendance the first of March.
- b. The Midday Programs drew 838 attendees. The history programs drew 418 and the music programs drew 420. The program bulletins next year will have a list of NPC activities, and the programs should be determined by August. The program was self supporting for 2018, but a line item will be added to the 2019 budget as back up.

- c. As of this date, no information has been received regarding the New Movers program.
- d. All current newspaper advertisements will be renewed for another three (3) months except for the Ledger.
- e. The Mobile Farm Market, formally Sprout, will contact us if an outlet is needed.
- f. Pastor Wally will prepare the Maundy Thursday and Easter services handout which will be distributed at the Suncoast Band Concerts and in the community.
- g. After discussion, the Committee agreed to keep the current time and day of week to meet.

VI. REPORTS SET ASIDE FOR DISCUSSION:

A. Treasurer’s Report and B. Finance Committee Report – Jack Tibbets

- 1. Operating Fund Our new financial reporting format is almost complete. The reports we will review tonight are close to what we want the final product to look like for greater clarity. Although we plan to review these reports tonight in a little detail, following is a comparison to last year of the operating fund month and year to date income, expense and net income:

	<u>Feb. 2018</u>	<u>YTD 2018</u>	<u>Feb. 2017</u>	<u>YTD 2017</u>	
Income	\$33,778	\$56,195	\$30,465	\$72,183	(\$56,183)*
Expense	<u>\$29,890</u>	<u>\$55,682</u>	<u>\$26,394</u>	<u>\$53,460</u>	
Net Income	\$ 3,888	\$ 513	\$ 4,071	\$18,723	(\$2,723)*

** This is not as bad as it would appear. In January 2017 we showed a net income of \$14,600, but we had several annual pledges for 2017 paid totaling about \$20,000 which swelled our month income to a total of \$42,000. That was good for the month and bad for the year. This year, because of the IRS income tax changes these pledges were received in December 2017 as Pre Paid Pledges, not included in our 2017 income. These prepaid amounts are now being added to our income each month. The final result will be better for us each month this year.*

- 2. PILP Mortgage As of 3/12/18 our principal balance is **\$287,503.94**. This remaining balance has been re-amortized over the rest of the life of the mortgage (14 years) giving us a new monthly payment of **\$2,184.74** as of 4/1/2018. Our old payment has been \$2,684.92. Our plan continues to call for us to maintain a balance of one year’s mortgage payments (\$26,217) in our PILP Building fund money market account. Before the end of this month, we will” sweep” the Building Fund account and pay down the mortgage principal an additional \$17,700, reducing our new balance to **\$269,803.94**.

Mark Goslin made a motion which was properly seconded to approve the Treasurer/Finance Committee report. The motion passed.

C. Clerk of Session Report – Sally Kirby

1. At the request of the Clerk of Session Bob Price made a motion, which was properly seconded to remove Shelley Cushman and Wayne Sheffler from our Active Rolls since they have not participated in any way in the church life for two years or more and for whom we have no address. The motion passed.

2. It was recommended that the following members be sent a letter regarding their status as NPC members since they have not participated in any way in the church life for two years or more: Jean Johnston and Theresa Mitchell.

D. Task Force on Reassigning NPC Duties – Bob Silver and Bob Price

The recommendations of the Task Force Committee were approved.

E. Worship Committee Report – Sanford Mullet

1. Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018 will include Palms given to everyone entering the church. During the service all persons will be encouraged to wave the palms. A Brass ensemble will be a part of the Palm Sunday service. The Palms will be collected and burned for use as the ashes on Ash Wednesday 2019.
2. Looking to have a cross installed outside the church that will be draped in black during Passion Week. It will be changed to be draped in white on Easter Sunday.
3. Maundy Thursday service, March 29, 2018, is planned to include the reenactment of the Lord's Last Supper. This service will conclude with a communion service administered by the disciples.
4. Easter Service, April 1, 2018, will be held at 10:30 am with the Bell Choir ringing Rondo by Telemann, Thine Is the Glory, Christ the Lord Is Risen Today, Joyful, Joyful We Adore Him, and Lord of the Dance. Additional communion servers are required.
5. Helen Healy coordinated the purchase of Easter lilies to be delivered Saturday March 31, 2018. These lilies shall be de-scented and placed in the church by the Bell Choir. Purchasers shall pick the plants up to take them home after the Easter service.
6. Beginning May 6, 2018, we will start a Bible reading program, consisting of 100 Bible stories. This program will run for 20 weeks. There are 5 readings each week and the pastor will preach one of the passages each week. Reading schedules will be provided to the congregation. A discussion class prior to the worship service will discuss the other readings for that week.
7. There is a requirement to update audio/visual system software and procedures. New training materials should be created for new audio/visual operators.

8. Hand Bell maintenance cost estimates between \$3,000 and \$4,000. This maintenance is a prudent requirement to insure the bells are properly cared for. In addition, the platform where the bells are played should have a rug under the table and where the players stand to perform. This is a safety requirement for the bells should one be dropped, it reduces the probability of damage to a bell. Therefore, the worship committee recommends raising funds to address these unbudgeted requirements.
9. The Bell Choir also needs a name. We would like to give everyone in the congregation an opportunity to participate in naming our Bell Choir. Therefore, propose that all who would like to propose a name, make a donation for the choir fund along with a suggested name. The highest bidders will have preferred consideration for the new name. Final name of the Bell Choir will be determined by the Worship Committee.

The Worship Committee made a motion to authorize a fund raiser to address the stated requirements of the Worship Committee in support of the Bell Choir. The motion passed.

It was recommended that the Worship Committee should bring the type of fund raiser back to Session for approval.

VII. OLD BUSINESS – None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. *Ron Myers made a motion, which was properly seconded, to appoint the following Officers of the Corporation: Bob Silver President; Tom Latimer Vice President; Harry Wilde Treasurer; and Sally Kirby Secretary.*
- B. Pastor Wally discussed our Mission giving. He would prefer that the congregation be addressed about mission giving and encouraged to continue to use the mission envelopes. Pastor Wally wants to send out a letter and address it from the pulpit. The Session agreed.
- C. Pastor Wally informed the Session that he will have April 10-15 and May 13-14 (total 8 days for the year so far) as vacation dates. Ray Davies will preach in April and Dick Murphy in May.

There being no further business to come before the Session the meeting was adjourned with prayer led by Pastor Wally at 8:20 P.M..

Pastor Wally Johnson, Moderator

Sally A. Kirby, Clerk of Session

