

Stated Session Meeting October 24, 2007

Pastor Larry Hayward called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Haverkamp Room. Elder Cathy Syles opened the meeting with a devotion, and the moderator offered a prayer. The following members, constituting a quorum, were present:

Louise Anderson	present	Paul Neureiter	excused
Nancy Hall Berens	present	Elizabeth O'Brien	present
Linc Cummings	present	Karen Olson	present
Judy Curtis	excused	Anne Pickett	present
Eileen Denne	present	Betsy Preston	present
Spencer Dickerson	present	Christopher Ptomey	excused
Don Fowler	present	David Roden	present
Frank Fraser	present	Carol Skiba	present
Priscilla Goodwin	present	Cathy Syles	present
Lanny Griffith	present	J.W. Wilson	absent
David Hill	excused	Larry Hayward, pastor	present
Brian Laubscher	present	Karen Blomberg, as. pastor	present
Robin McFarland	present	Patrick Hunnicutt, as. pastor	present
Meredith Mitchell	absent	Paul Van de Water, clerk	present
Stephen Moss	present	Carolyn Fraser, vice clerk	present

Also present were Nancy Bea, Terry Grindstaff, Jodi Lingan, Molly North, and Henri Rush.

CLERK'S REPORT

Carolyn Fraser distributed the prayer partners basket. Paul Van de Water delivered the clerk's report, as follows.

Homebound Communion:

On Sunday October 7, 2007, Communion was taken to the following: Nancy and Ward Lasley, by deacons Karin Edgell and Barb Wyman; John and Dora Leiss and Walter Wendt, by Elders Jill and Greg Ewell; Edith Thompson, by deacon Elizabeth Martineau and the Rev. Karen Blomberg.

Baptisms:

Allison Elizabeth Deutsch, born August 2, 2007, daughter of Lynn and Michael Deutsch (members), at the 11:00 a.m. service on October 14, 2007, the Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt officiating.

Marriages:

Samuel Bower and **Stephanie Craft** (non-members) on Friday, October 5, 2007 in Wrightsville, PA, the Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt officiating. (Sam is Patrick's cousin.)

Shawn Rachele Ryan and **Charles Alexander Rich** (non-members) on October 6, 2007, in the Sanctuary, the Rev. Larry Hayward officiating.

Sharla Barklind and **Chad Artz** (non-members) on October 13, 2007, in the Sanctuary, the Rev. Larry Hayward officiating.

Deaths:

Mildred Breedlove (affiliate member) died on October 2, 2007. A service was held on October 5, 2007, at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home.

CONSENT DOCKET

The Session approved the consent docket, as follows:

Motion to approve the minutes of the Session meeting of September 26, 2006, the congregational meeting of October 7, the called Session meeting of October 7, and the Session new member meeting of October 21.

Motion to accept all committee minutes and minutes of the Diaconate.

Motion to approve the following baptisms:

Adeline Moira Davenport, born November 25, 2006, daughter of Christiane Gallen Davenport (member) and Andrew Davenport (non-member), at the 11:00 a.m. service on December 2, 2007.

Mary Elizabeth Winn, born June 26, 2007, daughter of Mara and Robert Winn (members), at the 8:30 a.m. service on December 23, 2007.

Motion to dismiss the following members to other churches:

Charles Edward Hays (#2129) to Christ United Methodist Church, Fairfax Station, VA.

Ralph Francis Surette (#539) and **Madelaine “Lainie” DeMelle Surrette** (#2057) to the Presbyterian Church, Chestertown, MD.

Motion to appoint John Woods to the Personnel Committee (Class of 2008, replacing John Smithers), as recommended by the moderator, clerk, and chairs of the Personnel and Nominating Committees in accordance with Session policy.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Capital Campaign. Terry Grindstaff presented a status report on the capital renovation project.

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. Elizabeth O’Brien reported that Casey FitzGerald will start as associate pastor on November 12, if approved by the congregation.

Deacon Report. Molly North delivered the report from the diaconate.

Long-Range Planning. Larry Hayward and Paul Van de Water described the process for developing the proposed charter for the task force on Envisioning Westminster’s Future.

MSC: To approve the charter for the task force on Envisioning Westminster’s Future. (See below.)

Members of the Session should send names on potential nominees to the clerk within the next week. The moderator, clerk, and chair of the Nominating Committee will submit recommended nominees to the Session in November.

Treasurer's Report. Terry Grindstaff presented the treasurer's report.

MC: To accept the treasurer's report.

2007 Year-to-Date through September

Operating income	\$ 959,418
Operating expenses	981,071
Net income	- 21,653

Assets

Operating	333,236
Foundation	1,047,706
Capital Campaign	-1,378,078

Other. The moderator announced that he would soon appoint committee chairs and vice chairs for 2008. He also announced that the Session would meet on January 30, 2008, and that the ordination and installation of officers would take place on February 3, 2008.

The clerk announced a plan to review and codify all formal, written Session policies. Committee chairs and staff should provide the clerk with a list of all such policies by the November Session meeting. The review process should be completed by June 2008. At that point, a motion will be presented to repeal all policies not included in the on-line compilation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Congregational Life. Nancy Hall Berens presented the following motion:

MC: To permit Boy Scout Troop 129 to conduct a Christmas wreath sale including advertising in the Chronicle Update on October 28, November 4, and November 11 as well as distributing and collecting forms on November 4 and 11 at a table in Fellowship Hall following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

Local Mission. Louise Anderson informed the session of the upcoming Adopt-a-Turkey program and alternative giving bazaar.

National and International Mission. Linc Cummings and Henri Rush described the proposal for an oversight board for the United Orphanage and Academy at Moi's Bridge, which was presented to the Session for a first reading.

Personnel. Spencer Dickerson reported that the committee is developing a pastor evaluation process and that Casey FitzGerald will continue to work with young adults and singles. He also collected money for the staff luncheon in December.

Stewardship. Priscilla Goodwin, Anne Pickett, David Roden, Stephen Moss, and Louise Anderson discussed the importance of stewardship to themselves and their families.

Administration and Finance. Lanny Griffith presented the following motion:

MC: To approve the policy on gifts and fundraising activities.

He also distributed the process and schedule for the 2008 operating budget.

Building and Grounds. Stephen Moss announced that the fall clean-up would take place on November 17.

Christian Education. Eileen Denne presented the following motion:

MSC: To approve the following person as a new church school teacher: Michelle Presson.

The Christian Education Committee, in consultation with the Administration and Finance Committee, will review the need for possible changes to the child protection policy.

Communications. Brian Laubscher announced that the committee would ask for approval of the video dissemination of sermons at the November Session meeting. He also asked committee chairs and others to review relevant portions of the website by the November meeting.

CLOSING PRAYER

Stephen Moss offered a closing prayer. The moderator adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul N. Van de Water
Clerk of Session

TASK FORCE CHARTER ENVISIONING WESTMINSTER'S FUTURE

Purpose:

- Envision the shape of Westminster's ministry, mission, and programs, now that the church has completed a successful building project and capital campaign.
- Discern what it means for Westminster to be a faithful witness to Christ in Alexandria, in the Washington area, and around the world.

Goals:

- Paint the big picture: What do we want Westminster to look like over the next few years?
- Develop a small number of specific objectives for Westminster
- Identify the needed resources: members' time, staffing, financial resources

Members:

- Five to ten people appointed by the Session.
- Visionary, motivated, committed, and involved.

Connection to Session, committees, and congregation:

- Maintain continuing two-way communication with Session and congregation
- Work with church committees and staff in their respective areas
- Staff liaison: senior pastor

Time Frame:

- Begin in February 2008.
- Submit a brief final report by February 2009.
- Make recommendations at any time.