

**REDACTED MINUTES**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PERU, INDIANA**  
**STATED SESSION MEETING**

June 25, 2008

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church, Peru, IN, held its stated meeting at 7:00 pm, on June 25, 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 Terry Geberin, Glenn Russell, Cathy Hahn, Ed Morgan, Dick Hammersley, Jim Stackhouse.  
Staff: John E. Hess (Moderator).
- b. Absent/Excused: Elders Nancy Bender, Kelly Newman, Bruce Embrey; Judy Friend (DCE).

The meeting was called to order by the moderator, and opened with a devotion and prayer by Elder Cathy Hahn at 7:00 PM.

**A TIME OF SHARING AND GROWTH:** The moderator reviewed events of his recent mission trip to flooded areas of Indiana.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of May 28, 2008 were approved.
2. Redacted minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of May 28, 2008 were approved.
3. Minutes of the Special Session Meeting of May 31, 2008 were approved.
4. Minutes of the Special Congregation Meeting of June 8, 2008 were approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE.** Received the following items of correspondence:

1. Reapplication for Dunkinson/Lyndon Scholarship – Justin Horner
2. Reapplication for Hester Wood Scholarship – Meg Guthrie
3. Letter from Shirley Gretzinger – 6/22/2008. A **motion** was made that the clerk reply to Shirley's letter with the response letter he had prepared. There was a lively discussion as to whether or not the session needed to approve requests such as Shirley's, to conduct a Bible study at her home. The prepared response indicated that permission was not required, and that the session happily endorses her initiative, and pledges its support to help publicize the Bible Study. **Motion CARRIED.**

**MODERATOR'S REPORT:** The pastor reported that he had baptized Lisa Kay (McKinley) Reibly during the worship service on June 1, 2008. Jon and Lisa Reibly were publicly received into our congregation during the same service. The pastor's written monthly summary of activities was received and reviewed. A **motion** was made that vacation be approved for the Rev. Hess. **Motion CARRIED.**

**CLERK'S REPORT:** The church calendar for July was reviewed. The clerk reported the death of Richard (Dick) Gerard, member # 1675, who went to be with his Lord at 10:30 PM on June 23, 2008. Dick joined our church by reaffirmation of faith on October 20, 1974, and served three terms as deacon. He is survived by his wife, Norma, and two sons, Richard Jr. and James. Dick died, at age 81, in Indianapolis, of congestive heart failure.

**MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS and MOTIONS**

1. **FAITH COMMITMENT:** Written report dated Jun 18, 2008 was received. Elder Dick Hammersley reported for the team. Work has begun to find elders for the Class of 2011. The county probation office has offered to provide lawn mowing and outside cleanup services, using persons who are serving community service sentences. A **motion** was made that the question of accepting community service labor, or not, be referred to the Trustees Team. **Motion CARRIED.**
2. **SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT:** Written report dated June 4, 2008 was received. Elder Cathy Hahn reported for the team. 61 received communion during worship service on June 22nd, and 2 received the sacrament at home. Next communion: July 27 – Team 3. **Motion** – That an anonymous gift of \$250, given for Christian Education, be accepted, if offered. **Motion CARRIED.** The pastor verified that such a gift has been offered. Elder Glenn Russell made a **motion** that the decision to remove the candelabra from the sanctuary during summer worship services be remitted to the Spiritual Development Team for reconsideration. The motion was in response to concerns raised that the team's decision to remove the candelabra did not consider the true feelings of the pastor, and perhaps others, which went unspoken during the team's June meeting. This led to a discussion concerning why those sentiments may have

gone unspoken. Elders Hahn and Geberin said the removal had been suggested by Elder Russell, as a means to save the expense of oil, and they didn't care one way or the other. The pastor said he thought the candelabra added to the worship service, and didn't want them removed, but didn't speak up as he did not want to unduly influence the team. He had hoped the team would evaluate the suggestion as an element of the worship service, and reject it. The discussion continued, and expanded, bringing out concerns about communications within the church family. Elder Ed Morgan made a **substitute motion** that a special meeting of the session be called to address issues of day-to-day operations, and lines of authority. The **Substitute Motion FAILED**. The **Main Motion CARRIED**, and the decision to remove the candelabra was remitted to the Spiritual Development Team.

**ORDER OF THE DAY** was called for by Elder Ed Morgan at 9:05 PM.

**NEXT SESSION MEETING**

The next stated session meeting will be held on July 23, 2008, at 7:00 PM, with opening devotions by Elder Jim Stackhouse and closing prayer by the Elder Nancy Bender

**ADJOURNMENT.** A motion to adjourn was made and approved. The meeting was closed at 9:05 PM, with prayer by the moderator.

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Ed Morgan  
Clerk of Session