

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

February 21, 2017  
MEETING

The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Sheridan, Wyoming convened a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 7:0 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, Susan Reichenberg, visiting pastor.

**Elders present:** Jon Botten, Linda Luegge, Janis DeVore and Kim Kozel, Jerry Saunders, Carla White, Teresa Williams, Peggy Blaha, Beth Bailey, Jeri Joy, Loren Ruttinger, Doug Moore, John Lundberg, Tina Anderson

**Elders absent:** Sam Herring, Aaron Gray, Dennis Schreffler, Mary Ludemann, Bryan Luedtke, Chad Quarterman

**Special Guest:** Susan Reichenberg, member of COM

**WORSHIP**

Pastor Doug opened with an interesting discussion about “The Good Old Days.” He discussed Blue Laws and their effect on church attendance and competition with it. He noted an incident in Greenville, South Carolina at a Fox Theater, and when the theater began to show movies on Sundays. The Fox Theater went head to head with the churches over who would provide the word view for the young.

Pastor Doug opened the meeting with prayer.

**INTRODUCTION**

A discussion and update was given by Jon Botten, chair of the Personnel Committee on the Interim Pastor. The reason for opening with this discussion was that we had a special guest, Susan Reichenberg, member of COM attending the meeting. A contract for the Interim pastor was presented to session for approval. It was explained and discussed, and a motion was made by Jerry Saunders, seconded by Peggy Blaha that we approve and accept the contract. The motion carried.

Susan Reichenberg spoke to us about the transition which will come with Pastor Doug’s departure. She asked us to consider the things that are changing. She told us there will be a

vacuum in our hearts until we embrace our Interim Pastor. She explained he will bring changes, and will not be “Doug”. Perhaps changes will be made in the worship structure. Often persons will seek to fill a power vacuum, and we must be aware of it. She explained we must be strong session members and give reassurance to congregation members when problems or idle negative chatter surface, if they do. How we administer staff, meetings and moderate meetings will change in the interim. The Clerk of Session will moderate the April meeting. After that, the Interim Pastor will take over.

The **AGENDA** was approved.

### **CLERK’S REPORT**

The clerk’s report and minutes of the last meeting were approved. A motion for approval was made by Jerry Saunders, seconded by CJ Clem, and carried.

### **TREASURER’S REPORT**

Dennis Heizer presented the financial reports. He reported a gain for January of \$13,580.48 and a YTD gain of \$13,580.48. The January 2017 Balance Sheet reflects the following:

Total assets:	\$3,777,642.33
Total liabilities:	\$ 50,299.80
Reserves (Retained Earnings):	99,965.27

The Treasurer’s Monthly Report also reflected the following:

January 2017 Income:	\$41,359.36
January 2017 Expense:	\$28,788.88
January Net Income:	\$ 13,580.48
YTD Net Income:	\$ 13,580.48

Dennis explained the issue with the matching grant from Presbytery to Camp Story has been resolved and we will be receiving the full amount of \$75,000.00.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Budget Finance & Stewardship Feb. 14, 2017**

Beth Bailey reported and referred to the written report. She reported a January gain of \$13,580.48 with a YTD gain of the same. Five Sundays in the month of January may have contributed to the unusually large income of \$41,539.36. Beth Bailey was elected to chair the committee for 2017. One Great Hour of Sharing is coming up on March 12, and a brief talk will be given to the congregation about it.

**Personnel** Feb. 14, 2017

Jon Botten reported. He referred to the written report. A motion came from Jon Botten and was seconded by Jerry Saunders to allow Pastor Doug to take his laptop computer with him when he retires from the church. The committee voted to hire Elizabeth Windsor as associate organist/pianist. She plays at early services primarily. She will replace Kathy Lundberg. Discussion on the process and completion of hiring of an interim pastor was discussed to the extent we could, as this remains a confidential process.

**Fellowship** Feb. 14, 2017

No oral report was given. Please refer to the written committee report. A farewell and retirement program and dinner will be held for Pastor Doug, Robin and family on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Properties** Feb. 14, 2017

Doug Moore reported. He reported on issues of ice buildup around the church and in the lot. Door handles will be replaced on fellowship hall doors soon. Solar lights will be purchased and placed to shine light on the Praying Hands" on the west side of the church. Two lights shining on the roof cross need to be fixed. Lights on the hill church sign were repaired, as they were still under warranty. Lights have been replaced on our sign on the hill. The lights were still under warranty.

**Membership and Evangelism** Feb. 14, 2017

Linda Luegge reported and referred to the written report. A motion from committee was made to remove the name of David and Betty Rod from the church rolls as she they have moved to North Dakota. A new membership class may happen before Pastor Doug leaves. Eleven children are interested in confirmation classes.

**Mission and Outreach** Feb. 14, 2017

Peggy Blaha reported and referred to the written report. The mission committee chili entry won second place at the Chili Cook Off recently and was submitted by John Lundberg. Discussion was presented on the different missions we contribute to.

**Worship** Feb. 14, 2017

Loren Ruttinger presented an oral report, as well as the written report. Usher training has been held, as well as AV system training. The written report reflects several other minor changes to procedures.

### **Christian Education** Feb. 14. 2017

Janis DeVore reported. It was reported that there are eleven youth in the confirmation classes. Adult studies are coming along well, and additionally there is a Lenten study beginning March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The committee has discussed how to have better communication of open programs among local churches. Janis asked for special prayers to support LOGOS and Sunday School. The CE committee is also seeking a few new members.

### **Presbyterian Women** February 2017

No report was given.

### **Nominating Committee**

Two session members were added to the nominating committee. They are Carla White and Tina Anderson. Congregational members are Jim Blaha, Lorrie Ledgerwood and Sandy Birkholz.

### **C.J. Clem, Minister to Youth and Children Report** February 2017

C.J. referred to her written report and reported on many activities. A confirmation class will begin Feb. 12, and confirmation will be April 16<sup>th</sup> on Easter Sunday. C.J. attended a conference in Denver Jan. 23-28. Senior Sunday will be May 7<sup>th</sup>, with Colton Williams, Nathanael Heronimus and Jacek Aksamit graduating. Many other activities are shown on the written report.

### **Pastor Doug's Report** February 2017

Pastor Doug presented a written report and referred to it. Doug noted that he only has a couple of months left. They will move their household goods to Livingston on March 13 and 14, and close on the sale of their home on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Easter Sunday will be his last day in the pulpit and they will leave Sheridan promptly thereafter.

### **Other Business**

Discussion was held on allowing Presbytery to use our church in September 2018 for continuing education meetings. Teresa Williams made a motion, Tina Anderson seconded it to allow the church be used for that purpose. The motion carried.

### **REFLECTION**

#### **CAMP STORY DISCUSSION**

C. J. Clem reported that the early bird registration begins for Camp Story. The next Camp Story Commission meeting will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup> at Camp Story. She reported that Presbytery is giving us the full amount of the \$75,000 matching grant as first indicated. She reported that the Camp is looking for camp counselors and perhaps someone to act as a nurse/counselor.

Camp Story will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this summer in August. There is a tentative fundraiser and decade dress dance planned.

**WORSHIP**

**CLOSED WITH PRAYER**

Pastor Doug closed the meeting in prayer.

**SESSION ADJOURNED** at 9:05 p.m.

**SPECIAL SESSION MEETING**

A special session meeting was called by the Clerk of Session immediately following the regular session meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and approve the final plans for Pastor Doug and Robin's retirement celebration and additionally approve the gifts being given to them. A motion from the Budget and Finance Committee was made and seconded to approve the gifts to Doug and Robin Melius. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25.

**ATTEST:**



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Carla J. White, Clerk of Session