

January 9, 2007
The Meeting Room

The Webster Presbyterian Session met in a Called meeting to discuss and adopt the 2007 Budget. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator Mark Cooper at 6:45 p.m.

A quorum consisting of the following was present: Moderator Reverend Mark Cooper, Associate Pastor Reverend Helen DeLeon; Ruling Elders: Carol Bachtel, Karla Bradley, Jennifer Carr, Kathy Dixon, Johnny Jones, Diane Kane, Phyllis Koenig, Ross Looney, Al Manson, Chuck Moede, Carlos Noriega, Judy Ota, Roy Phillips, Marjorie Seiter, Reese Terry, and Clerk of Session James Paden.

Treasurer Priscilla (Pat) Koester and Assistant Treasurer, Dick Mills were also present.

Ruling Elders Elect Tye Cowan, John Dewey, Gene Fisseler, Julie Mead, Elizabeth Spivey and Mike Stearns were invited guests.

Copies of the projected revenues for 2007 and a work sheet showing actual expenditures for 2005 and 2006 plus the requested (by Committees) for 2007 were distributed. The Session proceeded to examine the requested budget items and adjust where possible. After completing this exercise, it was determined that the requested budget still exceeded the expected revenue by about \$13,000. Session discussed this amount and the possibility that new members received during 2007 could make up this difference. After this discussion and other possibilities for additional income, the Session voted to adopt a 2007 budget of \$773,189.27 with anticipated revenue of \$773,500.00.

The purpose of the meeting having been accomplished, the Session voted to adjourn. The meeting was closed with Prayer by the Moderator at 8:58 p.m.

James E. Paden
Clerk of Session

January 14, 2007
Fellowship Hall

The Webster Presbyterian Church Congregation met in its **Annual Congregational Meeting** on January 14, 2007 for the purposes of hearing the Session committees' annual reports, voting to change the Ordained Staff Calls, electing at-large members to the 2007 Nominating Committee, and responding to such other business that might properly be brought before it. A potluck dinner was served to those attending. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator, Mark L. Cooper at 12:54 p.m. Mr. James E. Paden, Clerk of Session was appointed Secretary. A quorum was declared present.

The first order of business was to hear the reports from the several Session committees. A copy of these reports was made available to all in attendance and a copy will be available in the Church office. The reports were presented as follows:

- Worship Committee by Mr. Al Manson
- Children's Ministry by Ms. Wendy Noriega
- Youth Ministry Committee by Mr. Chuck Moede
- Adult Education Committee by Ms. Mary Lawrence

- Mission Committee by Mr. Carl Allen
- Care Committee by Ms. Judy Ota
- Fellowship & Welcoming Committee by Rev. Helen DeLeon
- Administration Committee by Mr. Carlos Noriega
- Buildings & Grounds Committee by Mr. Ross Looney
- Finance & Stewardship Committee by Ms. Jennifer Carr and Mr. Roy Phillips
- The Treasurer's report was presented by Ms. Priscilla Koester

Following each presentation an opportunity was made available for questions. The reports were received.

2007 Nominating Committee

The Moderator then requested Mr. Allen, Chair of the 2006 Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for the At-Large positions on the 2007 Nominating Committee. Sylvia Kinzler and Nina Moede were nominated. Each had agreed to serve if elected. A motion was made, seconded and passed that Sylvia and Nina be elected to the 2007 Nominating Committee.

Changes in Terms of Call

The Moderator turned the meeting over to Mr. Paden. The Moderator, his wife, and Rev. DeLeon excused themselves. Mr. Paden requested Mr. Carlos Noriega, Chair of the Personnel Committee, to present the suggested changes in terms for the Ordained Staff. The recommended changes were as follows:

| Senior Pastor, Mark Cooper: | 2006 TERMS | 2007 TERMS |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 1. COMPENSATION: | | |
| a. Salary | \$49,000 | \$44,625 |
| b. Housing Allowance | \$30,000 | \$35,000 |
| c. Manse Provided _____ YES <u> X </u> NO | | |
| d. Social Security Offset | (NONE) | (NONE) |
| e. Medical Supplement | (NONE) | \$2,500 |
| f. Deferred Compensation for Tax Shelter | (NONE) | (NONE) |
| TOTAL EFFECTIVE SALARY (TES) | \$79,000 | \$82,125 |
| 2. REIMBURSED EXPENSES: | | |
| a. Auto Expense (at IRS standard) | \$4,500 | \$4,500 |
| b. Books, Professional Dues, etc. (Not included in study leave allowance) | \$685 | \$685 |
| c. Discretionary Allowance | (NONE) | (NONE) |
| 3. Benefits: | | |
| a. Board of Pension Dues (31% of TES) | \$24,490 | \$25,869 |
| b. Study Leave Allowance (Cumulative for 3 years) | \$1,325 | \$1,380 |
| c. Study Leave | 2 Weeks | 2 Weeks |
| d. Vacation | 4 Weeks | 4 Weeks |
| e. Other Paid Insurance | (NONE) | (NONE) |
| f. Social Security Supplement | \$5,000 | \$5,000 |

A motion was made, seconded and passed that the change in call for Rev. Cooper be approved and the information be forwarded to New Covenant Presbytery.

| Associate Pastor, Helen DeLeon: | <u>2006 TERMS</u> | <u>NEW TERMS</u> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. COMPENSATION: | | |
| a. Salary | \$22,435 | \$28,150 |
| b. Housing and Utility Allowance | \$16,000 | \$18,000 |
| c. Manse Provided ___YES ___X NO | | |
| d. Social Security Supplement | (NONE) | (NONE) |
| e. Medical Supplement | \$1,500 | \$1,500 |
| f. Deferred Compensation for Tax Shelter | (NONE) | (NONE) |
| TOTAL COMPENSATION | \$39,935 | \$48,650 |
| 2. REIMBURSED EXPENSES: | | |
| a. Auto Expense (at IRS standard) | \$4,000 | \$4,000 |
| b. Books, Professional Dues, etc. (Not included in study leave allowance) | (NONE) | (NONE) |
| c. Discretionary Allowance | \$1,000 | \$1,000 |
| 3. BENEFITS: | | |
| a. Board of Pension Dues (31 % of Total Effective Salary) | \$12,380 | \$15,325 |
| b. Study Leave Allowance | \$1,325 | \$1,380 |
| c. Study Leave | 2 Weeks | 2 Weeks |
| d. Vacation | 4 Weeks | 4 Weeks |
| e. Dental Insurance | (NONE) | (NONE) |

A motion was made, seconded and passed that the change in call for Rev. DeLeon be approved and the information be forwarded to New Covenant Presbytery.

Rev. and Mrs. Cooper and Rev. DeLeon were invited back to the meeting and received with a standing ovation. The Rev. Cooper resumed as Moderator of the meeting.

The purposes of the meeting having been accomplished the meeting was adjourned with prayer by the Moderator at 1:51 p.m.

Mark Cooper
Moderator

James E. Paden
Secretary

Attachment – Session Committee Annual Reports

ADMINISTRATION 2006 REPORT

Highlights for the year 2006 include the following:

- Continued support of computer network server, staff computers, wiring and software as needed

- Organized Web Team under Communication Team, as both are Communication Activities
- Implemented Web Based Church Calendar, Meeting Room Requests, and Facilities Problem Reports
- Session members, Deacons, and Web Team members have web based functions.
- Major improvements initiated in Web Page Design
- Initial organization of long range planning function
- Initiative to organize a church marketing communications task force
- Pat Brackett is retiring as Communications Team Chair after many years of dedicated service

Personnel Team:

- Supported hiring of part-time Sunday School Superintendent (twice) and Interim Music Director
- Updated Performance Evaluation forms for Pastor Positions
- Established Personnel Policies for Family Medical Leave
- Coordinated the annual Performance Evaluation procedure for all paid staff
- Recommended that Session committees reassess human resource needs and priorities
- Recommended wage levels for 2007

Communications Team:

- Communications Team is composed of representatives from church committees to disseminate news to the congregation and to the local community through newsletter, website and printed media.
- Members, or reporters, this year included Administration, Mission, Fellowship & Welcoming, Care, Children and Youth. In addition the team reached out to assist the New Member Team, Music Ministry and Stewardship Campaign.
- Logo and new stationary: A church wide logo contest was initiated and India Allen's rendering was submitted to Session at their July meeting. Session approved the concept, but asked for changes. Graphics are being finalized and formatted for the new church stationery.
- Enforce a consistent printed style for all printed material - ongoing challenge
- Initiate direct mail advertising - unable to finance during 2006
- Purchased and monitored Yellow Page ads in SBC, Great Western, and Transwestern and Houston Community Newspapers, The Citizen and The Exchange News.
- Worship services are listed in The Citizen and Galveston Daily News without charge.
- Press Releases for Family Festival, Vicki Smith's concert, and Lent and Advent activities were submitted to The Citizen, Houston Chronicle and Community Newsletters.
- Brochures were completed this year were for Open Door Class and Person Centered Ministry. The new Welcome Brochure, awaiting approval of the Fellowship & Welcoming Committee, will be printed professionally.
- Eleven issues of WebPresS were published, June and July being combined. Pat Brackett served as managing editor; Tina Looney as layout editor; and staff administrator Vicky Hays worked as circulation manager with Tuesday Morning Bible Study volunteers preparing it for mailing. Layout Editor Tina Looney and improved the readability of the web Newsletter.
- The Communications Team happily endorsed the Staff's change to the tri-fold Worship Bulletin, recruited volunteers to fold it and made payment towards the purchase of a folding machine.
- Received good print media coverage of Senior Pastor Mark Cooper's arrival.

Web Site Team:

- The home page is updated weekly
- The calendar and newsletter are updated monthly.
- The newsletter is available on the web site with the same content as the hard copy with the exception of the birthday announcements.
- A security statement now posted in the newsletter has been accepted by the Administration Committee.
- Church members can now access additional information on the web site by signing in with user names and passwords.
 - Members can update their own personal information.
 - Members can obtain current personal information one church member at a time.
 - No lists of church members are available.
 - Session Administration Committee and Web Site Team can monitor the activity of church members as they visit the site and utilize the services.
- Major improvements are being evaluated of the web site in terms of design, formatting and content.
- Church members are encouraged to make suggestions for changes and additions to the web site.
- The current web site team has been working diligently to provide services to WPC and the community it serves.

Commendations: The service to members and the community of WPC could not be done without the good and loyal member volunteers. Many perform their work with no or little recognition and we thank each and every one of them, both named and unnamed, for their dedication.

- To Pat Brackett for her many years as Chair of the Communication Team and diligence in publishing the monthly newsletter.
- To Carlos Noriega for the countless hours, dedication and leadership displayed as the Chair of the Personnel Team.
- To Elaine Lapka and Randy Moore for three years of self-less service on the Personnel Team.
- To Carla Yager, the webmaster, for her diligent design and updating of the web site on a weekly basis and for her transferring her skills to network and computer systems support.
- To Dennis Waehner, for designing the web based calendar and leading the efforts to upgrade the web site.
- To Tina Looney for her many hours as Layout Editor of the WPC Newsletter her contributions of the many pictures throughout the web pages.
- To all of those quiet members who come in to the church office and offer their service and time to complete the ordinary, but important tasks that need to be done.

Respectively submitted:

Administration Committee: Carlos Noriega (Chair), Reese Terry, Pat Brackett, Joyce Sens, Paul Harano and Mark Cooper (Staff Liaison)

Personnel Team: Carlos Noriega (Chair), Elaine Lapka, Randy Moore, Kim Kinzler, John Dewey, Janis Edwards and Mark Cooper (Staff Liaison)

Communications Team: Pat Brackett (Chair), Tina Looney, Joyce Sens, Reese Terry, Jim Young, India Allen and Chuck Moede

Web Site Team: Joyce Sens (Chair), Andy Posluszny; Carla Yager; Dennis Waehner; India Allen; Jim Young; Linda Smith-Gregory; Nathan Grunden; Pat Brackett; Reese Terry; Tina Looney

ADULT EDUCATION 2006 REPORT

God calls us to grow in our life of faith. Proverbs 1:5 says "let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance . . ." In 2 Timothy, Paul gave this charge, not only to Timothy, but to us as well: "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of . . ." The Adult Education Ministry Committee of WPC helps bring to life the vision of this church by nurturing and empowering adults to live out their calling to grow in faith. We do this through classes, Bible studies, women's ministries, covenant groups, and through resources we provide.

Adult Education Classes: We believe that learning is a life-long experience and we want to provide this congregation with as many opportunities as possible to learn more about this life of faith that is ours. We offered over 20 different Sunday school classes this year, as well as some intergenerational programming for special events such as Memorial Day and Independence Day and special seasonal classes for Lent and Advent. Topics ranged from spirituality to mission to finding balance to the music of U2. Together we studied the Bible to understand the roots of our faith; we got a first-hand look at covenant groups and how we can live out our faith, and looked at such timely topics as truth and fiction in the Da Vinci Code. We studied what other faiths believe and discussed the biblical understanding of peacemaking. We didn't do this all on Sunday, either. We had a Wednesday night book discussion group, adult programming during Vacation Bible School, and a group that went through the Bible in 90 days! We average about 50 – 60 adult learners weekly, but we'd love to see this number grow. There really is something for everyone. In 2007, we want to continue to expand our class offerings and grow our Sunday school program, as well as offer additional programming at other times of the week, and provide training for new teachers.

Covenant Groups: We began 2006 with three active Covenant Groups. Covenant Groups provide Christian fellowship in a context that can deepen their relationship with God through sharing, caring and praying for one another. As 2006 came to an end, we now have 8 covenant groups with over 80 members participating. Groups meet weekly, every other week, or monthly. They all meet in private homes. We held two trainings for the current leadership in 2006. In 2007, we hope to continue and expand this ministry. We are planning an afternoon of training for covenant group membership on Sunday, January 21. Training is required in order to lead a Covenant group, and it also is valuable for members because the success of a Covenant group depends on the commitment and participation of each member. From the January training, we hope to have more groups available to meet the needs of those interested in participating. The Covenant Group Leadership Team hopes to deepen WPC's commitment to this ministry in 2007.

Resources: The Resource Team has completed an inventory of all of the books in the library. The Resource Team continues to try to locate missing books. WPC's audio visual equipment is in constant use and requires care in order to be available to meet the demand. To meet the growing need for presentation of reports, a computer projector (PowerPoint and more) that can be used in daylight was purchased. A replacement CD player also was obtained. The Resource Team plans to continue organizing and updating the library and will be working with the Worship Committee and Audio-Visual Team in 2007 to acquire and maintain equipment to enhance the Christian education experience at WPC.

Women's Ministries

Sisters-in-Faith: This unique program brings women together two at a time to get to know one another over a six-month period. A total of 33 pairs of sisters had the opportunity to develop friendship with each other in 2006. A feature added this year is monthly gatherings for the sisters. These have been highly successful, and the

women have enjoyed meeting other sisters in the program, as well as getting together with their own sisters. Sisters-in-Faith closed the year with a tea at Pastor Helen's home. A new round starts in January 2007.

Women's Retreat: This annual event is a highlight in the year for the women of Webster Presbyterian Church. In 2006, the women returned to Camp Allen in Navasota, Texas, for the second time. Guest Speaker Mary Marcotte, an Associate General Presbyter in our Presbytery, lead the women in a program of self-discovery. The gals relaxed together on the beautiful grounds, and had a great time at area festivals and shopping in surrounding towns. Approximately 50 of WPC's women enjoyed the opportunity to get away for a weekend of spiritual renewal, relaxation, and fun. The 2007 Retreat will be held October 12-14 at Camp Allen. Make your plans NOW to participate in this vital ministry to women.

Bible Studies

Tuesday Morning: For many years, this group of 25–30 folks has met each Tuesday morning for study, fellowship, and prayer. In 2006, this group studied some books of the Bible as well as some of the works of Marcus Borg, and a study on Christian care-giving. They are also involved in service program, collecting materials for the Seafarer's Christmas boxes, coats and blankets for the homeless, and jars of peanut butter and jelly for the United Campus Ministry program. This group is also well-known for their love of birthdays as they celebrate the birthdays of their members with food and song!

Lunch Bunch: As the name implies, the Lunch Bunch gathers for lunch on Tuesdays and uses the time together as an opportunity to grow deeper in their faith through fellowship, prayer, and study. This past year we have studied several books, including *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* and *The Beatitudes for Today*.

Morning Break: Meeting on Wednesday mornings, the women of this group participate in 4-8 week studies with a fellowship event at the completion of each study. In addition to study, the members of this group have become loving, faithful, Christian friends. We have grown in faith and love through sharing our individual life experiences, whether it is our children, our grandchildren or family and close friends. This group is also involved in service, and plan to take part in a monthly "senior birthday" event this coming spring where we provide a birthday celebration for area shut-in seniors.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Dixon, Elder

Helen DeLeon, Staff liaison

Eve Lawrence (Resources), Mary Lawrence (Adult Education), Tony Le Cara (Adult Education), Liz Loynes (Bible Studies), and Jane Markley (Covenant Groups)

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS 2006 REPORT

The year 2006 was a rather busy one for the Buildings & Grounds Committee. But, thanks to hundreds of hours of volunteer time and the talents and contributions of the many, almost all of our projects, repairs and operations were successfully completed. We would like to thank all those who painted, plumbed, carpentered, weeded, trimmed, lighted, cleaned and did all the other little chores necessary to keep our facilities functioning properly. We would also like to list them by name, but in so doing we would surely forget someone or their contribution and that would be a tragedy. So, everyone who helped, and you know who you are, please understand that we deeply appreciate your efforts and thank you sincerely.

Early in the year, B&G started with a Saturday work-day to replace lights in all the buildings. We used 14 volunteers, 240 replacement light tubes, and 18 replacement ballasts. It's hard to believe how many lights there are in our buildings. We later found a ladder tall enough and someone brave enough to climb it and replaced the parking lot lights. A light bulb replacement team has been set up to meet monthly and keep the lights working throughout the various buildings.

- In February, there was also a concerted effort put forth to help B&G repaint and re-outfit Mark's office upon his arrival.
- With spring, our new lawn maintenance crew brought in a power lift and trimmed all the trees front and back and washed down the algae on the Fellowship Hall stucco towers. This needs to be done every two or three years in the future. The room previously reserved for communion element preparation room was modified. A larger sink and associated plumbing were installed to accommodate both communion preparation and Sunday morning coffee fellowship.
- In May, a general workday was held and 18 volunteers showed up to help. Much was accomplished and a good time was had by all. We planted new St. Augustine grass along Houston Street, removed and disposed of several stumps and tree trunks. We cleared and disposed of trash and debris from the city alley in back of the parking lot, the falling down basketball goal, the damaged picnic tables, and large items abandoned at our dumpster. Salvageable material was removed from the dilapidated storage shed and placed in the Sanctuary building HVAC storage room. The storage shed was then removed from our parking lot altogether. Flower beds were weeded, shrubs trimmed, ceiling tiles in Mark's office were replaced, doors were adjusted, toilets were repaired, unused shelves and cabinets were cleared out and stored. Emergency exit lights were installed, kitchen carts were cleaned and outdoor gutters and downspouts were repaired.
- In the summer, the openings at the top of the bell tower adjacent to the church office were sealed off to prevent the birds and other varmints from nesting there. The access door to the office was closed off after the guano and other trash was cleaned out. Flower beds were prepared and foundation plantings were installed along the NASA Parkway side of the sanctuary and along the Houston Street side of the Fellowship Hall. The lawn and shrubs were fertilized for the first time that anyone can remember. We started treating fire ant mounds.
- Roof repairs seem to be ongoing and extensive work has been done in this area. Repairs were made over the Office area, the Library and Bouton Hall and there are more to come. The Sanctuary chancel lighting was replaced and the Audio-Visual Team with the Worship Team promises a lighting enhancement project to improve the overall lighting of the Chancel area to eliminate harsh facial shadows. Two new small tables were handcrafted by a church member and placed between the Chancel chairs for the convenience of the ministers.
- HVAC repair and maintenance is also an ongoing project. We have reworked the plenum, ductwork and piping associated with the AC unit over Mark's office and the meeting room. This and upgrading the ductwork insulation has eliminated condensation dripping through the ceiling and light fixtures. We have also had a similar problem of water accumulating in the mechanical room of the Fellowship Hall that also necessitated repair of foyer HVAC system.
- One major project was bringing water and sewer service to the Fellowship Hall. A contractor laid in the water line and made the sewer tap. This required a licensed plumber and city inspections, something we could not do on our own. Three outside hose bibs were installed. B&G repaired the sheet rock and floor and repainted. Volunteers also installed a triple sink with garbage disposer, a hot water heater, an ice maker and a utility sink. Additional electric circuits were also run in for the extra

appliances. The result is that a useable kitchen (except for a stove) is now in place in the Fellowship Hall.

- Looking forward into 2007, we were able to renew our electricity contract at essentially the same rate as the two-year contract that ends in January.
- In addition, there were many minor repairs to locks, doors, signs, plumbing, appliances, et cetera by talented, dedicated and good-looking people. Although we ran over budget on repairs and maintenance, we were under in a few areas like paper supplies, lawn maintenance and utilities, so overall were about 1% under budget. Our 2006 budget was \$103,000 and we made it at \$102,000.

Respectively submitted:

Ross Looney, Elder
Johnny Jones, Elder
Gene Fisseler, Chairman

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY 2006 REPORT

The **Vision** of the Children's Ministry Committee at Webster Presbyterian Church is to ***prepare our children to go out into the world as Christians.***

To achieve this Vision, the Children's Ministry established the following missions:

1. Educating children about God and Jesus.
2. Partnering with families.
3. Attracting families with children to the church.
4. Teaching children about the joy of a spirit-filled life and the Christian responsibility of giving to others.

Accomplishment for 2006 included the following:

- Conducted Sunday School classes for 2 year olds to 5th grade (~40 Children, average weekly attendance 20-25)
- Conducted the Growing in God's Love (GIGL) Program for younger children during the services
- Provided child care on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and for other WPC events
- Hired additional child care/nursery workers
- Conducted a Children's Musical
- Participated in the WPC intergenerational Family Festival
- Sponsored a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast for the 2005-2006 Sunday School teachers
- Participated in the WPC intergenerational Vacation Bible School
- Simplified the child care request process
- Hired a part-time Sunday School Superintendent, Linda Smith-Gregory, to work closely with the Children's Ministry Committee and to lead the implementation of the Children's Sunday School
- Held a Back-to-School Bash
- Participated in Rally Day
- Instituted an attendance incentive—"get hooked on Sunday School" necklaces (10+ students in regular Sunday School and 8 GIGL students achieved their attendance goals)
- Devised a Children's Ministry Strategic Plan

Commendations: The Children's Ministry program takes the dedicated work of many loyal volunteers. Without the efforts of so many members of our congregation, this program could not be successful. These volunteers include:

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| India Allen | Jenny Cowan | Jan Davis |
| Brenda Fixel | Lynn Godwin | Lauren Balletto |
| Cathy Black | Jeanne Camp | Richard Koester |
| Tina Looney | Kim Luedde | Jim Magnant |
| Terrell McMillan | Cappi McNeill | Stacey Menard |
| Nina Moede | Sandy Murphy | Wendy Noriega |
| Shayna Noriega | Frank Rix | Alberta Rohlfing |
| Laura Shipman | Nancy Spivey | Elizabeth Stoltz |
| Anne Waehner | Marjorie Warehime | BC Whigham |

In addition, several significant building repairs were initiated by building and grounds, which has necessitated the use of alternative meeting space. Thanks to the flexibility of our staff and teachers, this has been accomplished with a minimum of disruption to the children.

With the completion of the CMT strategic plan, we look forward to children playing a more visible role in worship and building upon the strength of intergenerational offerings at Webster.

Respectfully submitted,

Children's Ministry Committee: Diane Kane (Elder/Chair), Karla Bradley (Elder), Linda Smith-Gregory (Sunday School Superintendent), Wendy Noriega, Brenda Fixel, Richard Koester, Jan Davis, Tina Looney, and India Allen

FELLOWSHIP & WELCOMING 2006 REPORT

Jesus told us we encounter the loving God when we love one another, welcome the stranger, and invite new people into our fellowship.

The Webster Presbyterian Church Fellowship and Welcoming Committee works to help you do all those things.

Fellowship: Fellowship is an important part of the life of every congregation, as it brings us together in ways that help us develop a sense of community. When we break bread together around a common table, play together, and/or spend time in conversation together, we deepen our relationships with each other and with God. The Fellowship Team produces several congregational fellowship events each year, and provides counsel and advice to other committees and teams to help make their fellowship gatherings successful. The Fellowship Team coordinates the Wednesday Night Dinners, the annual Shrimp Boil, the Family Christmas Festival, and four congregational fellowships. It takes lots of people who enjoy putting smiles on the faces of others to plan and carry out these events.

Welcoming: We welcome newcomers through our Greeter Team and Visitor Team, and invite them into our fellowship through the New Member Team. Members of the Greeter Team are present before the beginning of each church service to welcome members and visitors alike into our church. Members of the Visitor Team go out after church weekly and greet visitors in their homes, symbolizing God's welcome to them. The New Member Team welcomes repeat visitors by inviting them to participate in the many opportunities available through other ministries of this Church to encounter the loving God and be nurtured as disciples of Christ. The New Member Team organizes and hosts an Open Door class several times a year to welcome visitors who are interested in continuing their faith journey with

the family of faith here at Webster Presbyterian Church, then works to help them connect to others in the WPC family of faith. Through these teams, Webster Presbyterian Church reaches out to the newcomer in its midst to share the good news of God's love. In 2006, Webster Presbyterian Church cheerfully added 29 new members.

Respectively submitted:

Carol Bachtel, Fellowship & Welcoming Chair
Stacey Menard, Fellowship Chair
Julie Mead, New Member Chair
Helen DeLeon, Staff Liaison

MISSION 2006 REPORT

Our Goal: A Congregation United in Mission

Hands-On Service to our Community

- Teaching English as a Second Language for our neighbors at Oasis of Hope, a neighbor church
- Teaching new technology to school children and adults at the Webster Computer Center
- Building Habitat for Humanity houses for 4 families in Dickinson
- Rebuilding houses in New Orleans flooded by Hurricane Katrina
- Donating over 60 units of blood to help the sick and injured

Direct Support for People

- Community Assistance funds distributed by the Pastors to fill 118 requests
- Member Benevolence funds to support 2 emergencies in the WPC family
- Christmas gifts for hundreds of children and families in our neighborhood
- WPC Patriots – sharing our support, care packages, faith, and love with members of the Armed Forces
- Opening our church to a Hispanic congregation for worship
- Ryan Stoltz – university work trip to an orphanage in South Africa
- Vicki Smith – beginning two years as a Missionary teaching in Jamaica

Contributions to Organizations

- Presbytery of New Covenant
- Bay Area Turning Point – sheltering victims of domestic abuse
- United Campus Ministry – bringing God's word to Houston's college students
- Interfaith Caring Ministry – supporting our neighbors with a variety of services
- Meals on Wheels – feeding the hungry
- Samaritan Center – supporting our neighbors with mental health resources
- Vellore Hospital – healing the sick in India
- Mercy Corps – providing aid and peacemaking in nations around the world
- Life Center – providing shelter for the homeless
- Presbyterian Service Center – providing accessible housing for the differently abled
- CEDEPCA – sharing in mission and mutual understanding with our neighbors in Central America
- Camp Cho-Yeh – providing space for spiritual growth and development for all
- Oasis of Hope Church – partnering with our neighbors to provide care for school children in our community
- Presbyterian Outreach to Patients – providing spiritual nurture to those who are ill
- Seafarers International – providing Christmas cheer and love to seafaring men and women away from home

Mission Opportunities for our Congregation in 2007

- Teaching English as a Second Language and computer skills
- Building locally with Habitat for Humanity
- Donating blood
- Rebuilding homes in New Orleans – March
- Presbytery study tour in Guatemala led by Pastor Helen DeLeon – July
- Continuing support for our troops thru the WPC Patriots
- Mission education and conferences
- Volunteering at ICM, Bay Area Turning Point, Meals on Wheels
- Joining the Mission Committee

Respectively submitted:

The Mission Committee

WORSHIP 2006 REPORT

All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing your glories. Psalms 66:4

During the past year the Worship Committee benefited from the leadership of Reverend Mark Cooper and Glenn Foster. With their guidance, we enjoyed worship that was stimulating for members and welcoming to visitors.

- In addition to helping create a worshipful atmosphere on Sunday mornings, the committee scheduled and coordinated:
 - Twelve special worship services
 - A team of ushers who provided assistance to both members and visitors
 - Communion (prepared by Deacons) at 29 different services
 - Guild meetings to clean the Sanctuary and organize worship material
 - The donation of chancel flowers
 - Lent and Advent planning and decorating

The committee also established the Task Force for Explorations in Worship. This task force will be formed and begin meeting early in the 2007 to consider possible variations in our worship.

- The marvelous musicians of WPC blessed us again, during 2006. In addition to the talents of our Director of Music and Organist we were privileged to enjoy the gifts of the Faith Choir, Women's Ensemble, Men's Choir, Joyful Noyz, Children's Choir, Youth Choir, Children Ringers, Youth Ringers, Carol Bells, Carillon Ringers, Recorder Consort, Webster Strings and many individual instrumentalists. Special music was provided a number of times during the year. Some of these presentations were:
 - *A Spiritual Medley* by the Combined Children's Choir on Palm Sunday
 - Franz Schubert's *Mass in G* by the Faith Choir & Webster Strings on Maundy Thursday
 - The Good Friday Anthem by the Carillon Ringers
 - A Youth Musical, *The Story of Esther*
 - *Music for Mission*, a concert by the Faith Choir benefiting Webster Presbyterian's own missionary, Vicki Smith, and the missionary work of our church
 - *Christmas by Candlelight – A Service of Carols* by the Faith Choir and the Instrumentalists of WPC

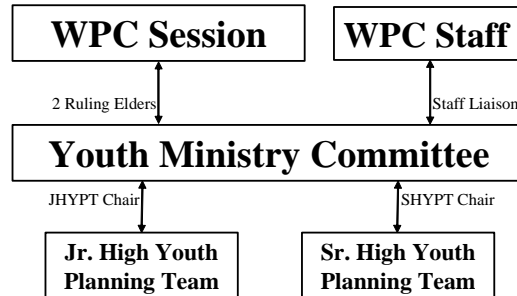
What can you do? Volunteer to be an usher, meet with the Sanctuary Guild or become a member of the Task Force for Explorations in Worship. If you have suggestions for the Worship Committee please contact the Church Office, Al Manson or Susan Anderson.

Respectively submitted;

Al Manson (Chair), Chuck Moede, Terrell McMillan, Joyce Sens, Jackie Hart, Jackie Allen, Silvia Scales, Pet Tindall, George Gray and Susan Anderson (Elder)

YOUTH MINISTRY 2006 REPORT

As 2006 began, the Children and Youth Committee was reformed into two new Session committees to bring the necessary focus needed for each of the ministry areas. The Youth Ministry Committee organized with two support planning teams, with one responsible for the Sr. High youth and the other responsible for the Jr. High youth.



The committee and each team worked hard to provide a vital and meaningful ministry for the youth at WPC. Any achievements and successes this past year are the result of the dedication and commitment of many volunteers and parents. Their willingness to respond and follow God's call to support the faith journey of our youth is a wonderful gift and the Youth Ministry leadership, as well as the entire Church, is blessed by their presence. The past year for Youth Ministry involved many exciting opportunities, some that were traditional activities and others that represented new initiatives.

Some of the significant new initiatives were:

- Implemented monthly youth-focused worship service, with music led by Joyful Noyz
- First summer Jr. High Youth Trip, to Mo-Ranch Jr. High Jubilee
- Revised Wednesday program, Connections, for Sr. High youth
- Additional accomplishments and activities during the past year were:

Jr. High Youth Ministry

- Sunday School for 13-15 youth
- Weekly PYC year-round for 13-15 youth
- Souper Bowl of Caring mission project
- Confirmation Class and associated Mentor Program for 15 youth
- Conclaves at Cho-Yeh in the spring
- Summer Wonderful Wednesday program involving college student leaders
- Midnight Madness, the annual youth planning and fellowship kickoff event
- Fall Presbytery-wide Rally at First Presbyterian in Pasadena
- Collected items and packed Seafarer's Christmas boxes

Sr. High Ministry

- Sunday School for 8-9 youth
- Weekly PYC year-round for 8-9 youth
- Conclaves at Cho-Yeh in the spring
- Mission Trip fund raisers – Super Bowl Sandwiches, Sweetheart Dinner Dance, Baking Brothers, Car Wash
- Mission Trip to Presbyterian Children's Home in Itasca, Texas in June

- Annual Summer Fellowship and Planning Retreat in July
- Three PYCC youth representatives, and one PYCC adult leader
- Fall Presbytery-wide Rally at Northwoods Presbyterian

Combined Jr. High and Sr. High Ministry

- Musical program "Bow Down" (Music Program offering led by Glenn Foster)
- Youth-wide fellowship activities, such as attending Astros game
- Crop Walk in October
- Attended/supported the Houston Veteran's Day Parade
- A.D. Player's presentation of "Rock Nativity"

The committee and teams explored opportunities to expand congregational involvement in, and interaction with, the youth programs and offerings. As an example, offering a continuation of the Confirmation Mentor program throughout Sr. High is being developed. Also, the leadership addressed administrative and process needs. Within this area, the departure of Rev. Ryan Sills resulted in the loss of a good friend to the youth and a staff resource for WPC's youth ministry. This loss was addressed by reviewing the functions and needs to support a growing program, and the identification of proposed requirements for a youth staff position. The formation of an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) was a positive, and very tangible, step by the Church in demonstrating its commitment to youth ministry at WPC.

In looking forward, the Youth Ministry Committee is excited by the many possibilities that exist for the growth and development of our youth's faith, a faith we seek to have them embrace and truly make their own. To that end, we are all challenged to enable this ministry's vision so that all of us together might, with God's gracious guidance, change the world.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Moede, Chair
Watson Dupont

Stewardship & Finance 2006 REPORT

*Freely you have received, Freely give
Matthew 10:8*

This WPC committee met in August to plan the Stewardship program for the fall. This led to:

- "Breakfast with Mark" in September and October. Musical entertainment and the real TRUTH about church finances inspired the congregation to respond with pledges totaling 17% above the previous years
- "Finally, here it is!! The Real TRUTH about your Church's Finances!!" was mailed to all members
- This Is The Day (a specialized Stewardship program) was sent to all potential pledging families
- Follow up by a visitation team added pledges
- Offering envelopes for pledging families
- While we had a slight deficit, we invested in the future of WPC through: New Children's Ministry Superintendent
- Formation of Search Committee for Youth Ministry

Committee members: Jennifer Carr, Mark Cooper, Roy Phillips, Dennis Rohlfig, Tye Cowan

and Priscilla Koester

**I. Financial Review – 2006
Church Operating Budget**

| | Actual 2005 | Actual 2006 | % Difference |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Pledged Receipts | \$ 563,809 | \$ 557,126 | -1.19% |
| Non-pledged Receipts | 84,970 | 105,299 | 23.92% |
| Plate Cash Receipts | 3,728 | 3,730 | 0.05% |
| Other | 14,645 | 9,520 | -34.99% |
| Total Receipts | \$ 667,152 | \$ 675,675 | 1.28% |
| Total Expenses | \$ 600,741 | \$ 686,228 | 14.23% |
| Net Receipts | \$ 66,411 | \$ (10,553) | |

Building Fund Balance

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <i>Beginning Balance 12/31/2005</i> | \$ 136,516 |
| Contributions – 2006 | \$ 40,199 |
| Principal Payment on Note | \$(111,001) |
| Sanctuary Lighting | \$ (8,639) |
| <i>Ending Balance 12/31/2006</i> | \$ 57,075 |

II. Stewardship Campaign Results – 2007

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|------------|
| Pledge Amount to Date | | \$ 656,505 |
| Number of Pledges | 207 | |
| Pledge Amount Paid in 2006 | | \$ 557,126 |
| Number of Pledges in 2006 | 192 | |
| Average Pledge Amount in 2006 | | \$ 2,901 |

III.

Budget to Date – 2007

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Pledges Made to Date | \$ 656,500 |
| Non-Pledge Receipts (Estimated) | \$ 113,000 |
| Other Income | \$ 4,000 |
| Total Receipts Anticipated | \$ 773,500 |

IV. Expenses for 2007

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Worship | | \$ 10,450 |
| Education | | \$ 14,475 |
| Children | \$ 6,800 | |
| Youth | \$ 2,375 | |
| Adults | \$ 5,300 | |
| Fellowship & Welcoming | | \$ 2,000 |
| Care | | \$ 3,018 |
| Mission Giving | | \$ 50,000 |
| Personnel | | \$ 380,065 |
| Office Supplies, etc. | | \$ 98,150 |
| Building & Grounds | | \$ 135,280 |
| Stewardship & Finance | | \$ 79,750 |
| Loan Repayment | \$ 64,600 | |
| Total Expenses | | \$ 773,188 |

January 30, 2007
The Meeting Room

The Webster Presbyterian Church (WPC) Session held its Stated Meeting on Tuesday, January 30, 2007, in the Meeting Room. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator, Reverend Mark Cooper at 7:02 p.m.

A quorum consisting of the following was present: Moderator Reverend Mark Cooper, Associate Pastor Reverend Helen DeLeon; Ruling Elders: Carl Allen, Jennifer Carr, Tye Cowan, Gene Fisseler, Johnny Jones, Diane Kane, Ross Looney, Al Manson, Stacey Menard, Chuck Moede, Roy Phillips, Marjorie Seiter, Elizabeth Spivey, Reese Terry, Dennis Waehner, and Clerk of Session James Paden.

Treasurer Priscilla (Pat) Koester was also present.

The Session voted to approve the following:

- The minutes of the Called Meeting of Session held on January 9, 2007;
- The minutes of the Stated Meeting of Session held on December 19, 2006; and,
- On behalf of the Congregation, the minutes of the Congregational Meeting held on January 14, 2007.

Clerk's Report January 30, 2007

| | Members | Families |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Statistical information as of December 19, 2006 | 705 | 401 |
| Gains: | | |
| Transfer of Letter | + 2 | + 1 |
| Reaffirmation of Faith | + 2 | + 1 |
| Profession of Faith & Baptism | + 0 | + 0 |
| Losses: | | |
| Transfer of Letter | - 2 | - 1 |
| Removal from Roll | - 0 | - 0 |
| Death | <u>- 1</u> | <u>- 1</u> |
| Membership as of January 30, 2007 | 706 | 401 |
| Baptized persons who have not made Professions of Faith: | <u>145</u> | |
| Total children, youth and adults: | 851 | |

Transfer Requests: The Session voted to issue letters of transfer for the following:

- Mary Knudsen to Westminster Presbyterian Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and,
- Christopher Lewis Berry to Westminster Presbyterian Church, Odessa, Texas.

Baptisms:

- Nicholas James Posluszny, son of Andrew and Sandra Posluszny, was baptized on December 31, 2006.

Deaths: Margaret Bauer, died on January 14, 2007.

Ordination and Installation of Officers:

- The following individuals, having been duly elected at the Congregational Meeting on December 17, 2006, were ordained and installed as Elders, Class of 2009, on January 21, 2007: Julie Mead, Mike Stearns and Elizabeth Spivey (Youth elder).

- The following individuals, having been duly elected at the Congregational Meeting on December 17, 2006, and having been previously ordained, were installed as Elders, Class of 2009, on January 21, 2007: Tye Cowan, John Dewey, Gene Fisseler and Dennis Waehner.
- The following individuals, having been duly elected at the Congregational Meeting on December 17, 2006, were Ordained and installed as Deacon, Class of 2009, on January 21, 2007: Al Barboza, Michael Cooper, Pat Denyszyn, Dorothy Evans, Elaine Lapka, Amy Waehner (Youth Deacon) and Jim Young.
- The following individuals, having been duly elected at the Congregational Meeting on December 17, 2006, and having previously been Ordained, were installed as Deacon, Class of 2009, on January 21, 2007: Edna Arnold, Ruth Marcott and Linda Thomas.
- Mr. Dennis Rohlfing having been duly elected at the Congregational meeting on December 17, 2006, was installed as Trustee, Class of 2009, on January 17, 2007.

CORRESPONDENCE – Several pieces of correspondence were received and passed to the responsible Committee.

The following letter was read and copies were distributed to all members present:

Session and Staff of Webster Presbyterian Church

I was first elected as Clerk of Session in January 1973 and it has been my honor and privilege to serve WPC and subsequent Sessions as Clerk since that time. I feel that the time has come for me to step aside and pass the quill to someone else.

I offer you two names who have indicated a willingness to serve the Session as Clerk:

Gene Fisseler, who has served as Clerk, pro tem during my absences; and, Peter Koester, a long time member and Ordained Elder.

I know that you do not have to elect either of these persons, but in good keeping, I offer these names for your consideration.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the Clerk of Session for these many years, thank you for your confidence in me.

James E. Paden

Treasurer's report:

The Treasurer, Pat Koester presented the 2006 Year-End report. The report was explained, and the Session received the report.

New Business

A potential list of Elder Committee assignments was read by the Moderator as follows:

1. Allen, Carl – Mission, Chair
2. Anderson, Susan – Worship
3. Bradley, Karla – Children's Ministry
4. Carr, Jennifer – Stewardship & Finance, Chair
5. Cowan, Tye – Stewardship & Finance
6. Dewey, John – Adult Education, Chair
7. Dupont, Watson – Youth Ministry
8. Fisseler, Gene – Administration/Personnel
9. Jones, Johnny – Stewardship & Finance

10. Kane, Diane – Children’s Ministry, Chair
11. Looney, Ross – Buildings & Grounds, Chair
12. Manson, Al – Worship, Chair
13. Mead, Julie – Fellowship & Welcoming, Welcoming Chair
14. Menard, Stacey – Fellowship & Welcoming, Fellowship Chair
15. Moede, Charles – Youth Ministry, Chair
16. Phillips, Roy – Stewardship & Finance
17. Seiter, Marjorie – Mission
18. Spivey, Elizabeth – Mission
19. Stearns, Michael – Buildings & Grounds
20. Terry, Reese – Administration, Chair
21. Waehner, Dennis – Administration/Communications

Election of Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Clerk of Session - The Session voted to elect

- Priscilla Koester as Treasurer for 2007.
- Ann Waehner as Assistant Treasurer for 2007.
- Gene Fisseler as Clerk for 2007.
- James E. Paden as Clerk of Session, Emeritus.

Committee Actions and Reports

- The **Session approved the request** of the Worship Committee for permission to sell Easter Lilies to decorate the Sanctuary at Easter.
- The **Session elected Frank McMillan and Robert Cravens** to the Endowment and Special Funds Committee.
- The **Session elected Jennifer Carr and Gene Fisseler** to serve as Commissioners to the February 10, 2007, Stated Presbytery Meeting.
- The Worship Committee announced that a Noon service will be held on Tuesdays during the Lenten season with a soup lunch to follow the worship service.
- The Youth Committee announced that there are 15 Youth participating in the Confirmation Class.
- The Youth Committee announced that there are about 25 Junior and Senior High youth signed up for the Conclaves to be held in March. Sr. High is March 2–4 and Jr. High is March 23–25.
- The **Session voted to hold a Called Meeting on May 12, 2007** at 10:00 AM for the purpose of examining and receiving those who have completed the Communicants Class.
- The **Session voted to meet in retreat on February 24, 2007**. Tentative time was set for 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

STAFF REPORTS

- Mark reported that he had attended a continuing education seminar in Denver.
- Helen reported that she has accepted additional committee work at Presbytery.

The next Stated Meeting will be held on February 27, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the Session voted to adjourn. The meeting was closed with prayer by the Moderator at 8:38 PM.

James E. Paden
Clerk of Session

February 24, 2007
The Meeting Room

The Webster Presbyterian Church (WPC) Session held a Called Meeting on Saturday, February 24, 2007, during its Annual Retreat, in the Meeting Room. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator, Reverend Mark Cooper, at 1:40 p.m.

The following members of Session were present:

- Pastor Mark Cooper, Moderator;
- Associate Pastor Helen DeLeon; and,
- Active Elders Susan Anderson, Karla Bradley, Jennifer Carr, Tye Cowan, John Dewey, Gene Fisseler (Clerk), Johnny Jones, Diane Kane, Ross Looney, Al Manson, Julie Mead, Stacey Menard, Chuck Moede, Roy Phillips, Marjorie Seiter, Michael Stearns, Reese Terry, and Dennis Waehner.

A quorum was declared by the Clerk.

The **Session elected Ross Looney and Pete Koester to serve as Commissioners to the Called Meeting of Presbytery of New Covenant** on Tuesday, February 27, 2007, at 1:00 p.m., which meeting will be convened at St. John's Presbyterian Church of Houston.

In addition to these Commissioners, Associate Pastor Helen DeLeon will attend the Presbytery Meeting. The Commissioners will make their report to Session at its February 27, 2007, Stated Meeting of Session.

Upon a motion by the Personnel Committee, the **Session voted to approve to extend an offer of employment as Secretary to Ms. Daphne Riemer.**

The business of the Called Meeting being completed, the Session voted to adjourn. The meeting was closed with prayer by the Moderator at 1:57 p.m.

Gene Fisseler
Clerk of Session

February 27, 2007
The Meeting Room

The Webster Presbyterian Church (WPC) Session convened a Stated Meeting on Tuesday, February 27, 2007, in the Meeting Room. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator, Reverend Mark Cooper, at 7:08 p.m.

The following members of Session were present:

- Pastor Mark Cooper, Moderator;
- Associate Pastor Helen DeLeon; and,
- Active Elders Tye Cowan, Gene Fisseler (Clerk), Johnny Jones, Diane Kane, Ross Looney, Al Manson, Julie Mead, Stacey Menard, Chuck Moede, Roy Phillips, Marjorie Seiter, Michael Stearns, Reese Terry, and Dennis Waehner.

The following Active Elders were excused:

- Carl Allen, Susan Anderson, Karla Bradley, Jennifer Carr, John Dewey, Watson DuPont, and Elizabeth Spivey.

Treasurer Pat Koester was also present.

A quorum was declared present by the Clerk and the Agenda for the meeting was approved.

The Session approved the minutes of the following:

- Stated Meeting of January 30, 2007, as amended; and,
- Called Meeting of February 24, 2007.

Clerk's Report

- The Clerk shared two pieces of correspondence: a letter thanking WPC for its recent \$1,000 contribution to Presbytery of New Covenant and a letter thanking WPC for its financial support of missionary Vicki Smith.
- The remaining 2007 Presbytery meeting dates are Tuesday, May 15 at Cho-Yeh, Saturday, August 25 (location to be determined) and Tuesday, November 13 (location to be determined). Julie Mead will serve as Commissioner to the May meeting and Diane Kane will serve as Commissioner to the November meeting.
- The Session reviewed the annual statistical report for submission to Presbytery.

Statistical Report

| | <u>Individuals</u> | <u>Families</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Membership as of January 30, 2007 | 706 | 401 | |
| Gains: | | | |
| Transfer of Letter | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Reaffirmation of Faith | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Profession of Faith & Baptism | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Losses: | | | |
| Transfer of Letter | - 0 | - 0 | |
| Removal from Roll | - 0 | - 0 | |
| Death | <u>- 0</u> | <u>- 0</u> | |
| Membership as of February 27, 2007 | 706 | 401 | |
| Baptized persons who've not made Professions of Faith: | <u>145</u> | | |
| Total children, youth and adults: | 851 | | |

Letter of Transfer: **Session voted to approve the preparation and transmittal of a Letter of Transfer** for Emily Backus to Bay Harbour United Methodist in League City, Texas.

Marriage performed by Reverend Mark Cooper:
Andrea Steinway & Matthew Fitzgerald on February 24, 2007

Marriage performed by Reverend Helen DeLeon:
Mandy Minks & Justin Becker were on February 17, 2007

Treasurer's Report

The Session received the Treasurer's report.

New Business

The Session received reports from the following meetings of Presbytery of New Covenant: the Stated Meeting of February 10, 2007, attended by Mark Cooper, Jennifer Carr, and Gene Fisseler; and, the Called Meeting of February 27, 2007, attended by Helen DeLeon, Ross Looney, and Pete Koester.

Following discussion, the **Session voted to approve the following motion:** The Moderator is directed to (1) assemble a team to evaluate the offer to sell to WPC the Fowler property and (2) request the team is to report back to Session at its March 27 meeting, providing adequate data to facilitate Session's decision on this matter.

Committee/Team Actions and Reports

- Administration – The Communication Team and Personnel Team will meet on the third Wednesday Tuesday of each month at 6:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., respectively. The Administration Committee meeting will follow at 7:30 p.m. The open secretary position was filled as of February 26, 2007, by the hiring of Daphne Riemer.
- Adult Christian Education - The **Session approved the following curriculum** for:
 - Adult Sunday School Classes
 - Sabbath Time, by Tilden Edwards - This book explores the roots of the Sabbath in the Judeo-Christian tradition. The author offers readers a revealing vision of ways to maintain faithfully the balance among worship, play, rest, work, community, and ministry.
 - On the Road again: A Journey of Faith, by James Moore - This seven session study, appropriate for both group and individual use, provides one lesson for each week in Lent. Each lesson includes a Scripture reference, a brief reflection, questions for discussion or reflection, a brief prayer, and a focus for the coming week.
 - Covenant Groups
 - Celebration of Discipline, by Richard Foster - The author explores the classic, "disciplines," or central spiritual practices, of the Christian faith. Foster demonstrates that it is only by and through these practices that we can find the true path to spiritual growth.
 - Wednesday Night Adult Book Study
 - Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis, by Jimmy Carter - The author offers a personal consideration of "moral values" as they relate to the important issues of the day. He puts forward a passionate defense of separation of church and state, and a strong warning of where the country is heading as the lines between politics and religious fundamentalism are blurred. This book meets the objectives of the class to study books that challenge us as Christians – what does it mean to be a Christian in the USA in the 21st Century.
- Buildings & Grounds - Demolition and repairs to the Education Wing are underway.
- Children's Ministry - Parent Pow-Wow meetings are being planned for April and May to elicit feedback regarding desired direction of programming and activities.
- Fellowship & Welcoming - Plans for celebrating Clerk Emeritus Jim Paden's long service to WPC are underway.
- Mission - WPC is making a return visit to New Orleans with more than a dozen volunteers traveling the week of March 11 to assist in rebuilding homes and lives impacted by Hurricane Katrina flooding.
- Stewardship & Finance - A final report of the 2006 stewardship campaign is forthcoming.

- Worship - Installation of new sanctuary lighting is underway. Communion is being celebrated Sunday, March 4, at both Worship Services.
- Youth Ministry - The **Session approved the following individuals:**
- Kim Kinzler to serve as Sr. High Conclaves Sponsor; and,
- George James to serve as a Jr. High Conclaves Sponsor.

Old Business - There was none to be discussed.

Pastors' Reports - Earlier discussion covered the matters to be reported.

The **Session voted to set its Long Range Planning Retreat for Saturday, April 21, 2007**, at 9:00 a.m.

The next Stated Meeting of Session will be convened March 27, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room.

The business of this Stated Meeting being completed, the Session voted to adjourn. The meeting was closed with prayer by the Moderator at 8:57 p.m.

Gene Fisseler
Clerk of Session

March 27, 2007
The Meeting Room

The Webster Presbyterian Church (WPC) Session convened a Stated Meeting on Tuesday, March 27, 2007, in the Meeting Room. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator, Reverend Mark Cooper, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members of Session were present:

- Pastor Mark Cooper, Moderator;
- Associate Pastor Helen DeLeon; and,
- Active Elders Susan Anderson, Karla Bradley, Jennifer Carr, Tye Cowan, Watson DuPont, Gene Fisseler (Clerk), Johnny Jones, Diane Kane, Ross Looney, Al Manson, Julie Mead, Stacey Menard, Chuck Moede, Roy Phillips, Marjorie Seiter, Elizabeth Spivey, and Dennis Waehner.

The following members of Session were excused:

- Active Elders Carl Allen, John Dewey, Michael Stearns, and Reese Terry.

Treasurer Pat Koester was also present.

A quorum was declared present by the Clerk and an Agenda for the meeting was approved.

New Members - Rev. DeLeon welcomed John Jordan, Chair of the New Member Team, who introduced Pat and Rowena Colwell, a couple seeking to become full members of Webster Presbyterian Church. After learning a bit about the Colwells and sharing with them the areas of ministry that each of the Elders present are involved in, Rev. Cooper asked a series of questions regarding their faith and commitment to the church. Being satisfied with their answers, the **Session voted to receive Pat and Rowena Colwell into Full Membership of**

Webster Presbyterian Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. The Colwells will be presented to the congregation during the 11:00 a.m. worship service on April 1.

Old Business - Trustees Dick Bracket, Dennis Rohlfing, and Charles Ward, along with Johnny Jones delivered a report to Session regarding the contract recently received from the owner of the corner property located at 211 West NASA Parkway adjacent to the church sanctuary. The contract was accompanied by an appraisal indicating that the lot is valued at \$155,000. Upon hearing their recommendation to purchase the property, there was discussion regarding the reasons why WPC should act on the opportunity and why it should pass. The discussion also covered multiple methods of financing the purchase. Following the discussion, the **Session voted to recommend to the congregation that WPC proceed with negotiations to purchase the property based on the contract in hand.**

The **Session voted to call a Special Meeting of the Congregation** on Sunday, April 15, 2007, after the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service to vote on Session's recommendation that Webster Presbyterian Church should purchase the property at 211 West NASA Parkway.

The Session approved the minutes of the Stated Meeting of February 27, 2007.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk shared two pieces of correspondence. The first was a request received from Presbytery of New Covenant Committee on Ministry to host a triennial meeting which request the Session deferred to act on until a later meeting. The second was a letter of thanks from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) *Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts and Hands* regarding WPC's recent gift of \$393.52 for Volunteer Missionary Vicki Smith.

Statistical Report

| | <u>Individuals</u> | <u>Families</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Membership as of February 27, 2007 | 706 | 401 | |
| Gains: | | | |
| Transfer of Letter | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Reaffirmation of Faith | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Profession of Faith & Baptism | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Losses: | | | |
| Transfer of Letter | - 1 | - 1 | Backus |
| Removal from Roll | - 0 | - 0 | |
| Death | <u>- 0</u> | <u>- 0</u> | |
| Membership as of March 27, 2007 | 705 | 400 | |
| Baptized persons who've not made Professions of Faith: | <u>145</u> | | |
| Total children, youth and adults: | 850 | | |

Request for Transfer: The **Session voted to issue a Letter of Transfer** for

- Karin & Walter High to Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church in Lexington, Kentucky.

Weddings performed by Reverend Mark Cooper:

- Elizabeth Miller (NM) & Salvatore Carbonano (NM), March 3, 2007 – co-officiated by Rev. Mark Cooper

- Ellen McMillan (NM) & Matthew Hickel (NM), March 24, 2007 – co-officiated by Rev. Mark Cooper

Wedding performed by Reverend Helen DeLeon:

- Megan N. Reeder (NM) & Almanzo Flores (NM), March 3, 2007

Treasurer's Report

The Session received the Treasurer's report.

New Business - There was none.

Committee/Team Actions and Reports

- Administration – The Personnel Team reported that all feedback to date regarding new church secretary Daphne Riemer has been positive. The **Session voted to approve a motion** calling for no changes to be made in the ACS database regarding a member's status by Office Staff, Session Committee members, other committee members, or member-volunteers until policies and procedures for the ACS system are published (publication is tentatively scheduled for June 2007).
- Adult Christian Education – There will be an intergenerational education activity during the Sunday School hour on Easter Sunday. The Women's Retreat is scheduled for October 10-12.
- Buildings & Grounds – The Team reported that remodeling and HVAC work in the Education is progressing on schedule. The downstairs rooms will be ready to be occupied soon and the upstairs rooms won't be far behind.
- Care – The Prayer Chain has been re-organized in 2007, allowing for leadership to change each year while preserving continuity. The transition of Prayer Chain administration to Daphne Riemer has been seamless.
- Children's Ministry – There will be new family programming introduced on Wednesday Nights. The **Session voted to approve the proposed Vacation Bible School schedule**, Sunday, June 3 through Thursday, June 7, 2007, and **curriculum** – *Avalanche Ranch* by Group Publishing
- Fellowship & Welcoming – A luncheon and reception honoring Clerk Emeritus Jim Paden is set for Lunar Communion Sunday, July 22, following the 11:00 Worship Service. The Team reported that the church has been gifted with a steam table, clothes washer, and clothes dryer.
- Mission – The Team reported that the New Orleans Mission Trip was a success with 17 participants "gutting" two homes, one in the Upper 9th Ward and one in the Lower 9th Ward.
- Stewardship & Finance – The Team reported that about 10% of the members who had not pledged and who were personally contacted during the late stages of the 2006 Stewardship ultimately submitted pledges of financial support to the church for 2007.
- Worship – A Worship Seminar is scheduled for Saturday, April 14, from 9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Rev. Cooper will lead the seminar and lunch will be provided. The Sanctuary Guild will next convene on Saturday, May 5.
- Youth Ministry – The **Session voted to approve "Would Jesus Really Do That?"** by Cook Communications Ministries to serve as curriculum for Junior High Sunday School.

Pastor's Report - Helen DeLeon reported that WPC was well-represented in New Orleans by 17 members who spent a week helping displaced residents reclaim their flooded out homes. She will be meeting with the leadership of Casa de Oración Monté Carmelo to discuss the success and needs of this growing ministry now sharing WPC space.

The next Stated Meeting of Session will be convened April 24, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room.

The business of this Stated Meeting being completed, the Session voted to adjourn. The meeting was closed with prayer by the Moderator at 9:03 p.m.

Gene Fisseler
Clerk of Session

April 15, 2007
Sanctuary

The Congregation of Webster Presbyterian Church convened a **Called Meeting of the Congregation** on Sunday, April 15, 2007, in the Church Sanctuary. The Moderator, the Reverend Mark Cooper, opened the meeting with prayer at 12:01 p.m. Clerk of Session Gene Fisseler was appointed Secretary and a quorum was declared present. The purpose of the meeting was to vote on the recommendation of Session to purchase the property located at 211 West NASA Parkway.

The Moderator stated the purpose and the agenda for the meeting. He then summarized the chain of events leading to the Session calling the Congregational Meeting. Gene Fisseler, on behalf of Session, reported to the Congregation various details and facts about the property. He further enumerated the arguments "against" and arguments "for" the purchase of the property that had been voiced and discussed by the Trustees and the Session when these boards met and considered the offer received from the property owner to sell the parcel to the church.

The Secretary read the motion: **It is recommended that the Congregation of Webster Presbyterian Church vote on the recommendation of Session to purchase the property at 211 West NASA Parkway.**

The motion was seconded. The Moderator called for discussion. Following discussion, a voice vote was conducted. The motion passed.

The business of the meeting having been accomplished, the meeting was adjourned by the Moderator at 12:36 p.m. with prayer.

Mark Cooper
Moderator

Gene Fisseler
Secretary/Clerk of Session

April 24, 2007
The Meeting Room

The Webster Presbyterian Church (WPC) Session convened a Stated Meeting on Tuesday, April 24, 2007, in the Meeting Room. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator, Reverend Mark Cooper, at 7:02 p.m.

The following members of Session were present:

- Pastor Mark Cooper, Moderator;
- Associate Pastor Helen DeLeon; and,
- Active Elders Carl Allen, Karla Bradley, Jennifer Carr, Tye Cowan, John Dewey, Gene Fisseler (Clerk), Johnny Jones, Ross Looney, Al Manson, Julie Mead, Chuck Moede, Marjorie Seiter, Elizabeth Spivey, Michael Stearns, Reese Terry, and Dennis Waehner.

The following members of Session were excused:

- Active Elders Susan Anderson, Watson DuPont, Diane Kane, Stacey Menard, and Roy Phillips.

Treasurer Pat Koester, Kimberly Glaus-Late, and Jennifer Paden were also present.

A quorum was declared present by the Clerk and an Agenda for the meeting was approved.

New Members

Rev. DeLeon welcomed John Jordan, Chair of the New Member Team, who introduced Janice Smith-Bagheri who was seeking to become a full member of Webster Presbyterian Church. After learning a bit about Janice and sharing with her, the **Session voted to receive Janice Smith-Bagheri into Full Membership of Webster Presbyterian Church** by transfer of letter from Glen Allen, Illinois. Ms. Smith-Bagheri will be presented to the congregation during the 11:00 a.m. worship service on April 29.

Youth Minister APNC Report

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee Chair Kimberly Glaus-Late and member Jennifer Paden presented to the Session a draft Church Information Form (CIF) and for review and comment. Following discussion and recommendation of some modifications, the Session voted to approve the CIF as amended. The Session expressed its thanks to the APNC for its work.

The Session approved the minutes of the following:

- The Stated Meeting of March 27, 2007, as amended; and
- On behalf of the congregation, the Called Meeting of the Congregation of April 15, 2007.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk shared several pieces of correspondence with the Session, including a letter from the Sacraments Study, Presbytery of New Covenant Equalization Study, and a letter containing five papers approved by the 217th General Assembly.

Statistical Report

| | <u>Individuals</u> | <u>Families</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Membership as of March 27, 2007 | 705 | 400 | |
| Gains: | | | |

2192

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|
| Transfer of Letter | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Reaffirmation of Faith | + 2 | + 1 | Pat/Rowena Colwell |
| Profession of Faith & Baptism | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Losses: | | | |
| Transfer of Letter | - 0 | - 0 | |
| Removal from Roll | - 2 | - 1 | Walter/Karin High |
| Death | <u>- 0</u> | <u>- 0</u> | |
| Membership as of April 24, 2007 | 705 | 400 | |
| Baptized persons who've not made Professions of Faith: | <u>145</u> | | |
| Total children, youth and adults: | 850 | | |

Baptisms:

- Laura Karin Forde, adult daughter of Robert and Connie Forde, April 15, 2007
- Alisa Erin Schultz, adult daughter of Robert and Connie Forde, April 15, 2007

Births:

- Ava Jean Murphy, daughter of Shane and Dawn Murphy, granddaughter of Jerry and Laurie Albrigo (M), great-granddaughter of Dale and Alice Wolfe (M), April 6, 2007

Treasurer's Report - The Session received the Treasurer's report.

New Business - The **Session voted to elect three Serving Elders as Commissioners** to the May 15 meeting of Presbytery of New Covenant at Camp Cho-Yeh: Jennifer Carr, Ross Looney, and Julie Mead.

The Session considered the next steps in the process of acquiring the property at 211 West NASA Parkway. Active Elders Johnny Jones and Roy Phillips were authorized to work with the Board of Trustees to execute a contract for the purchase of the property. Jennifer Carr was charged with putting together a campaign to raise funds to offset the cost of the purchase. The **Session voted to authorize Treasurer Pat Koester to utilize the bank line of credit** if necessary as a bridge from closing until permanent financing can be arranged.

The Session asked Reverend Cooper to arrange for a triennial meeting with Committee on Ministry, preferably on June 24. Julie Mead volunteered to provide lunch for the meeting.

The Session considered the previous weekend's long-range planning workshop. The **Session voted to establish a Vision Commission** responsible for long-range planning, which will be populated at a later date. The **Session voted to form an ad hoc Physical Plant Task Force** to review the previous campus development plan and update and modify it as appropriate.

Committee/Team Actions and Reports

- Administration – Personnel and Communication continue to work on tasks already underway.

2193

- Adult Christian Education – A search is underway for a volunteer to lead the Library, Media and Resources team.
- Buildings & Grounds – The Committee is planning a workday in May or June.
- Care – Due to time constraints, the Board of Deacons did not meet in April.
- Children's Ministry – Parent Pow-Wow meetings are set for Wednesdays, May 2 and 9.
- Fellowship & Welcoming – An all-church potluck lunch is scheduled for Sunday, May 20; an Open Door class will be offered on Wednesday, May 23; a celebration is planned for Clerk Emeritus Jim Paden for Lunar Communion Sunday, July 22.
- Mission – The next Habitat for Humanity workday will be Saturday, May 19.
- Stewardship & Finance – The Committee will be busy with the ongoing property acquisition and its associated fundraising.
- Worship – The Sanctuary Guild will be on Saturday, May 12, and a youth musical is planned for Sunday, May 13.
- Youth Ministry - The **Session voted to approve the selection of Patty Kloves** to serve as sponsor for Jr. High PYC **and Pat Denyszyn** to serve as a Sr. High Sunday School teacher.

Pastor's Report: Helen DeLeon will coordinate with the church secretary to develop and distribute volunteer reports for each area of ministry based on the most current ACS system data derived from the most recent Time & Talent survey.

Next Meetings:

- A Called Meeting of Session will be convened Saturday, May 12, at 10:00 a.m. to examine members of the Confirmation Class.
- The next Stated Meeting of Session will be convened Tuesday, May 22, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room.
- Possible Called Meeting of Session to meet with COM – tentatively set for noon, Sunday, June 24.

The business of this Stated Meeting being completed, the Session voted to adjourn. The meeting was closed with prayer by the Moderator at 8:55 p.m.

Gene Fisseler
Clerk of Session

May 12, 2007
The Meeting Room

The Webster Presbyterian Church (WPC) Session convened a Called Meeting on Saturday, May 12, 2007. The Moderator, Reverend Mark Cooper, opened the meeting with a devotional and prayer at 10:05 a.m.

The purpose of the Called Meeting was:

- To examine members of the 2007 Confirmation Class;
- To determine the readiness of the class members for their public profession of faith;
- To receive the class members into active membership in the congregation; and,
- To approve baptism for non-baptized members of the class.

The following members of Session were present:

- Pastor Mark Cooper, Moderator;
- Associate Pastor Helen DeLeon; and,
- Active Elders Tye Cowan, John Dewey, Watson Dupont, Al Manson, Julie Mead, Stacey Menard, Chuck Moede, Marjorie Seiter, Michael Stearns, Elizabeth Spivey and Dennis Waehner (Clerk Pro Tem).

Also in attendance was Nina Moede, Confirmation Class leader.

The following members of Session were excused:

- Active Elders Carl Allen, Karla Bradley, Susan Anderson, Gene Fisseler and Johnny Jones.

The following members of Session were absent:

- Active Elders Jennifer Carr, Diane Kane, Ross Looney, Roy Phillips and Reese Terry.

All the 2007 confirmation candidates were present. They included:

- Sarah Cravens,
- Michelle Dupont,
- Sarah Fixel,
- Ryan Fletcher,
- Marshall Godwin,
- Colleen Grady,
- Trevor Grunden,
- Lance Kelley,
- Shelby McNeill,
- Elizabeth Noriega,
- Robert Noriega,
- Rudy Noriega,
- Graham Montgomery,
- Jared Stoyanov, and
- Michael Tobia.

The Elders each introduced themselves to the confirmands.

Each confirmand was individually examined. The confirmands began by giving a brief description of their background and then read their Statements of Faith. The Elders then questioned the confirmands to determine their readiness for full membership in Webster Presbyterian Church.

Following the individual examinations, Moderator Mark Cooper questioned the group on the uniqueness of the Presbyterian family of faith.

The examination being completed, the confirmands were excused with their Confirmation Class leader.

The Elders discussed the confirmands and the confirmation class as a whole.

The **Session moved, seconded and approved unanimously to accept the following individuals for the Sacrament of Baptism** on May 20, 2007:

- Ryan Lloyd Fletcher, born April 23, 1993, son of Malise and Keith Fletcher, and grandson of JoAnn and Richard Mills; and,

- Graham Allen Montgomery, born March 26, 1993, son of Bill and Jenny Montgomery, grandson of Jan and Larry Higgs.

The **Session moved, seconded and approved unanimously to sustain the examination of the confirmands and to accept them as full members of Webster Presbyterian Church.**

The confirmands were welcomed back into the meeting where they were congratulated for their hard work on their journey of faith. Moderator Mark Cooper gave a brief overview of the confirmation service to be held on May 20, 2007.

The confirmation program leaders, Nina Moede and Dennis Waehner, were commended for their work in preparing these youth.

The business of the Called Meeting being completed, the Session voted to adjourn. The meeting was closed with prayer by the Moderator at 12:10 p.m.

Dennis Waehner
Clerk of Session Pro Tem

May 22, 2007
The Meeting Room

The Webster Presbyterian Church (WPC) Session convened a Stated Meeting on Tuesday, May 22, 2007, in the Meeting Room. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator, Reverend Helen DeLeon, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members of Session were present:

- Associate Pastor Helen DeLeon, Moderator; and,
- Active Elders Carl Allen, Jennifer Carr, Tye Cowan, John Dewey, Watson DuPont, Gene Fisseler (Clerk), Diane Kane, Julie Mead, Stacey Menard, Chuck Moede, Roy Phillips Marjorie Seiter, Michael Stearns, Reese Terry, and Dennis Waehner.

The following members of Session were excused:

- Active Elders Susan Anderson, Karla Bradley, Johnny Jones, Ross Looney, Al Manson, and Elizabeth Spivey.

Treasurer Pat Koester and Mission Committee member Ann Taylor were also present.

A quorum was declared present by the Clerk and an Agenda for the meeting was approved.

The Session approved the minutes of the following:

- Stated Meeting of Session on April 24, 2007; and,
- Called Meeting of Session on May 12, 2007, as amended.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk shared several pieces of correspondence with the Session, including:

- letter from Presbytery of New Covenant Business Affairs Committee
- a letter from Presbytery with a preliminary Presbytery budget;

2196

- a letter from Presbytery's Committee on Ministry regarding the June 24 Triennial Visit; and,
- a letter from Christmas International House.

Statistical Report

| | <u>Individuals</u> | <u>Families</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------|
| Membership as of April 24, 2007 | 705 | 400 | |
| Gains: | | | |
| Transfer of Letter | + 1 | + 1 | Smith-Bagheri |
| Reaffirmation of Faith | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Profession of Faith & Baptism | +15 | + 0 | 15 Confirmands added |
| Losses: | | | |
| Transfer of Letter | - 0 | - 0 | |
| Removal from Roll | - 0 | - 0 | |
| Death | <u>- 1</u> | <u>- 0</u> | Lawton |
| Membership as of May 22, 2007 | 720 | 401 | |
| Baptized persons who've not made Professions of Faith: | <u>133</u> | | Smith added; 13 Confirmands removed |
| Total children, youth and adults: | 853 | | |

Births:

- Emerald Tru Fitzgerald, daughter of Andrea and Matthew Fitzgerald, granddaughter of Bambi Fitzgerald, on April 26, 2007

Baptisms:

- Addison Elizabeth Smith, born February 20, 2007, daughter of Crystal Jean Smith and Scott Davis on May 20, 2007
- Ryan Lloyd Fletcher, born April 23, 1993, son of Malise and Keith Fletcher, on May 20, 2007
- Graham Allen Montgomery, born March 23, 1993, son of Jenny and Bill Montgomery, on May 20, 2007

Deaths:

- Hans Lawton died on Friday, April 27, 2007.

Wedding performed by Pastor Helen DeLeon:

- Catherine Tucker (NM) and Matt Laws (NM), April 27, 2007

Removal from Rolls:

- The **Session voted to remove Marty and John Davis, at their request, from the Rolls** as they have moved and are now members of the United Methodist Church in Coldspring, Texas.

Treasurer's Report

To date, a total of \$27,000 for the acquisition of the 211 NASA Parkway property has been received. The Session received the Treasurer's report.

New Business

- The Session **voted to approve a request** for use of certain church campus facilities by TaxAide in January 2008.

Committee/Team Actions and Reports

- Administration – Dennis Waehner urged all ministry teams to submit newsletter articles to the Communications team by the deadline each month to facilitate timing publication of the newsletter.
- Adult Christian Education – The Covenant Group team is hosting the “Celebrating Our Covenant Groups” dessert and fellowship event on June 25 at 7:00 p.m. in Bouton Hall. New member former professional librarian Rowena Colwell recently presented her evaluation of the church library to the committee; additional discussions will follow.
- Children’s Ministry – Parent Pow-Wow meetings continue to deliver good feedback to the team for its consideration in defining ministry goals and plans. Plans are evolving for Fall Sunday School.
- Fellowship & Welcoming – The May 20 pot luck event was well-attended and the calendar for future Fellowship activities includes:
 - Sunday, July 22 – Clerk Emeritus Jim Paden Celebration
 - August 29 – Return of the Wednesday Night Dinners
 - Sunday, September 16 – Luau all-church lunch
 - Saturday, September 29 – Shrimp Boil
- Mission – During the recent Habitat For Humanity workday, the house currently under construction had its roof successfully installed. Missionary to Jamaica, Vicki Smith, has been corresponding with WPC regarding her work.
 - The **Session voted to approve a motion** that WPC host the CROP Walk in 2007 and 2008.
- Stewardship & Finance – The committee did advise that a letter has gone out to all members regarding execution of the contract for purchase of the 211 NASA Parkway property, the expected closing date, and the fund set up for contributions.
- Worship –
 - The **Session voted to approve a motion** that the Worship Committee and Pastor Mark Cooper form a search team to fill the Music Director position on a permanent basis.
- Youth Ministry – Committee members recently met with a youth pastor candidate during her visit with WPC. Positive feedback was received from youth and leaders alike.

Old Business – The Session received the report from WPC Commissioners to the May 15 Presbytery meeting at Camp Cho-Yeh. An item of interest was that title to the camp property will be deeded to the Cho-Yeh 501(c)3 non-profit corporation with the proviso that it will revert to the Presbytery if Cho-Yeh ceases to operate. A copy of Postlude, capturing all the meeting’s news, is posted on the Session webpage.

The **Session voted to table further action** regarding the Vision Team and the Physical Plant Team until the June Stated Meeting.

Pastors’ Report: Mark Cooper is on continuing education leave in Tennessee. Helen DeLeon reported that WPC members will be prominently featured at the October 6, 2007, FOCUS Conference at Northwoods Presbyterian Church. Diane Kane, John Dewey, Mary Lawrence, and Jane Markley all have roles in the conference.

Next Meetings:

- There will be a Called Meeting of Session on Sunday, June 24, 2007, noon, with Presbytery Committee on Ministry (Triennial Visit)
- The next Stated Meeting of Session is Tuesday, June 26, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

The business of this Stated Meeting being completed, the Session voted to adjourn. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:30 p.m.

Gene Fisseler
Clerk of Session

June 24, 2007
The Meeting Room

The Webster Presbyterian Church Session convened a Called Meeting on Sunday, June 24, 2007. The Moderator, Reverend Mark Cooper, opened the meeting with prayer at 12:30 p.m.

The purpose of the Called Meeting was to meet with representatives of the Committee on Ministry from New Covenant Presbytery in a triennial meeting as prescribed by the Book of Order.

The following members of Session were present:

- Pastor Mark Cooper, Moderator;
- Associate Pastor Helen DeLeon; and,
- Active Elders Carl Allen, Gene Fisseler (Clerk), Jennifer Carr, Johnny Jones, Julie Mead, Stacey Menard, Chuck Moede, Roy Phillips, Marjorie Seiter, Elizabeth Spivey and Dennis Waehner.

Also in attendance were Shelley Hernandez and Greg Fiegh representing Presbytery.

While those present enjoyed a light lunch provided by Julie Mead and Jennifer Carr, Shelley and Greg led the Session in a discussion regarding:

- What is working well at WPC?
- What are challenges we face at WPC?
- What can Presbytery do to help meet the challenges faced?

There was lively discussion and interchange among all present. Shelley and Greg took away a couple of action items and will share feedback with the Session.

The business of the Called Meeting being completed, the Session voted to adjourn. The meeting was closed with prayer by the Moderator at 1:45 p.m.

Gene Fisseler
Clerk of Session

June 26, 2007
The Meeting Room

The Webster Presbyterian Church (WPC) Session convened a Stated Meeting on Tuesday, June 26, 2007, in the Meeting Room. The meeting was opened with a devotion and prayer by the Moderator, Reverend Mark Cooper, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members of Session were present:

- Pastor Mark Cooper, Moderator;
- Associate Pastor Helen DeLeon; and,
- Active Elders Carl Allen, Karla Bradley, Jennifer Carr, Tye Cowan, Gene Fisseler (Clerk), Johnny Jones, Diane Kane, Ross Looney, Al Manson, Julie Mead, Stacey Menard, Chuck Moede, Roy Phillips, Marjorie Seiter, Elizabeth Spivey, and Dennis Waehner.

The following members of Session were excused:

- Active Elders Susan Anderson, John Dewey, Watson DuPont, Michael Stearns, and Reese Terry.

Treasurer Pat Koester was also present.

A quorum was declared present by the Clerk and the Agenda for the meeting was approved.

The Session approved the minutes of the following meetings of Session:

- The Stated Meeting of May 22, 2007; and,
- The Called Meeting of June 24, 2007, as amended.

Clerk's Report

There was no correspondence received to be shared.

Statistical Report

| | <u>Individuals</u> | <u>Families</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Membership as of May 22, 2007 | 720 | 401 | |
| Gains: | | | |
| Transfer of Letter | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Reaffirmation of Faith | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Profession of Faith & Baptism | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Losses: | | | |
| Transfer of Letter | - 0 | - 0 | |
| Removal from Roll | - 2 | - 1 | M&J Davis |
| Death | <u>- 1</u> | <u>- 1</u> | B Kagawa |
| Membership as of June 26, 2007 | 717 | 399 | |
| Baptized persons who've not made Professions of Faith: | <u>133</u> | | |
| Total children, youth and adults: | 850 | | |

Births:

2200

- Jaden Anthony Mathews, son of Julie and Eric Mathews and grandson of Sylvia (M) and Bobby Scales, was born on June 14, 2007

Wedding officiated by Helen DeLeon and co-officiated by Mark Cooper:

- Patricia Denyszyn (M) and Daniel Hunter (M) on June 16, 2007

Deaths:

- Bill Kagawa died on June 7, 2007.

Letter of Transfer:

- The **Session voted to approve the preparation and transmittal of a Letter of Transmittal for Cheryl and Charles Springer** to Clear Lake Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas.

Removal from the Rolls:

- The **Session voted to remove from the Rolls the name of Roxine Goslar Lawton** at her request.

Treasurer's Report

The Session received the Treasurer's report.

New Business

The Session referred a request by Pat Brackett on behalf of the Bay Area Symphony to Tye Cowan and the "marketing" task force. WPC is being considered to serve as the host site for the Fall 2008 Houston Symphony performance. Tye will get more details and make a recommendation for action next month.

The Session referred to Fellowship & Welcoming a request received by the church secretary to place a "guest book" in the Narthex for visitors to the church to register their visit. This derives from the visit by previous members of WPC to see the sanctuary and other changes to the campus.

Following discussion regarding a specific request, the **Session voted to direct** the Administration Committee to consider and propose criteria and a process for "naming" a room, a building, a garden, or other area of the church campus after a person.

Committee/Team Actions and Reports

- Administration – The Committee is engaged in reconfiguring the church membership database and staffing the effort to update and clean up the contents of the database. When completed, this will facilitate "cleaning of the rolls" later this year.
- Adult Christian Education – Two summer adult Sunday School classes are being offered: *The Thoughtful Christian* and *The Parables*. The "Celebrating our Covenant Groups" event, held June 25, was well attended. Some groups welcomed new members. The Committee is working on a mission statement and direction for the library.
- Buildings & Grounds – Volunteers at the June workday successfully completed numerous needed projects. Contractors and vendors have made repairs to the Fellowship Hall tile floor and to both ice machines. The Committee is reviewing church policies and procedures within its purview.
- Children's Ministry – Rally Day is scheduled for September 9.
 - The **Session voted to approve** as curriculum for the Fall 2007 4th and 5th grade class the online curriculum Grapple by Group Publishing.

2201

- Fellowship & Welcoming – The Committee solicited volunteers from Session to support the celebration lunch for Clerk Emeritus Jim Paden on July 22 and to serve as greeters for the remainder of 2007.
- Mission – Recent Mission milestones include the blood drive, the Youth Mission Trip to New Orleans, and the dedication of the most recently completed Habitat for Humanity. The Mission and Fellowship teams have worked together to arrange for WPC to purchase and serve “fair trade” coffee.
- Stewardship & Finance – Each Session ministry area was requested to develop its “dream budget” for 2008 in preparation for the stewardship drive in the fall.
- Worship –
 - The **Session voted to approve** the celebration of communion at the wedding of Pat Denyszyn and Dan Hunter.
 - The **Session voted to approve** use of Building Fund moneys to purchase a mixing board for the Sanctuary sound system, replacing the one stolen on or about June 17.
- Youth Ministry –
 - The **Session voted to approve** the service of Janice Smith-Bagheri as a Senior High Sunday School teacher, contingent upon a satisfactory background check.

Old Business:

The Session referred to the Administration Committee certain activities related to the newly purchased corner property including, but not limited to, review of and needed action related to the existing lease, insurance, and relocation/demolition of the existing structure.

The Session deferred action to staff the Vision Team and the Physical Plant Task Force.

Pastors' Reports:

- Helen reported she will be out next week completing her recent move to a new residence. She reflected on what a pleasure and delight it was to be a part of the wedding of Pat and Dan. She will be officiating a funeral at Wood Forest Presbyterian Church.
- Earlier in the month, Mark spent a week at a homiletics conference and then several days in Florida for the space shuttle launch delivering member-astronaut Clay Anderson to his six-month stay on the International Space Station. Mark reported on the progress of the Music Director search team and will have the team share its findings and plans at the next Stated Meeting.

Next Meeting:

- The next Stated Meeting of Session will be convened Tuesday, July 24, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room.

The business of this Stated Meeting being completed, the Session voted to adjourn. The meeting was closed with prayer by the Moderator at 9:15 p.m.

Gene Fisseler
Clerk of Session

July 24, 2007
The Meeting Room

The Webster Presbyterian Church (WPC) Session convened a Stated Meeting on Tuesday, July 24, 2007, in the Meeting Room. The meeting was opened with a devotion and prayer by the Moderator, Reverend Mark Cooper, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members of Session were present:

- Pastor Mark Cooper, Moderator;
- Associate Pastor Helen DeLeon; and,
- Active Elders Carl Allen, Karla Bradley, Jennifer Carr, Tye Cowan, John Dewey, Gene Fisseler (Clerk), Johnny Jones, Diane Kane, Ross Looney, Al Manson, Julie Mead, Chuck Moede, Roy Phillips, Marjorie Seiter, Elizabeth Spivey, and Michael Stearns.

The following members of Session were excused:

- Active Elders Susan Anderson, Watson DuPont, Stacey Menard, Reese Terry, Dennis Waehner.

Treasurer Pat Koester was also present.

A quorum was declared by the Clerk and the Agenda for the meeting was approved.

New Members – Rev. DeLeon welcomed John Jordan, Chair of the New Member Team, who introduced two couples, Kimberly and David Merritt along with Jennifer and Joe Martin, who have expressed their desire to become full members of Webster Presbyterian Church. After learning a bit about the Merritts and the Martins and sharing with them the areas of ministry that each of the Elders present are involved in, Rev. Cooper asked a series of questions regarding their faith and commitment to the church. Being satisfied with their answers, the **Session voted to receive** Kimberly and David Merritt and Jennifer and Joe Martin into Full Membership of Webster Presbyterian Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. The Merritts and the Martins are to be presented to the congregation on Sunday, July 29, during the 8:30 a.m. worship service and the 11:00 a.m. worship service, respectively.

The Session approved the minutes of the June 26, 2007 Stated Meeting of Session.

Treasurer's Report

The Session received the Treasurer's report.

Clerk's Report

| | <u>Individuals</u> | <u>Families</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Membership as of June 26, 2007 | 717 | 399 | |
| Gains: | | | |
| Transfer of Letter | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Reaffirmation of Faith | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Profession of Faith & Baptism | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Losses: | | | |
| Transfer of Letter | - 2 | - 1 | C & C Springer |
| Removal from Roll | - 1 | - 1 | Roxine Lawton |
| Death | <u>- 0</u> | <u>- 0</u> | |
| Membership as of July 24, 2007 | 714 | 397 | |

Baptized persons who have

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| not made Professions of Faith: | + 133 |
| Total children, youth and adults: | 847 |

Wedding performed by Mark Cooper:

- Shayna Noriega (M) and Alfred Perez (M), Saturday, July 14, 2007

There was no correspondence received to be shared.

New Business

The Session **elected three Active Elders** Diane Kane, Johnny Jones, and Elizabeth Spivey (contingent upon her availability) to serve as Commissioners and Jennifer Carr to serve as an alternate for Ms. Spivey, to the August 25 Stated Meeting of Presbytery of New Covenant at Christ Presbyterian Church in Bellaire, Texas. Subsequent to the Session meeting, Ms. Spivey confirmed that she could and would attend the Presbytery meeting.

Committee/Team Actions and Reports

- Administration – The ACS membership database sub-team is working to “clean” up the database structure which will, in turn, allow the verification of the accuracy of the database records and, ultimately, the cleaning of the church rolls. The renter of the recently acquired corner property advises his business will vacate the premises within a few weeks. He has also indicated interest in moving the structure to another location. The committee will work with him to formulate a plan. The Marketing Task Force reported that it has identified and is pursuing six low cost initiatives to enhance WPC’s visibility.
- Adult Christian Education – The committee did not meet in July.
- Buildings & Grounds – The committee reported the status of numerous projects underway or completed: installed security locks on Fellowship Hall kitchen area storage, replaced several Fellowship Hall high ceiling lights, repaired various air conditioning units, and arranged for lawn mowing at the corner lot.
- Care – In addition to keeping up with exceptional numbers of members experiencing hospitalization, the Deacons are hosting fellowship gatherings for church members in their zones. WPC and nearby Clear Lake Presbyterian Church are looking for synergies within their respective Stephen Ministry programs to take advantage of training opportunities.
- Children’s Ministry – The committee reminded the Session that Rally Day is September 9 and shared its plans to interweave the successful covenant concept from the small group ministry into Children’s Sunday School program
 - The **Session voted to approve** the “Large Group/Small Group” curriculum for Pre-Kindergarten through 10-year olds.
 - The **Session voted to approve** holding “Bible and Me” and “Bible and Us” classes on consecutive Wednesday nights, September 12 and 19.
- Fellowship & Welcoming – The Session applauded the committee on its very successful, well attended, and heartwarming fete for Clerk Emeritus Jim Paden. The committee will support the Talent Show & Ice Cream Social on August 18. The annual Shrimp Boil is set for September 29. Efforts to build a stronger Greeter team continue.
- Mission – Missionary to Jamaica, Vicki Smith, will visit WPC on August 5, participating in worship and leading a Sunday School class. Preparations for Crop Walk continue.
 - The **Session voted to approve** fundraisers involving WPC and neighboring churches in support of the 2007 Bay Area Christmas International House, which fundraisers will include the sale of specially-designed Christmas cards and a holiday social event.

- Stewardship & Finance – The successful stewardship breakfasts introduced last year will return in September. Each Session committee is requested to supply its initial budget request for 2008 to Stewardship & Finance at the next Stated Meeting. Contributions to cover the corner property purchase continue to be received.
- Worship – The committee itemized revisions made to the church Wedding Policy, answering questions posed by Session members.
 - The **Session voted to approve** the revised Wedding Policy.
- Youth Ministry – WPC youth Libby Cravens, Melanie Moore, Jennifer Paden and Elizabeth Spivey, Youth Elder, participated in the Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2007 “Hope Is In Our Midst.” Elizabeth shared a moving account of her experience during the week of worship, Bible Study and recreation which took place July 17-22 on the campus of Purdue University. WPC youth representatives to Presbyterian Youth Connection Council (PYCC) of Presbytery of New Covenant are Bethany Cowan, Karen Moede, Elizabeth Spivey. Jennifer Paden is the youth representative alternate and James Kinzler will serve as our adult representative.

Old Business: The Chair of the Nominating Committee reminded Session that it is responsible for naming three members to the Nominating Committee and requested that suggestions be brought forth at the next Stated Meeting.

Pastor Reports

Helen DeLeon reported that the pastor of our Hispanic congregation Casa de Oracion Monte Carmelo has not met his goals in building a local ministry. The group will cease meeting on our campus while he evaluates his options. Helen also encouraged members of Session to take advantage of church officer training at Christian Connections, set for October 6 at Northwoods Presbyterian Church, where as many as five WPC members are presenting or otherwise involved.

Next Meeting:

- The next Stated Meeting of Session will be convened Tuesday, August 28, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room.

The business of this Stated Meeting being completed, the Session voted to adjourn. The meeting was closed with prayer by the Moderator at 9:05 p.m.

Gene Fisseler
Clerk of Session

August 28, 2007
The Meeting Room

The Webster Presbyterian Church (WPC) Session convened a Stated Meeting on Tuesday, August 28, 2007, in the Meeting Room. The meeting was opened with a devotion and prayer by the Moderator, Reverend Mark Cooper, at 7:08 p.m.

The following members of Session were present:

- Pastor Mark Cooper, Moderator;
- Associate Pastor Helen DeLeon; and,
- Active Elders Carl Allen, Karla Bradley, Jennifer Carr, John Dewey, Gene Fisseler (Clerk), Johnny Jones, Diane Kane, Ross Looney, Al Manson, Stacey Menard, Chuck

Moede, Roy Phillips, Marjorie Seiter, Elizabeth Spivey, Michael Stearns, Reese Terry, and Dennis Waehner.

The following members of Session were excused:

- Active Elders Susan Anderson, Tye Cowan, and Watson DuPont.

Eric Late, Music Director Search Team, and Treasurer Pat Koester were also present.

A quorum was declared by the Clerk and the Agenda for the meeting was approved.

Report from the Music Director Search Team - On behalf of the Music Director Search Team, Eric Late provided an update on the team's efforts. He presented a three-page list of expectations the team developed for a full-time director of music and fine arts that addressed choirs and other performing groups, weekly worship services, special worship service and special events, and work relationships with volunteers and staff. Eric answered several questions posed by members of Session. After carefully considered discussion, the **Session voted (1) to affirm that the music director position is a full-time position and (2) to reaffirm its earlier approval for the Music Director Search Team to pursue the hiring of a qualified candidate.** The Session expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the team.

The Session approved the minutes of the July 24, 2007, Stated Meeting of Session.

Treasurer's Report

The Session received the Treasurer's report.

Clerk's Report

| | <u>Individuals</u> | <u>Families</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Membership as of July 24, 2007 | 714 | 397 | |
| Gains: | | | |
| Transfer of Letter | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Reaffirmation of Faith | + 4 | + 2 | K&D Merritt; J&J Martin |
| Profession of Faith & Baptism | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Losses: | | | |
| Transfer of Letter | - 0 | - 0 | |
| Removal from Roll | - 0 | - 0 | |
| Death | <u>- 1</u> | <u>- 0</u> | Forde |
| Membership as of August 28: | 717 | 399 | |
| Baptized persons who've | | | |
| not made Professions of Faith: | <u>+ 133</u> | | |
| Total children, youth and adults: | 850 | | |

There was no correspondence received to be shared.

Wedding performed by Mark Cooper:

- Jenny Lynn Long (NM) and Scott Allen Clement (M) on August 25, 2007

Wedding performed by Helen DeLeon:

- Lorena De Los Angeles Barbosa (NM) and Michael Rorrer (M) on August 10, 2007

Letter of Transfer:

- The **Session voted to authorize a letter of transfer** for Judy Bozone to First Presbyterian Church, Richardson, Texas

Death:

- Robert Forde (M) died on August 22, 2007

Action: The **Session voted to accept, with regret, the resignation** from active service on Session of Elder Julie Mead, at her request.

New Business

Presbytery meeting report – The commissioners and other attendees at the August Presbytery of New Covenant reported on the business of the meeting. The youth of the presbytery who attended Triennium gave their report. A balanced presbytery budget was approved. Two new ministerial candidates were sustained by presbytery.

The **Session voted to approve** the following baptisms

- Emily Martin, born June 6, 2007, daughter of members Jennifer and Joseph Martin
- Nathan Kidwell Hearn, born March 31, 2006, son of Kristina and Tony Hearn, grandson of members James and Deborah Kidwell
- John Ranger Hindman, III (Trey), March 1, 2007, son of members Kathryn and John, Jr. Hindman, grandson of members James and Deborah Kidwell

Committee/Team Actions and Reports

- Administration – New pew pads are delivered and will be placed in the sanctuary. Work is underway on visitor brochures and new website design. The business in the rent house will be vacated by the end of the month. The renter is no longer a viable purchaser of the structure for relocation.
- Adult Christian Education – Mark Cooper will lead two classes beginning in September – an adult Sunday School Kerygma class and a Thursday night dinner and DVD series.
 - The **Session voted to approve** the book entitled The Politics of Jesus: Rediscovering The True Revolutionary Nature of Jesus' Teaching and How They Have Been Corrupted, by author Obrey M. Hendricks Jr., as curriculum for the Adult Book Study Group.
- Buildings & Grounds – A volunteer workday will be scheduled for late September or early October. A major Fellowship Hall air-conditioning component has failed and repairs will run \$4,500 to \$8,500, depending on the alternative selected.
- Care – The Board of Deacons is sponsoring a CPR training class on September 30 from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. WPC is working with Clear Lake Presbyterian with regard to our Stephen Ministry candidate training.
- Children's Ministry –
 - The **Session voted to approve** an increase in the hourly pay rate for nursery staff to \$8.40.
- Fellowship & Welcoming – The annual luau, with a “pirates” theme, is set for Sunday, September 16 following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The Shrimp Boil is scheduled for the evening of September 29. The New Member Team is hosting a reception for new members at Helen DeLeon's home on September 23 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Mission – WPC missionary Vicki Smith recently visited our congregation and reported on her work in Jamaica. Committee members took her on a “shopping spree” for supplies for her classes and will pay the airline fee for the excess luggage weight.

- Stewardship & Finance – The 2008 Stewardship Campaign kicks off in late September with a series of Saturday morning breakfasts. Related mailings begin in early October and the campaign wraps up on November 4.
- Worship – Communion was celebrated on Lunar Communion Sunday, July 22, and Sunday, August 5. Communion is next scheduled for Sunday, September 2. Advent planning is on the horizon.
- Youth Ministry – The 2007 CROP Walk coincides with the Presbyterian Youth Rally. Consequently, our WPC youth will stage a pre-CROP walk so that they can make a contribution and still attend the Rally.
 - The **Session voted to approve** the following curriculums for use in Jr. High Sunday School: "*Creative Bible Lessons in Genesis*," "*Creative Bible Lessons in 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus*," and "*Dares from Jesus*," all produced by Youth Specialties Books and published by Zondervan.

Old Business

- Al Manson, chair of the Nominating Committee, led a discussion with the Session on the makeup of the Nominating Committee. Following the discussion:
 - The **Session voted to elect** Elder Roy Phillips to serve as Vice Chair of the Nominating Committee.
 - The **Session voted to elect** to the Nominating Committee the following church members: Anne Waehner, Lynn Godwin, and Patty Lusk.

Pastors' Reports

Helen DeLeon – Helen reminded the Session of the **FOCUS** event on October 6 at Northwoods Presbyterian Church.

Mark Cooper – Mark presented a "redrawn" structure for the Session. It is a "work in progress" and he requested feedback on his proposal.

Next Meeting:

- The next Stated Meeting of Session will be convened Tuesday, September 25, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room.

The business of this Stated Meeting being completed, the Session voted to adjourn. The meeting was closed with prayer by the Moderator at 9:05 p.m.

Gene Fisseler
Clerk of Session

September 25, 2007
The Meeting Room

The Webster Presbyterian Church (WPC) Session convened a Stated Meeting on Tuesday, September 25, 2007, in the Meeting Room. The meeting was opened with a devotion and prayer by the Moderator, Reverend Mark Cooper, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members of Session were present:

- Pastor Mark Cooper, Moderator;
- Associate Pastor Helen DeLeon; and,
- Serving Elders Carl Allen, Jennifer Carr, Tye Cowan, John Dewey, Watson DuPont, Gene Fisseler (Clerk), Johnny Jones, Diane Kane, Ross Looney, Al Manson, Stacey

Menard, Chuck Moede, Roy Phillips, Marjorie Seiter, Elizabeth Spivey, Michael Stearns, and Dennis Waehner.

The following members of Session were excused:

- Serving Elders Susan Anderson, Karla Bradley, and Reese Terry.

Treasurer Pat Koester and Sunday School Superintendent Linda Smith-Gregory were also present.

A quorum was declared by the Clerk and the Agenda for the meeting was approved.

The Session approved the minutes of the August 28, 2007, Stated Meeting of Session.

Treasurer’s Report

The Session received the Treasurer’s report.

Clerk’s Report

There were several items of correspondence which were all referred to the Mission Committee.

| | <u>Individuals</u> | <u>Families</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Membership as of August 28, 2007 | 717 | 399 | |
| Gains: | | | |
| Transfer of Letter | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Reaffirmation of Faith | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Profession of Faith & Baptism | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Losses: | | | |
| Transfer of Letter | – 1 | – 0 | Judy Bozone |
| Removal from Roll | – 0 | – 0 | |
| Death | <u>– 0</u> | <u>– 0</u> | |
| Membership as of September 25, 2007 | 716 | 399 | |
| Baptized persons who’ve | | | |
| not made Professions of Faith: | <u>+ 134</u> | | Added Hindman |
| Total children, youth and adults: | 850 | | |

Baptisms:

- Nathan Kidwell Hearn, born March 31, 2006, son of Kristina and Tony Hearn, grandson of members James and Deborah Kidwell
- John Ranger Hindman, III (Trey), March 1, 2007, son of members Kathryn and John, Jr. Hindman, grandson of members James and Deborah Kidwell

New Business

- The **Session voted to approve letters of transfer** for Tom and Mary Leng, to First Presbyterian Church, Kingwood, Texas, and for Lynne Phillips, to First Presbyterian Church, Alameda, California
- The **Session voted approve the baptism** of Olivia Sophia Bihm, born May 11, 2007, daughter of Karen and Wayne Bihm
- The **Session voted to direct the Communications Team to consider and bring forth a recommendation for a new sign along NASA Parkway.**

Committee/Team Actions and Reports

- Administration – The Committee reported that the renter has moved out of the house on the corner, that a new telephone is scheduled to be installed in the Sunday School Superintendent's office the week of October 1, and that a large format computer printer has been loaned to the church office for use in printing certain jobs. Progress is being made toward the launch of the new church internet website.
- Adult Christian Education – Christian education is not just happening on Sundays. The Adult Book Discussion group reconvenes Wednesday, October 10. The weekly Pastor's Class is set for Thursday nights. And Saturday, November 3, is targeted for an Adult Leadership Training Workshop.
- Buildings & Grounds – The B&G Elders continue to have their hands full with electrical work, leaking roofs, sheetrock repairs, and lawn maintenance.
- Care – The CPR/AED class, scheduled for Sunday, September 30, is fully subscribed. Three additional Stephen Ministry trainees have been recruited and a fourth is considering joining the class. Annual leadership changes are underway with the Board of Deacons and the Prayer Chain.
- Children's Ministry - The **Session voted to approve the following list of teachers, shepherds, and nursery volunteers:** Freeman Gregory, Kristen Green, Lauren Balletto, Richard Koester, Mary Sumrall-Sydnor, Rudy Noriega, and Joe Godwin, contingent upon satisfactory background checks as appropriate.
 - The **Session voted to approve the production of the children's musical, Simon Says: The Rockin' Trial of Simon Peter, Jimmy Travis and Gail Getzen on Sunday, February 24, 2008.**
- Fellowship & Welcoming – Wednesday night dinners have returned and attendance is up from last year. The annual luau was attended by about 125 congregants on September 16. Preparations for the Shrimp Boil are on track.
- Mission – Dennis Smith, who has served as a missionary in Guatemala for 30 years, will be in our midst on October 7. WPC is his first stop on a month-long communication and fundraising trip to the U.S. He will lead a workshop at the October 6 FOCUS event and will also be a featured guest at Clear Lake Presbyterian Church. See Pastor Reports below for more.
- Stewardship & Finance – The 2008 Stewardship Campaign is just beginning and will continue through early November. Mark Cooper is hosting a series of Saturday morning breakfasts and leading frank discussions about church ministries and finances. Joyful Noyz is providing the entertainment.
- Worship
 - The **Session voted to approve a Sunday morning worship service** to be planned and presented by the Youth.
 - The **Session voted to approve the Celebration of Communion** at the Sunday evening Youth worship service on Sunday, October 28.
- Youth Ministry –
 - The **Session moved to approve a request for the Senior High to hold a car wash** at the church on Saturday, October 13, including the pre-sale of tickets prior to the car wash, to support Senior High trip(s) in 2008.
 - The **Session voted to approve Andy Posluszny** to serve as an adult leader in Senior High Connections (Wednesday night gathering), contingent upon a satisfactory background check.

Old Business:

- The **Session voted to offer the house on the corner lot for sale** to J.D. Jenkins for \$1,000 with removal of the structure at his cost.

2210

- The **Session voted to adopt a new organizational structure in 2008** consisting of 18 Serving Elders, plus one Youth Elder (not assigned to a committee), and seven committees which are:
 - Administration including Personnel, Communications, Stewardship & Finance, and Long Range Planning (4 Elders);
 - Buildings & Grounds (2 Elders);
 - Care including Fellowship (2 Elders);
 - Christian Nurture including Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, and Adult Ministry (4 Elders);
 - Mission (2 Elders);
 - Outreach including Welcoming (2 Elders); and,
 - Worship (2 Elders).

Pastors' Reports

- Helen DeLeon – Helen reported that PCUSA missionary Dennis Smith of Guatemala will be in the WPC pulpit on World Communion Sunday, October 7, and will teach an all-adult Sunday School class.
- Mark Cooper – Mark has been very busy with various activities and ministries. He reported that the Music Director Search Team is moving forward with its effort and the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is hard at work, despite suffering a recent disappointment.

Next Meeting

- The next Stated Meeting of Session will be convened Tuesday, October 23, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room.

The business of this Stated Meeting being completed, the Session voted to adjourn. The meeting was closed with prayer by the Moderator at 9:50 p.m.

Gene Fisseler
Clerk of Session

October 23, 2007
The Meeting Room

The Webster Presbyterian Church (WPC) Session convened a Stated Meeting on Tuesday, October 23, 2007, in the Meeting Room. The meeting was opened with a devotion and prayer by the Moderator, Reverend Helen DeLeon, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members of Session were present:

- Moderator, Associate Pastor Helen DeLeon; and,
- Active Elders Jennifer Carr, Tye Cowan, John Dewey, Watson DuPont, Gene Fisseler (Clerk), Johnny Jones, Diane Kane, Ross Looney, Al Manson, Stacey Menard, Chuck Moede, Roy Phillips, Marjorie Seiter, Reese Terry, and Dennis Waehner.

The following members of Session were excused:

- Active Elders Carl Allen, Susan Anderson, Karla Bradley, Elizabeth Spivey, and Michael Stearns.

Treasurer Pat Koester, Sunday School Superintendent Linda Smith-Gregory, John Jordan, Jeanette Chase and Eric Late were also present.

A quorum was declared by the Clerk and the Agenda for the meeting was approved.

New Members – The Moderator welcomed John Jordan, Chair of the New Member Team, who introduced Karen and Wayne Bihm, a couple expressing a desire to become full members of Webster Presbyterian Church, and their children Ethan and Olivia. After sharing the areas of ministry in which each of the Elders present are involved and learning a bit about the Bihms, Rev. DeLeon asked a series of questions regarding their faith and commitment to the church. Being satisfied with their answers, the **Session voted to receive** Karen and Wayne Bihm into Full Membership of Webster Presbyterian Church by letter of transfer from University Presbyterian Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The Bihms are to be presented to the congregation on Sunday, October 28, during the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

Music & Fine Arts Director Search Team – Jeanette Chase and Eric Late reported to the Session that it had been contacted by former part-time Music Director Glenn Foster who, along with his wife, Geri, had applied for the open full-time position. After deliberations, the Search Team prayerfully and joyfully recommends the yoked team of Glenn and Geri as Director and Associate Director of Music & Fine Arts to the Session. Following discussion during which several questions regarding the details of the offer were answered, the **Session voted to endorse the Search Team’s recommendation**. The Personnel Team was directed to forward an offer letter and job description to the Fosters following adjournment. This matter has been discussed, along with an expression of appreciation for his leadership over the past ten months, with Interim Music Director George Gray who has tendered his letter of resignation, contingent on action by the Session. The effective date of the change in leadership of the music ministry is November 5, 2007.

The Session approved the minutes of the September 25, 2007, Stated Meeting of Session.

Treasurer’s Report

The Session received the Treasurer’s report.

Clerk’s Report

A letter from Presbytery of New Covenant regarding new Minimum Terms of Call for Pastors was shared and handed off to the Personnel Team.

| | <u>Individuals</u> | <u>Families</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Membership as of September 25, 2007 | 717 | 399 | |
| Gains: | | | |
| Transfer of Letter | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Reaffirmation of Faith | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Profession of Faith & Baptism | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Losses: | | | |
| Transfer of Letter | – 3 | – 2 | Lengs; Phillips |
| Removal from Roll | – 0 | – 0 | |
| Death | <u>– 0</u> | <u>– 0</u> | |
| Membership as of October 23, 2007 | 714 | 397 | |
| Baptized persons who’ve | | | |
| not made Professions of Faith: | <u>+ 136</u> | | Added Martin, Bihm |
| Total children, youth and adults: | 850 | | |

Baptisms performed by Helen DeLeon

- Emily Marie Martin, born June 6, 2007, daughter of Joseph Edward and Jennifer Marie Martin on October 7, 2007
- Thomas Daniel Daly, born May 10, 2007, son of Daniel Patrick and Karen Sue Daly, grandson of member, Robin Manison on October 21, 2007

Baptisms performed by Mark Cooper

- Olivia Sophia Bihm, born May 11, 2007, daughter of Wayne Michael and Karen Alice Watt Bihm on October 14, 2007

Motion from the Clerk - the **Session voted to modify action taken at the September Stated Meeting** to approve, in lieu of Mr. Jenkins paying the church \$1,000 for the house located on the corner lot, a member of the church making a \$1,000 contribution to the "property purchase" fund.

New Business

The **Session voted to ratify** its earlier email approval of baptism of Thomas Daniel Daly, born May 10, 2007, son of Daniel Patrick and Karen Sue Daly, grandson of member Robin Manison.

The **Session voted to approve letters of transfer** for:

- Matt Langley to First Presbyterian Church of Austin, Austin, Texas; and,
- Sue Hardwick to St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Houston, Texas

The **Session voted to approve removal from the active rolls** David and Connie Niebert at their request

The **Session voted to elect** Active Elders Marjorie Seiter and Ross Looney and Elder Edna Arnold to serve as Commissioners to the November 13 Stated Meeting of Presbytery of New Covenant at Korean Central Presbyterian Church, Houston.

Committee/Team Actions and Reports

- Administration – The Personnel Team has been busy with details regarding hiring Glenn and Geri Foster as Director and Associate Director of Music & Fine Arts. The staff performance evaluation process will be conducted during the next couple of weeks.
 - The **Session voted to approve publication of a new church membership photo directory.**
- Adult Christian Education – New weeknight classes are successfully underway and Sunday School attendance is up from previous years. An Adult Leadership Training Workshop designed to help those interested in leading a Covenant Group or Sunday School class is set for Saturday, November 3.
- Buildings & Grounds – B&G led a discussion regarding the janitorial service contract and the impact that numerous room setups are having on contractor performance
- Care – On the heels of the successful CPR/AED training event, a Pediatric CPR class is set for Sunday, November 11. Stephen Ministry classes are scheduled to begin in February, 2008.
- Children's Ministry – Sunday School attendance is much higher this year than last. The phone was (finally) installed and operating in the Sunday School Superintendent's office.
- Fellowship & Welcoming – The New Member Team is planning the next Open Door class for Wednesday, November 14. With the recent resignation of the welcoming team elder, the effort to enhance the greeting ministry is temporarily delayed. The

Shrimp Boil enjoyed its largest turnout and was moved indoors to the Fellowship Hall due to weather.

- Mission – The Committee met with Theresa Graham, Interfaith Caring Ministries Director of Community Resources at the ICM facility. Meeting attendees gained a “hands on” understanding of how ICM provides support to our local community. Christmas mission projects will include the return of Gifts of Joy, the ICM Christmas Store, and Seafarers’ Boxes.
- Stewardship & Finance – The stewardship campaign is in full swing with pledge cards having been sent to the membership. Mark Cooper will host his fourth of four stewardship “breakfasts” on Sunday, November 4. A new safe has been purchased for the church office which has a “slot” through which checks and cash can be secured without use of the combination. Proposals for a financial review are being solicited.
- Worship – Special Advent events include: an Old Fashioned Christmas Party on December 5; a Blue Christmas service on December 9; a Christmas Concert on December 16; and, two Christmas Eve worship services.
 - The **Session voted to approve the annual poinsettia sale fundraiser** during the Advent season.
- Youth Ministry – The Committee had an action item for Session.
 - The **Session voted to approve a “Youth Gift Tree” fundraiser** during Advent to support the ongoing efforts to improve and supply the youth rooms in the Education Building.

Old Business:

The **Session voted to call, and provide proper notice for, a Congregational Meeting** on Sunday, November 18 to (1) consider an amendment to the WPC bylaws and (2) elect church officers (Deacons, Elders, and Trustee) for the Class of 2010. The call for the meeting is contingent on the Nominating Committee assembling a full slate of nominees. A copy of the suggested changes to the church bylaws is attached to these minutes.

Pastor Report

Helen DeLeon – Mark’s vacation continues through the end of the month. Helen has been exploring two new mission opportunities: Bridges to Healing (families with members returning from war) and Interfaith Worker Justice.

Next Meeting

- The next Stated Meeting of Session will be convened Tuesday, November 27, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room.

The business of this Stated Meeting being completed, the Session voted to adjourn. The meeting was closed with prayer by the Moderator at 9:05 p.m.

Gene Fisseler
Clerk of Session

**ATTACHMENT:
PROPOSED CHANGES TO WPC BYLAWS**

Current Wording:

F. Limitations

1. No two members of the same household shall serve as church officers on the same board at the same time. When a person completes a term, another member from the same household shall not be considered for a position on the same board until one year has passed.
2. Except as noted, any officer shall be ineligible to be elected to a second complete term until one year shall have elapsed from the time of his/her last full term. The exception is the youth elder and deacon.
3. An officer who is placed in a class for less than three (3) years in order to fill a vacancy in such class shall be eligible for immediate re-nomination at the end of the short term. However, no officer shall serve more than six consecutive years of full and partial terms.

Proposed Wording (new verbiage in bold font):

F. Limitations

1. No two members of the same household shall serve as church officers on the same board at the same time.
2. **Except as noted**, when a person completes a term **on a church board**, another member from the same household shall not be considered for a position on the same board until one year has passed. **The exception is the youth elder and deacon.**
3. Except as noted, any officer shall be ineligible to be elected to a second complete term until one year shall have elapsed from the time of his/her last full term. The exception is the youth elder and deacon.
4. An officer who is placed in a class for less than three (3) years in order to fill a vacancy in such class shall be eligible for immediate re-nomination at the end of the short term. However, no officer shall serve more than six consecutive years of full and partial terms.

Rationale for change:

- *The limitations on adult members of the same family filling concurrent or sequential positions on the same church board allow for adequate opportunities for our large congregation and adequately protect against "dynasties" in church leadership.*
- *The positions of youth deacon and youth elder are designed more to provide opportunities for the youth to learn than for the youth to lead. Therefore, eliminating the year in office between a parent and a youth officer would not create a problem. It does not cause undue influence by one family or threaten any sort of dynasty in leadership.*
- *The window for youth to serve on the Board of Deacons or the Session is very narrow (effectively, two to three years). Requiring a one-year buffer precludes many of our young members from serving and learning to be a part of our Boards simply because their parents are church leaders.*
- *We don't believe the original intent of this section was to require a year between parent and youth officers and, if that were the intent, the full impact was not considered. As a practical matter, there has been at least one youth officer nominee inadvertently elected without complying with the limitation being addressed here since it was adopted in 2005.*

November 18, 2007
Sanctuary

The Congregation of Webster Presbyterian Church convened a **Called Meeting of the Congregation** on Sunday, November 18, 2007, in the Church Sanctuary. The Moderator, the Reverend Mark Cooper, opened the meeting with prayer at 12:05 p.m. Clerk of Session Gene Fisseler was appointed Secretary and a quorum was declared present. The Moderator stated the purpose and the agenda for the meeting: to vote on the recommendation of Session to amend the Bylaws of Webster Presbyterian Church, to receive the report from the Nominating Committee, and to elect church officers, class of 2010.

Proposed Changes to the Bylaws

The Clerk read the proposed changes to **Article III, Section F. Limitations** of the bylaws and provided the Session's rationale for the changes.

Current Wording:

F. Limitations

4. No two members of the same household shall serve as church officers on the same board at the same time. When a person completes a term, another member from the same household shall not be considered for a position on the same board until one year has passed.
5. Except as noted, any officer shall be ineligible to be elected to a second complete term until one year shall have elapsed from the time of his/her last full term. The exception is the youth elder and deacon.
6. An officer who is placed in a class for less than three (3) years in order to fill a vacancy in such class shall be eligible for immediate re-nomination at the end of the short term. However, no officer shall serve more than six consecutive years of full and partial terms.

Proposed Wording (new verbiage in **bold, underlined font**):

F. Limitations

5. No two members of the same household shall serve as church officers on the same board at the same time.
6. **Except as noted**, when a person completes a term **on a church board**, another member from the same household shall not be considered for a position on the same board until one year has passed. **The exception is the youth elder and deacon.**
7. Except as noted, any officer shall be ineligible to be elected to a second complete term until one year shall have elapsed from the time of his/her last full term. The exception is the youth elder and deacon.
8. An officer who is placed in a class for less than three (3) years in order to fill a vacancy in such class shall be eligible for immediate re-nomination at the end of the short term. However, no officer shall serve more than six consecutive years of full and partial terms.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the changes. The Moderator asked for discussion and/or questions. Hearing none, the Moderated called for a voice vote and the congregation voted to accept the changes to the bylaws.

Report from the Nominating Committee/Election of Church Officers

The Chair of the Nominating Committee, Al Manson, introduced the members of the committee and reported on the committee's work. He placed the following names in nomination for the offices indicated.

- Trustee - Jim Ingram
- Elder - Jeanette Chase, John Grady, Dan Hunter, John Jordan, James Kinzler, Mary Lawrence, and Melissa Moede (Youth)
- Deacon - Wade Barclay, Roemehl Dewey, Carolyn "Bambi" Fitzgerald, Kim Harano, Jackie Hart, Judy Ota, Jennifer Paden (Youth), Judy Ramsay, and Ed Tobia

A motion was made and seconded to accept the nominations. The Moderator asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. The Moderator asked for discussion and/or questions. Hearing none, the Moderator called for a voice vote and the congregation voted to elect the individuals nominated to the various offices.

The business of the meeting having been accomplished, the meeting was adjourned by the Moderator at 12:30 p.m. with prayer.

Mark Cooper
Moderator

Gene Fisseler
Secretary/Clerk of Session

November 27, 2007
The Meeting Room

The Webster Presbyterian Church (WPC) Session convened a Stated Meeting on Tuesday, November 27, 2007, in the Meeting Room. The meeting was opened with a devotion and prayer by the Moderator, Reverend Mark Cooper, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members of Session were present:

- Moderator, Reverend Mark Cooper;
- Associate Pastor Helen DeLeon; and,
- Active Elders, Susan Anderson, Karla Bradley, Tye Cowan, Watson DuPont, Gene Fisseler (Clerk), Johnny Jones, Diane Kane, Ross Looney, Al Manson, Stacey Menard, Chuck Moede, Marjorie Seiter, Elizabeth Spivey, Michael Stearns, and Dennis Waehner.

The following members of Session were excused:

- Active Elders Carl Allen, Jennifer Carr, John Dewey, Roy Phillips, and Reese Terry.

Treasurer Pat Koester, Sunday School Superintendent Linda Smith-Gregory, and John Jordan were also present.

A quorum was declared by the Clerk and the Agenda for the meeting was approved.

New Members – The Moderator welcomed John Jordan, Chair of the New Member Team, who introduced Elizabeth and Courtenay Clifford, a couple expressing a desire to become full members of Webster Presbyterian Church. After sharing the areas of ministry in which each of the Elders present are involved and learning a bit about the Cliffords, Rev. Cooper asked a series of questions regarding their faith and commitment to the church. Being

satisfied with their answers, the **Session voted to receive Elizabeth and Courtenay Clifford into Full Membership of Webster Presbyterian Church** by letter of transfer from Neelsville Presbyterian Church in Germantown, Maryland. The Cliffords are to be presented to the congregation on Sunday, December 9, during the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

The Session approved the minutes of the:

- October 23, 2007, Stated Meeting of Session, as amended; and,
- November 18, 2007 Called Meeting of the Congregation, on behalf of the congregation.

Treasurer’s Report

The Session received the Treasurer’s report. As of the end of October, some \$40,000 in pledged contributions for 2007 is not received. The fourth quarter-annual reports will be sent pledging members, which shall serve as the reminder that pledged monies are important to the life of the church. Also, as of the time of the meeting, the treasurer reported having received 128 pledges for calendar year 2008 totaling \$507,000. For comparison, it was noted that about 200 pledges were received for 2007.

Clerk’s Report

Among the items of correspondence received by the Clerk was the 2008 Statistical Report form due to be completed and submitted to Presbytery by February 20, 2008.

| | Individuals | Families | Comments |
|------------------------------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|
| Membership as of October 23, 2007 | 714 | 397 | |
| Gains: | | | |
| Transfer of Letter | + 2 | + 1 | Bihms |
| Reaffirmation of Faith | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Profession of Faith & Baptism | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Losses: | | | |
| Transfer of Letter | – 2 | – 1 | Langley, Hardwick |
| Removal from Roll | – 2 | – 1 | Nieberts |
| Death | <u>– 1</u> | <u>– 1</u> | Attmore |
| Membership as of November 27, 2007 | 711 | 395 | |
| Baptized persons who’ve | | | |
| not made Professions of Faith: | <u>+ 137</u> | | Added Bihm |
| Total children, youth and adults: | 848 | | |

Marriages performed by Rev. Helen DeLeon:

- Amber Witted (NM) and James Loynes (M) on November 2, 2007; performed offsite

Death:

- Carrie Ann Attmore died on November 6, 2007

Funeral:

- Carrie Ann Attmore on November 15, 2007

Letters of Transfer: The **Session voted to approve letters of transfer** for:

- Stephen and Linda Utterback to Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church, Katy, Texas;
- Katrina Terese Dixon to First Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas; and,
- Gerald and Patricia Carr to the First Congregational Church, Manchester, Vermont.

New Business

- The Session will hold a joint meeting with the Board of Deacons in December. Tuesday, December 18 was designated as the December meeting date.
- Church Officer Training and Enrichment will be conducted on Saturday, January 26, 2008, from 8:45 a.m. until noon at St. Giles Presbyterian Church. All new WPC officers and currently serving officers whose service continues through 2008 will be encouraged to take part in the training.

Committee/Team Actions and Reports

- Administration – Church photo directory sittings are set for December 13, 14, and 15 and January 9. Forty-seven performance evaluation forms for six church staff members have been completed and returned to the Personnel Committee; meetings with staff to discuss performance and development opportunities are set for November 30. While demolition of the garage on the corner lot moves forward, there was no progress reported regarding moving the house off the property. The Church Sign Committee will deliver its initial report in December.
- Adult Christian Education
 - The **Session voted to approve** (1) use of 2007 funds by the Adult Christian Education Committee to secure reservations for the Women's Retreat to be held at Camp Allen in October of 2009, and, (2) in future years, then current year funds to be used to secure reservations for the Women's Retreat scheduled for up to two subsequent years.
- Buildings & Grounds – A workday was held on November 17 with numerous indoor and outdoor projects tackled. The final step in the year-long Education Wing HVAC upgrade will be completed by energizing the heating system before cold weather sets in. After several months of waiting, the HVAC system for the Library should be reconnected to the power supply very soon.
- Care – Alberta Rohlfing is rolling off the Prayer Chain leadership team and Jackie Hart will be joining 2008 Team Chair Mary Goeckler and Jeanne Camp at year's end. As the Stephen Ministry continues to rebuild, four new trainees will participate in training sessions in 2008. And, the new ministry serving military servicemen and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and their families continues to grow.
- Children's Ministry – Planning for "An Olde Fashioned Christmas Party" is complete and the event is set for December 5. The committee solicited and received several ideas of sources for potential nursery workers.
- Fellowship & Welcoming – It is the committee's busy season following the successful homecoming event for International Space Station resident and astronaut Clay Anderson, the upcoming Hanging of the Greens, and ongoing work by the new member welcoming team.
- Mission
 - The **Session voted to approve use of the church building** for twice monthly meetings of recently chartered Girl Scouts of America Troop 7653 and directed the Mission Committee to draft a letter agreement laying out expectations on the parts of the Scouts and of WPC.
- Stewardship & Finance – Following discussion regarding pledges made for 2007 that have not been realized and the number of outstanding pledges for 2008, there was discussion about how both matters could be addressed by the committee and the Session. No action was taken.

- Worship – The 8:30 a.m. worship services during Advent will take on a new and different sound and feel. The “message” will be the same as in the 11:00 a.m. service, but the music and the musicians will be different. Accordingly, the worship bulletin will be reformatted to accommodate the differences between the two services.
- Youth Ministry – The Committee is working to form a Resources Team to support the Sr. High Planning Team and the Jr. High Planning Team. In addition, a Youth Worship Planning Team will be formed to investigate development of meaningful worship approaches and styles with a focus on youth.

Old Business:

Commissioners to the recent Presbytery meeting reported on the events of and actions taken during the event. A copy of the Presbytery Meeting report, Postlude, has been shared electronically.

Pastors' Report

Helen encouraged Session members to purchase and send phone stored value cards as Christmas gifts to members of our armed services overseas. The Bridges of Healing ministry continues to evolve. Helen also reported that, for 2008, she has been elected Vice President of the Interfaith Caring Ministries Board of Directors and has been asked to serve on the Mo Ranch Board of Directors.

Mark is looking at solutions to the problem of poor copy quality of our worship bulletins. He has also been approached by the Gideons about their ministry and Mark will direct them to our Mission Committee.

Next Meeting

The next Stated Meeting of Session will be convened Tuesday, December 18, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room.

The business of this Stated Meeting being completed, the Session voted to adjourn. The meeting was closed with prayer by the Moderator at 9:10 p.m.

Gene Fisseler
Clerk of Session

December 9, 2007
The Parlor

The Webster Presbyterian Church Session convened a Called Meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2007. Acting Moderator, Reverend Helen DeLeon, opened the meeting with prayer at 12:20 p.m.

The purpose of the Called Meeting was to receive new members.

The following members of Session were present:

- Associate Pastor Helen DeLeon, Acting Moderator; and,
- Active Elders Ross Looney and Chuck Moede (Acting Clerk).

A quorum was present.

Also in attendance were John Jordan, Chair of the New Member Team, and prospective new members Kelly, Lisa, Hannah, and Henry Haws.

John Jordan introduced the Haws family as candidates for membership at Webster Presbyterian Church. After a period of discussion and questions, **a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to receive Kelly and Lisa Haws and their baptized children, Hannah and Henry, into membership by transfer of letter from Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church.** The family chose to be introduced to the congregation at the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 30, 2007.

The business of the Called Meeting having been concluded, the Session voted to adjourn. The meeting was closed with prayer by the Acting Moderator at 12:30 p.m.

Chuck Moede
Acting Clerk of Session

December 18, 2007
Bouton Hall

The Webster Presbyterian Church (WPC) Session convened a Stated Meeting on Tuesday, December 18, 2007, in Bouton Hall. The meeting was opened with a devotion and prayer by the Moderator, Reverend Mark Cooper, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members of Session were present:

- Moderator, Reverend Mark Cooper;
- Associate Pastor Helen DeLeon; and,
- Active Elders, Carl Allen, Karla Bradley, Jennifer Carr, Tye Cowan, John Dewey, Gene Fisseler (Clerk), Johnny Jones, Diane Kane, Ross Looney, Al Manson, Stacey Menard, Chuck Moede, Marjorie Seiter, Elizabeth Spivey, and Michael Stearns.

The following members of Session were excused:

- Active Elders Susan Anderson, Watson DuPont, Roy Phillips, Reese Terry and Dennis Waehner.

Also present were Deacons Edna Arnold, Freeman Gregory, Tony LeCara, Sandra McAfee, Coco Motley, Andy Posluszny, Alberta Rohlfing, and Jim Young along with Treasurer Pat Koester and Sunday School Superintendent Linda Smith-Gregory.

A quorum was declared by the Clerk and the Agenda for the meeting was approved.

Deacon Moderator Tony LeCara led a presentation by the Board of Deacons in this annual joint meeting of the Session and Deacons as prescribed by the Book of Order. Tony, aided by other Deacons present, described the structure of the Board and its relationship to the Session, the Congregation, and the pastoral staff. The responsibilities of the Deacon Moderator, Vice-Moderator, and Secretary-Treasurer were delineated and the special care teams were discussed: Immediate Care, Transportation, Community Service, Young At Heart, Social Events, and Communications. Elders asked how the Board's needs could be better met and two items were identified:

- Update WPC's Time & Talent database; and,

- Help the congregation know its Deacons by printing Deacon’s names and zones in the Sunday worship bulletin when they lead the prayers of the people.

This portion of the meeting was wrapped up with a round of applause for the good work done by the Deacons and recognition by Rev. DeLeon of Deacons concluding their service on the Board with certificates of appreciation. The Deacons were excused.

The Session approved minutes of the:

- November 27, 2007, Stated Meeting of Session; and,
- December 9, 2007 Called Meeting of Session.

Treasurer’s Report - The Treasurer’s report was received. As the end of the fiscal year approaches, contributions pledged in 2007 are underpaid by about \$35,000. As of the time of the meeting, the treasurer reported having received 146 pledges for calendar year 2008 totaling \$567,000. About 50 more pledges are expected to be received.

Clerk’s Report – The Clerk’s report was received.

Statistical Report

| | <u>Individuals</u> | <u>Families</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Membership as of November 27, 2007 | 711 | 395 | |
| Gains: | | | |
| Transfer of Letter | + 4 | + 2 | Cliffords; Haws |
| Reaffirmation of Faith | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Profession of Faith & Baptism | + 0 | + 0 | |
| Losses: | | | |
| Transfer of Letter | – 4 | – 2 | Utterbacks; J Carrs |
| Removal from Roll | – 0 | – 0 | |
| Death | <u>– 0</u> | <u>– 0</u> | |
| Membership as of December 18, 2007 | 711 | 395 | |
| Baptized persons who’ve | | | |
| not made Professions of Faith: | <u>+ 139</u> | | Added Haws |
| Total children, youth and adults: | 850 | | |

Birth:

- Megan Florence Merritt, daughter of Kimberly and David Merritt, was born December 6, 2007

New Business

- The **Session voted to approve the baptism** of Mia Ann Eason, born September 20, 2007, daughter of Whitney Ann (M) and Michael Duane Eason and younger sister of Briley Ann Eason, on December 23, at 11:00 a.m.
- The **Session voted to provide the required notice of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, January 27, 2008**, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service for the purpose of reviewing 2007 church operations, reviewing the pastoral staff Terms of Call, presenting a budget for 2008, and electing two members to the Nominating Committee
- The **Session voted to approve a request for temporary use of church facilities** for January meetings of a Brownie Troop led by church members Donna Magnant and Laura Shipman.

Committee/Team Actions and Reports

- Administration – Church staff performance evaluation meetings, conducted on Friday, November 30, went well; the Head of Staff led the meetings with a member of the Personnel Committee in attendance. Despite continued delays in moving the house from the corner lot until at least early 2008, the garage behind the house will be removed by the end of the year. The church sign committee had its initial meeting in mid-December and will regroup in January.
- Adult Christian Education – Helen DeLeon is leading an effort to re-establish WPC's young adult ministry; an organizational/planning meeting will be held in January.
 - The **Session voted to approve, for use by the new Covenant Group, Parenting 101, How to Talk so Kids Will Listen and Listen so Kids Will Talk**, a book authored by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish and recommended by Covenant Group Coordinator Jane Markley.
- Buildings & Grounds – The Education Wing heating equipment is fully energized. Electric power to the Library air conditioning has been re-established but the heating system is still not operational. Partial repairs have been made to the Fellowship Hall HVAC system.
- Care – Plans and activities for 2008 are underway for Deacons, Prayer Chain, and Stephen Ministry.
- Children's Ministry – With the help of the senior high youth, who served as table captains, representatives of all generations enjoyed Christmas Trivia, Bingo, Snowman Twister, and a sing-along at the December 5 Olde-Fashioned Christmas Party. Thanks to Robert Noriega and to Lauren Balletto for providing guitar and piano accompaniment, respectively. Jointly with the Mission Committee, the team plans to redeploy unused puzzles, books, art supplies, and games to missionary Vicki Smith at the Iona Preparatory School in Jamaica.
- Fellowship & Welcoming – Administration/Personnel was asked to investigate alternative means of compensating Wednesday Night Dinner dishwashers. Tye Cowan volunteered to wash dishes in January.
- Mission – The blood drive coordinated by outgoing Youth Elder Elizabeth Spivey had the largest turnout of donors in recent history.
- Stewardship & Finance – Committee members will contact long-time pledging members who've not yet made a 2008 pledge. Budget planning for 2008 will reflect the results of that effort.
- Worship – The 8:30 a.m. worship service music format changes have been well received and attendance is increasing.
 - The **Session voted to approve the celebration of Communion** on these dates and for these occasions:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| January 6, 2008 | Baptism of the Lord |
| February 3, 2008 | First Sunday of the month |
| February 6, 2008 | Ash Wednesday (by intinction) |
| March 2, 2008 | First Sunday of the Month |
| March 20, 2008 | Maundy Thursday (by intinction) |
| April 6, 2008 | First Sunday of the month |
| May 4, 2008 | First Sunday of the month |
| June 1, 2008 | First Sunday of the month |
| July 20, 2008 | Lunar Communion |
| August 3, 2008 | First Sunday of the month |
| September 7, 2008 | First Sunday of the month |
| October 5, 2008 | World Wide Communion |
| October 2008 | Women's Retreat (date to be determined) |
| November 2, 2008 | First Sunday of the month |

2223

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| December 7, 2008 | First Sunday of the month |
| December 2008 | Blue Christmas service (date to be determined) |
| December 24, 2008 | Christmas Eve worship service |
| January 4, 2009 | Baptism of the Lord |
| Two/three dates TBD | Youth-led evening services |

Youth Ministry

- The **Session voted to approve two policies pertaining to the Youth Elder:**
 - When a Youth Elder is assigned to a Session Committee, a Mentor Elder from that committee will be designated to help with understanding of the workings and responsibilities of Session as a whole and the committee in particular.
 - Youth Elders will be offered the option of changing their committee assignments at the midpoints of their terms (i.e., at six months).
- The **Session voted to ask the Board of Deacons**, through the Care Committee, to adopt a policy regarding the Youth Deacon that provides an option for changing team assignments at the midpoint of the their term (i.e., at six months).

Old Business: Helen DeLeon reported that a simple and straightforward letter agreement spelling out terms for use of church facilities has been drafted with input from Mission Committee members among others and is under review by an attorney.

Pastors' Report

Helen DeLeon – Helen will take continuing education time January 20 through 24.

Mark Cooper – New church officer ordination and installation is set for Sunday, January 13, 2008, during both worship services. A session retreat is scheduled for Saturday, February 2, 2008, 9:30 a.m. 'til 2:00 p.m. (location to be determined). Mark expressed his gratitude to Elders who've completed their service on Session and distributed certificates of appreciation.

Next Meetings

- A Called Meeting of Session will be convened Saturday, January 12, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. in the Meeting Room to review and approve a budget for 2008.
- The next Stated Meeting of Session will be convened Tuesday, January 22, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room.
- The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be convened Sunday, January 27, 2008, following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

The business of this Stated Meeting being completed, the Session voted to adjourn. The meeting was closed with prayer by the Moderator at 9:15 p.m.

Gene Fisseler
Clerk of Session