

Sunday, August 27, 2006
Bouton Hall

The Webster Presbyterian Church Session held its stated meeting on Sunday, August 27, 2006 in the Bouton Hall. The meeting was opened with a devotional and prayer by the Moderator, Reverend Mark Cooper at 3:35 p.m.

A quorum consisting of the following was present: Moderator Reverend Mark Cooper, Associate Pastor Reverend Helen DeLeon, Associate Pastor for Children & Youth Reverend Ryan Sills, and Ruling Elders: Carl Allen, Carol Bachtel, Karla Bradley, Jennifer Carr, Kathy Dixon, Watson Dupont, Johnny Jones, Diane Kane, Phyllis Koenig, Evan Lapka, Ross Looney, Stacey Menard, Chuck Moede, Carlos Noriega, Judy Ota, Roy Phillips, Marjorie Seiter, and Reese Terry.

Elders Susan Anderson and Al Manson were excused. Treasurer Pat Koester and Gene Fisseler were also present. Gene Fisseler was elected Clerk of Session Pro Tem.

The agenda was reviewed, amended, and approved for the meeting.

The minutes of the Stated Meeting held on July 23, 2006, were conditionally approved (pending further review following posting on the Session webpage), as corrected.

The minutes of the Congregational Meeting held of August 6, 2006, were reviewed and received.

Correspondence – There was no correspondence communicated to the Session by the Clerk Pro Tem.

Clerk's Report

	Members	Families
Statistical information as of July 23, 2006	704	400
Gains:		
Transfer of Letter	+ 0	+ 0
Profession of Faith	+ 0	+ 0
Profession of Faith & Baptism	+ 0	+ 0
Losses:		
Removal from Roll	- 0	- 0
Death	<u>- 0</u>	<u>- 0</u>
Membership as of August 27, 2006	704	400
Baptized persons who have not made Professions of Faith:	140	
Total children, youth and adults:	846	

Weddings performed by Reverend Helen P. DeLeon:

Erin See (NM) & Aaron Nance (NM) on August 4, 2007

Treasurer's Report

Pat Koester presented the Treasurer's Report for July 2006. The report was received. She requested that Session members provide their 2007 budget submittals as soon as possible to Shannon King in the church office.

Old Business

The Session considered different meeting days and times. It was agreed to convene future meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Following are the next twelve meeting dates:

September 26, 2006	March 27, 2007
October 24, 2006	April 24, 2007
November 28, 2006 (Tuesday after Thanksgiving)	May 22, 2007
December 26, 2006 (to be rescheduled?)	June 26, 2007
January 23, 2007	July 24, 2007
February 27, 2007	August 25, 2007

New Business

The Elders were reminded that agenda action items are ideally due to the Church Membership Secretary by Close-of-Business Wednesday prior to the Stated Meeting.

The Session acted on the following Committee motions.

Mission Committee:

- The **Session approved** a motion that Webster Presbyterian Church endorse the nomination of Reverend Helen Deleon by Presbytery of New Covenant to lead its annual mission trip to Central America in 2007.
- The **Session approved** formation of a task force to evaluate and advise Session about a request from a local non-denominational Hispanic congregation (15 members) to use Webster Presbyterian Church facilities for worship. The task force members will include representatives from the Mission Committee, the Worship Committee, and the Building & Grounds Committee and will provide a cost analysis.

Worship Committee:

- The **Session approved** a WPC choir Benefit Concert for Vicki Smith on October 19. The concert will be advertised in the community and the offering collected will be contributed to the missionary to help her meet her funding needs.

Care Committee:

- The **Session approved** a request to invite the Board of Deacons to meet with the Session at its September Stated Meeting.

Youth Ministry Committee:

- The **Session approved** a Sr. High car wash at the church on September 9 to raise funds for 2007 Youth Mission Trip.
- The **Session approved** the following roster of teachers and sponsors for service in the 2006-2007 year: Ralph Fixel, Nina Moede, Randy Moore, Jimmy Spivey (Jr. High Sunday School Teachers); Jenny Cowan, Watson Dupont, Lynn Godwin, Nina Moede (Jr. High PYC Sponsors); Jenny Cowan, Janet Davis (Jr. High Wonderful Wednesday Leaders); Catherine Gragg, Dennis Waehner (Sr. High Sunday School Teachers); Kathy Dixon, James Kinzler, Mike Lapka, Liz Loynes, Chuck Moede, Nancy Spivey (Sr. High PYC Sponsors); Joe Schwarz and Jeanne Camp (Sr. High Wednesday Night leaders).
- The **Session approved** the following curriculum: "Do I Know What the Bible Says?" (Cook Communications Ministries) for Jr. High Sunday School that provides several options for customizing 15 sessions and taking the youth

through creation, the Old Testament, and the New Testament; and, "Fruit of the Spirit" (Group Publishing, Inc.) for the Jr. High girls' Wonderful Wednesdays that brings together scrap booking activities with devotions, scripture, and prayer about growing the Spirit's fruit.

Administration Committee:

- The **Session approved** the hiring of Linda Smith-Gregory to serve as Sunday School Superintendent, a part-time position at the same salary as the previous Superintendent.

Children's Ministry Team:

- The **Session approved** the following list of Sunday School teachers: Wendy Noriega, Diane Kane, BC Whigham, Sandy Murphy, Linda Smith-Gregory, Kim Luedde, Elizabeth Stoltz, Brenda Faxel, Frank Rix, Jenny Cowan, Cathy Black, Terrell McMillan, and Nancy Spivey.

Adult Education:

- The **Session approved** the following materials for use as study guides for Small Groups:
 - Life Connections' Series
 - Philip Yancey's books such as The Bible Jesus Read, The Jesus I Never Knew, the "Questions of Faith" video series, and the "When It's Hard to Choose" video series.
 - The Jesus Creed and Embracing Grace by Scott McKnight
 - The Worshiping Life by Lisa Nichols Hickman (meditations on the Order of Worship)
 - I Told The Mountain to Move by Patricia Raybon (a woman's adventure in learning how to pray and to love)
 - Speaking of Sin: The Lost Language of Salvation by Barbara Brown Taylor (recovering the lost language of salvation; how naming our sin moves us from guilt to grace)
 - Traveling Light by Eugene Peterson (study on the book of Galatians)
 - A Hard Fought Hope by William R. Long and Gladnion W. Clancy
 - Against the Grain by Ray Waddle (Ecclesiastes)
 - Blue Like Jazz by Donald Miller (unusual & interesting musings on Christian spirituality)
 - Wise Blood by Flannery O'Connor (novel; any compilation of O'Connor's short stories)
 - Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World by Joanna Weaver
 - Gilead by Marilynne Robinson (Pulitzer Prize winner)

Committee Reports

Finance – The newly populated team met Monday August 14 and put together a plan for the 2006 financial review and stewardship program. The program kicks off in September with four Saturday morning breakfast meetings hosted by Reverend Cooper. The stewardship portion of the plan could be wrapped up by early November.

Buildings & Grounds – The Committee has been busy with air conditioning repairs, installation of water supply and a sewer connection to the Fellowship Hall, and continuing roof repairs.

Fellowship – Wednesday Night dinners resume August 30; volunteers are being recruited and trained. The annual Shrimp Boil is set for September 30 at the Timber Cove pool pavilion.

Care – Julie Yencharis and Connie Carden completed Stephen Ministry training last month. Reverend Deleon also attended a conference addressing Stephen Ministry and will be working with Julie and Connie to apply what they've learned. Helen Deleon has expressed an interest in instituting, not before 2008, a Health Ministry that could help address the needs of aging members of our congregation.

Mission – The "English as a second language" classes offered by church members at the nearby Oasis of Hope church is thriving. Two distinct levels of instruction are reaching twenty students on Sunday mornings between 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Nominating Committee – Carl Allen requested each Session member to submit to him by email at least one member of the congregation to serve in the next class of Elders or Deacons.

Pastors' Reports

- Head of Staff – Mark Cooper will be teaching an adult Sunday School class based on the book Reading the Bible Again for the First Time. He announced that has been elected to Presbytery of New Covenant's Committee on Ministry.
- Associate Pastor – Helen Deleon shared her perspective on her summer of Stephen's Ministry training and participation in the New Orleans mission trip. She is also looking forward to teaching a Spirituality class later this year.
- Associate Pastor for Children & Youth – Ryan Sills announced his resignation effective September 30. Session expressed its appreciation for Ryan's contribution at Webster Presbyterian Church and its best wishes and prayers for his continued ministry.

The Session moved to call a Congregational Meeting on September 10, 2006, to act on Ryan's resignation.

There being no further business, the Session voted to adjourn. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 5:20 p.m. The next Stated Meeting of Session will be convened on Tuesday, September 26, 2006, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Gene Fisseler
Clerk of Session Pro Tem