

APPROVED APRIL 2007

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 L. Cooper, Moderator;
- Associate Pastor Helen P. DeLeon; and,
- Serving 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:

- Serving 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 (taken out of order as per the agenda adopted)

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 (taken out of order as per the agenda adopted)

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.

Session approved a motion 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	693	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	- 0	- 0	
Membership as of March 27, 2007	693	401	
Baptized persons who've not made Professions of Faith:	<u>145</u>		
Total children, youth and adults:	838		

Baptisms: There were none since the last Stated Meeting

Requests for Transfer: The Session voted to issue a Letter of Transfer for

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

Deaths: There were none since the last Stated Meeting

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

Weddings 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.

- **Action:** Session voted to approve the following motion. No changes shall 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 - No written report was offered, but 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 the Daphne Riemer has been seamless.

Children's Ministry - There will be new family programming introduced on Wednesday Nights.

- **Action:** 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 – No written report was offered, but 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

- **Action:** 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