



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA**

Minutes - Regular Session Meeting – Wednesday May 27, 2009

**I OPENING**

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Allentown, PA met on May 27, 2009, in Room 115 at the church. A quorum was present. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

**II. THE SESSION AT WORSHIP**

Rev. Stephen Emick led an Evening Prayer Worship Service.

**III. THE CONSIDERATION OF THE CONSENT DOCKET**

Session **voted** to approve the items under the Consent Docket

**A. Administrative Business**

1. Approval of the Docket
2. The Roll Call and excuses will be determined by previous notification.
3. Approval of Minutes
  - i. April 22, 2009 - Regular Session Meeting
  - ii. May 6, 2009 – Special Session Meeting to accept Confirmands
  - iii. May 20, 2009 – Special Commission of Session to accept Jacob Weaver - Confirmand

**B. Roll Call -**

Moderator:	Rev. Harry Freebairn
Clerk of Session:	Linda Kirner
Ordained Staff Present:	Rev. Michael Drake, Rev. Stephen Emick, Rev. Kathleen Jamhoury, Rev. Cynthia Simmons
Elders Present:	Dorrie Graul, John Ford, Lois Henseler, Paul Holler, Ally Kempf, Rich Laliberte, Carol Landes, Alyson Cox Lindsay, Millie Miller, Salma Moussa Fred Preuninger, Bruce Rodenberger, Robert Rutman, Roseann Sandt, Bill White, Marilyn Wright and.
Elders Excused:	Jami Cooper, Kathleen Dent, Rick Ensley, Bert Harries, Karen Layfield, John Tacca, Gay Tuttle, Kathy Yott
Elders Absent:	Joe Thurston, Tom Wasser

**IV. FINANCIAL REPORT -**

The deficit is currently better than the 117,000 deficit budget predicted at this time. However, we will probably still end the year at a \$130,000 deficit. We will keep a close eye on the budget through out the summer and continue to monitor this closely as we enter the final quarter of the year.

**V. OLD BUSINESS** - none

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

1. John Ford moved for the Mission Committee that Session approve that a Christmas Peace Pilgrimage banner be placed temporarily on the church property facing McDonalds where it can be seen by traffic on Cedar Crest for one week in November or early December. **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

**VII. COMMITTEE & OTHER REPORTS:**

**1. Christian Education** – Lois Henseler reported for the Committee.

Youth Ministry

This has been a very busy month in Youth Ministry - the 34th Annual Youth Choir Tour was held April 30 – May 3, Confirmation Sunday was May 10, and we celebrated with our graduating seniors at the Baccalaureate Service on 5/17. This congregation is blessed with fine youth and families and caring adult volunteers who - with God's help! - make the program work.

The summer staff is complete. An Interim Youth Ministry Director and 4 summer interns have been hired. They are:

Noha Khoury – Interim Director of Youth Ministry

Shannon Haberzettl, Jessica Jonas, Allyssa Miller, Mark Stryjak – Summer Interns

Noha Khoury has already started her employment; others will start soon after Memorial Day.

Funding for 3 of the 4 proposed interns and the Interim Youth Ministry Director position will be provided from the Staff Committee budget. The Youth Ministry Committee again asked that dollars from the Stump Bequest be used to fund the fourth summer intern position. That request was approved.

Children's Ministry

Family Game Night Review – The April Game Night was held outside and well attended. In an effort to encourage more attendance for the fall, we will advertise more, with flyers, in Tidings, in the bulletin, and list all three fall dates in the initial information so that people can get them on their calendars early. The name will be changed to Family Fun Night, to emphasize that the goal is getting together for various activities, not necessarily playing board games.

Weekday Preschool

Registration for the fall is going well. As of April 20<sup>th</sup> 14 of the 20 three year old slots, 36 of the 42 four year old slots, and 35 of the 36 five year old slots were filled.

**2. Communications** – Rich Laliberte presented the report. Communication Committee continues to work on redesigning Tidings. They have decided for now to keep the Web Tidings in its current PDF format, as a version embedded with links will require more office staff time than is practical. A new email management system will be implemented when we launch the new print Tidings. Outside design work on Tidings and a start-up fee for the email management system will be funded through undesignated memorials.

**3. Membership** – Marilyn Wright reported for the committee. This coming Sunday we will have a meeting to receive new members of the Arabic Community, along with other new members who have just finished an Inquirers class.

**4. Mission** – John Ford reported for the Mission Committee.

- **50<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PEACE PILGRIMAGE:** There is an annual Pilgrimage from Nazareth to Bethlehem. We have been asked to allow the group which is co-sponsored by the Conference of Churches to place a sign on church property for one week in November – December to advertise the walk. The group will provide the sign, put it up and take it down. About 125 people usually participate in the annual peace walk.
- Nine adult church members and two children participated in Earth Day projects in downtown Allentown on April 25, 2009. The weather was beautiful and the church volunteers were needed. The group assembled café tables and chairs and planted large planters for local 7<sup>th</sup> Street merchants, as well as helped plant a children's garden. All had a great day and learned about plantings.
- Bread for the World planning continues. The offering will be June 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Peace, Justice & Missionaries Committee will begin a church relationship with PCUSA Missionary Amy Lynne Davisson based on her connection with Burmese immigrants in Northern Thailand.
- On Saturday, May 9, 2009 at 11 am there will be a showing of “China Blue” in Room 220 of our church as part of the monthly Prayer Vigil for Peace. The film exposes the exploitive conditions of the garment industry in China.
- On September 20, 2009 at 7 pm, P J & M will host a screening of the documentary “Pray the Devil Back to Hell” at our church. It chronicles the movement of Liberian women of faith – Christian and Muslim – as they seek to bring peace to their war torn countries.
- The musical instrument collection project went great! Over 25 instruments were collected. One of our members also donated \$500 from the class of 1947 of Allen High School. The instruments and funds were presented to Central Elementary, Allentown.
- Abuna Chacour, Archbishop of Galilee, will be preaching September 27, 2009 and attending a fund raising dinner on September 26, 2009 in our church. Members are asked to mark their calendars to save those dates.
- Debbie Braaksma, one of our missionaries, will be preaching on June 28. An ice cream social is being planned for Saturday evening so the congregation can meet her.
- The tooth rush/past campaign for Roosevelt Elementary School is underway and another book blast is scheduled.

**5. Nominating** – Alyson Lindsay reported for the Committee. The committee met last night and letters will go out to the nominees. They hope to wrap up their work by July 1.

**6. Staff** – Bob Rutman reported for the Staff Committee. He reviewed the Staff Committee office reorganization process to date.

- Four interview sessions were held with seventeen candidates being interviewed.
  - Each candidate met with two interview teams consisting of an Associate Pastor, a member of the Staff Committee and an HR professional from Hobbie Staffing.
  - A debriefing meeting was held to review the qualifications, the interview impressions and the test results for each candidate. From the debrief conversations a list of final candidates was developed.
  - Formal offers are in the process of being prepared.
- The Staff Committee reviewed the status of the Summer Youth Ministry Staffing selections. The Committee also has reviewed the progress on the custodial position replacement for Bernie since he is due to retire shortly. The Committee also continues to review and update the Staff Committee section of the Session Manual.

**7. Stewardship** – Paul Holler gave the following report.

The stewardship campaign plans have been decided and they are moving forward. All changes for the 2010 budget should be submitted to Paul by June 1. Next Thursday, at 7:00, the kick off meeting will be held for the campaign.

**8. Worship** – No report.

## **VIII. Other Reports**

**1. Presbytery Report** – Dorrie Gaul reported.

Presbytery met on April 28. There were 10 proposed amendments to the constitution that were voted on. The Korean Church now has an interim minister and the church is well on the way to healing.

**2. Pastor's Report**

**Kathleen Jamhoury**

Kathy has agreed to tutor a few of our young Burmese members and is excited to begin this new ministry. She is headed to Atlanta to attend a multi-cultural conference as part of the Big Tent Program. She will be experiencing many multi-cultural worship events while there.

**Stephen Emick**

Stephen read a letter from the pastor at the church where the youth choir stayed. He distributed biographies on the summer interns. Noha Khoury will serve as the Director of Youth Ministry during his sabbatical.

**Cindy Simmons**

The deacons are busy getting ready to host the annual country fair in June. The Deacons are also busy finding groups to host Lemonade in the Shade. Cindy asked that any committees that would like to host Lemonade in the Shade to please contact her. The

preaching schedule has been completed through the end of October. On a personal note she shared that her son Ben was married last weekend.

**IX. THE SESSION AT WORK IN THE WORLD**

Rev. Harry Freebairn closed with a prayer of dismissal and adjourned this Regular Session Meeting at 9:07 PM.

Attested,

Linda Kirner  
Clerk of Session