

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PERU, INDIANA
SPECIAL SESSION MEETING
May 31, 2008

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church, Peru, IN, held a special meeting at 9:00 am, on May 31, 2008, in the church library. The Reverend John E. Hess was moderator.

ROLL CALL - A quorum was present with 6 elders in attendance.

- a. Present: Elders Cathy Hahn, Kelly Newman, Bruce Embrey, Ed Morgan, Dick Hammersley, Jim Stackhouse; Staff: John E. Hess (Moderator), Judy Friend (DCE)
- b. Excused: Glenn Russell, Terry Geberin, Nancy Bender

The meeting was called to order and opened with devotions and prayer by the moderator at 9:10 am.

The moderator read the call:

1. That a Special Meeting of the Session is called for Saturday, May 31, 2008, at 9:00 am, to review all information gathered to date, with respect to engaging all members in ministry, and to consider subsequent steps.
2. That the discussion of the remaining issues from the Combined Meeting of January 19, 2008 be postponed until the May 31 special meeting of session, and that the call for that meeting be so amended.

Elder Ed Morgan reviewed the information gathered by the task force:

1. Lists of missions & ministries, and members who participate in each. From the various lists, the session developed a list of congregation members who are currently active in mission and ministry, and those who are not.
2. Evaluation from "Spirituality" Sunday School program

Having fulfilled its call, Elder Ed Morgan made a **motion**: that the task force be discharged. **Motion CARRIED.**

The session discussed what steps should be taken next, to engage all members in mission and ministry.

Motion: That a ministry fair will be held on August 31, 2008, following the worship service. The ministry fair will serve to highlight each mission and ministry, and members of the congregation, especially those not already engaged in mission and ministry, will be encouraged to volunteer for at least one. A minute for mission will be conducted during each worship service during August, promoting the ministry fair. It will also be promoted via bulletin announcements, slide announcements and newsletter articles. The Spiritual Development Team will invite members not currently engaged in mission and ministry, individually, by phone or email, to attend the mission fair. The session will reevaluate member participation in mission and ministry, in September. **Motion CARRIED.**

The session reviewed the remaining issues from the combined meeting, as follows:

1. Electronic Communications (Website): The session agreed to post redacted minutes of its meetings, on the website, after approval of the minutes. Deacon's minutes, which are summarized in the session minutes, will not be separately posted. The session decided to not post the budget, or Treasurer's reports on the website. Team leaders are responsible for website content and announcements, and should submit anything they want posted, via email, to: webmaster@fpcperu.org. Calendar events should be emailed to Cathy Converse at admin.cc@fpcperu.org.
2. Ministry Brochure & Church Info Packet: An updated brochure, and information packet is being developed by the Spiritual Development Team, in cooperation with the Sharing the Good News Team, to be completed by September 1, 2008.
3. Building & Finance Issues
 - a. Make available and republish relevant goals as defined in the church's long range planning report issued by LRPTF. Clerk, Head Trustee, Deacon Moderator & Pastor will meet by July 1st to complete this task.
 - b. Prepare a Minute for Mission and newsletter item informing an explaining advantages and outreach purpose and use of new A/V equipment (Mar 2008) (Trustees). Completed.
 - c. To ensure a timely & efficient meeting, team members must be familiar with provided material before scheduled meeting. Ongoing. Meetings are now limited in length due to the Order of the Day.
 - d. Continue to be spiritually led in our efforts to achieve a balanced budget and keep an open mind to alternative forms of fundraising. A Task Force has been called to investigate ways to pay for the building renovation.
 - e. Trustees will ensure proper painting and cleaning of nursery. Completed.
 - f. Trustees will compose newsletter article concerning need for security for building and personnel.
 - g. Trustees will review present key policy. Completed. New policy has been adopted by Session. Some keys yet to be distributed.

- h. In view of expressed concerns about the cleanliness of the church building, the Trustees will review the custodian's current workload and consider alterations to his work hours . Ongoing.
 - i. All goals and their status should be communicated to the congregation on a regular basis. Ongoing.
4. Mission/Outreach
- a. Establish babysitting "co-op" or program 1 night per month. Referred to Sharing the Good News Team.
 - b. Offer musical programs (cantata, praise concert, etc.) on Sunday afternoon/evening, open it to the public & advertise the event.. Referred to Spiritual Development Team.
 - c. Promote Angel Food. Ongoing. Elder Embrey suggested that we encourage members to purchase Angel Food for others, who may be in need.
 - d. Mission trips – Malawi & Katrina area. Judy Friend will be travelling to Malawi this summer on a mission trip. A mission trip, for our youth, is tentatively planned for next summer.
 - e. Sponsor a family for Angel Food . Completed. This is an ongoing ministry. The church provides Angel Food to a needy family each month. Others will be encouraged to do likewise.
 - f. Establish a "shepherding" program for congregation (active & inactive) by Fall 2008. Referred to Deacons.
 - g. Find ways to make newcomers aware of us. Ongoing
 - h. "Blended" Worship Service. A new effort is being made this summer, to introduce praise music before worship services. A praise music CD is already in use, and we will be having a song leader in coming weeks, to lead the congregation in singing this new music. The demand for praise music is strong and persistent. There is very little opposition to it, but we do have a couple of members who are very much opposed to it.
- 5. Printed announcements not made verbally – unless required by BOO. Completed.
 - 6. Passing of Peace more structured, less casual (stay in your pew). Efforts have been made to accomplish this, but to little effect. The congregation, generally, wants to spend a few minutes during the worship service to greet one another. Those calling for a curtailment of this practice seem to be in the minority.
 - 7. Coffee fellowship after worship in Fellowship Hall. Coffee fellowship will begin this Fall, following worship.
 - 8. Sunday School after worship (worship earlier). This is a suggestion that will be referred to the First Sunday Forum, an informal time of fellowship and sharing which takes place during the Sunday School hour on the first Sunday of the month.
 - 9. Officers attend Sunday School. Officer attendance during the spirituality series was much improved, and both attendance and absence of officers was noticed by the congregation. Officers are encouraged to continue leading by example, by attending Sunday School regularly.

Having no further business pursuant to the call, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved.

The meeting adjourned with prayer by the moderator, at 1:30 pm.

Thomas E. Morgan
Clerk of Session