

First Presbyterian Church of Sheridan, Wyoming  
Minutes of Regular Session Meeting

December 20, 2016

MEETING

The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Sheridan, Wyoming convened a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 7:02 p.m. in Westminster Fellowship Hall. Pastor Doug Melius moderated the meeting.

QUORUM

**Ex Officio:** Pastor Doug Melius, and Financial Secretary Dennis Heizer, C.J. Clem, Minister to Youth and Children

**Elders present:** John Lundberg, Mary Ludemann, Jon Botten, Linda Luegge, Janis DeVore and Kim Kozel, Aaron Gray, Jerry Saunders, Carla White, Teresa Williams, Dennis Schreffler, Peggy Blaha, Carol Maloy, Dick Birkholz, Mike Stoll

**Elders absent:** Bill Porter, Sr., Mark Junek, Bryan Luedtke, Sam Herring, Tracey Burke, Brooke Holstedt

WORSHIP

Pastor Doug opened with a very interesting discussion with session members about their personal memories of Christmas Eve. Many responded with memories of worship, traditions, food, and gifting. Pastor Doug opened the meeting with prayer.

The **AGENDA** was approved.

CLERK'S REPORT

The clerk's report and minutes of the last meeting were approved as corrected. A motion was made, seconded and carried. Additionally, the congregational meeting minutes of Dec. 11, 2016 were approved as corrected.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dennis Heizer presented the financial reports. He reported a gain for November of \$5,326.28 and a YTD gain of \$10,711.13. The November 2016 Balance Sheet reflects the following:

Total assets:	\$3,769,074.95
Total liabilities:	\$ 50,905.94
Reserves (Retained Earnings):	91,620.76

The Treasurer's Monthly Report also reflected the following:

November 2016 Income:	\$31,850.53
November 2016 Expense:	\$29,810.19
November Net Income:	\$ 2,040.34
YTD Net Income:	\$14,980.63

Dennis reported a per capita amount of \$42.82 for 2017. He reported that we will also receive a bill from the pastoral pension plan at Presbytery for an adjustment for Pastor Doug's salary increase in 2016. That adjustment was not reflected into the pension plan for Pastor Doug's credit.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Budget Finance & Stewardship** Dec. 13, 2016

Dick Birkholz reported and referred to the written report. He reported a November income of \$31,850.53 with a net gain of \$2,040.34 for the month and a YTD gain of \$14,980.63, the figures reflected above in the Treasurer's report. He reported that 34 pledge cards have been returned to date, for a total of \$127,000. The average returned on pledge cards is about 75% of the budget total. Dick reported Dennis Heizer is continuing to monitor the price of gold daily and when our gold assets return to a level of near \$15,000, Budget and Finance will determine whether or not to sell the coins.

### **Personnel** Dec. 13, 2016

Carol Maloy referred to the written report. The personnel committee made a recommendation to session that C.J. Clem be made either a director or head of staff soon. A motion was made and carried to make C.J. Clem a director of staff during the pastoral transition. The staff will be informed of this action, and the title change will take effect Feb. 1, 2017. She will assume the new role at that time. Carol reported that we should anticipate a request for salary increase in the future. Additionally, it was stated that the interim pastor will moderate session during the pastoral transition period. Jerry Saunders moved to form the Interim Committee and Carla White seconded the motion which carried. **The committee will be made up of the following people: Jon Botten, Jerry Saunders, Carla White, Kim Kozel and John Lundberg.**

### **Fellowship** Dec. 13, 2016

Dennis Schreffler presented and referred to the written report. He reported on many activities in the months of November and December. Activities in January include movie nights and ice skating.

### **Properties** Dec. 13, 2016

There was no oral or written report from the Properties Committee.

### **Membership and Evangelism** Dec. 13, 2016

Mary Ludemann reported and referred to the written report. Carla White will be working on a new post card/note to send to visitors to our church. A confirmand class will start in mid-February. Session action placed David and Betty Rodd on inactive status, as they have moved. Virginia DeMond will be removed from the rolls, as she passed away in November.

### **Mission and Outreach** Dec. 13, 2016

John Lundberg presented and referred to the written report. He reported that the Angel Tree Program distributions will be made on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, and \$150.00 will be given to nine families, as well as turkeys given to them. A discussion was held on Presbytery giving. A motion was made and carried to change our allocation percentages. We will now allocate 60% to Presbytery and 40% to GA. Our decision is based on wanting more of our monies to go to missions. Brooke Holstedt made the motion, seconded by Teresa Williams, and carried.

### **Worship** Dec. 13, 2016

Peggy Blaha presented an oral report, as well as the written report. Our new video equipment is up, running and completed, with training ongoing. Peggy thanked many of our church members for ongoing jobs they have done over the years which may have gone unrecognized and unnoticed. Marion Sept has replaced altar candles for so many years, and now Lorrie Ledgerwood will assume that task. Communion for the 8 o'clock service has been prepared by Pastor Doug and Robin and that will need to be reassigned.

### **Christian Education** Dec. 13, 2016

Mike Stoll reported and referred to the written report. Sunday School has averaged about fifteen students. Adult studies will resume after the holidays. The Children's Christmas Season program was well presented and received. Logos will resume on Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Presbyterian Women** December 2016

Linda Luegge reported. The group has voted to hold two ABC/garage sales next year. Also the group voted to keep brunches and lunches the same as last year. A communion guild has been formed to prepare communion. The guild is chaired by Sandy Browne and Jeanette Trohkimoinen.

### **CJ Clem, Minister to Youth and Children Report** December 2016

CJ referred to her written report and reported on many activities. Also, a confirmation class will be formed and confirmation set for Easter Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. We will be planning for youth mission trips, and for fundraising efforts to support that cause.

### **Pastor Doug's Report** December 2016

Pastor Doug presented a written report and referred to it. His report includes activities for the past month, including a regional pastors clergy retreat, Christmas tree cutting and caroling events. Pastor Doug reported to session that Presbytery meets three times a year with the next meeting in February. The business meeting is held on Saturday of the weekend meeting at noon. He also reported that he is the pastoral representative to Presbytery and Robin Melius is the elder representative from our church. Both, of course will need to be replaced. Our interim pastor will take Doug's place, and Dick Birkholz volunteered to be the elder representative to replace Robin. The interim pastor will replace Doug's position on the Camp Story Commission board. Jerry Saunders thanked Pastor Doug for all of the encouragement and assistance he has given us recently in helping to allow for some smooth transitions in the next few months. While Pastor Doug cannot be involved in making plans for his replacement, he has given us information to assist us in allowing for a smooth transition, and in what we can expect in the process.

### **Other Business**

Our session meeting minutes are now posted monthly on our church website, [www.sheridanfpc.org](http://www.sheridanfpc.org).

We are grateful for the service of our session members. These are the session members who will be going off session at the end of December:

Dick Birkholz  
Tracey Burke  
Carol Maloy  
Bill Porter Sr.  
Mike Stoll  
Mark Junek

The following new members will join session in January:

Tina Anderson  
Loren Ruttinger  
Doug Moore  
Chad Quarterman  
Jeri Joy  
Beth Bailey

### **REFLECTION**

### **CAMP STORY DISCUSSION**

Dick Birkholz reported for the Commission on Camp Story. A commission meeting will be held in Gillette on Jan. 12. An amount of \$32,000 has been pledged in the current fundraising campaign for Camp Story, and of that, \$17,000 has been collected. We have learned we must get a conditional permit to do the work at Camp Story. That will be reviewed at the February Planning Commission meeting, and then sent on to the Commissioners. Dick reported the bathroom work should be done in January, and that the insulation is about fifty percent complete in the Gillette cabin. Dick reported Presbytery will meet in February.

**WORSHIP**

**CLOSED WITH PRAYER**

Peggy Blaha closed the meeting in prayer.

**SESSION ADJOURNED** at 9:08 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carla J. White".

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Carla J. White, Clerk of Session