

**First Presbyterian Church
Edenton NC**

Stated Session Meeting Minutes March 11, 2010

3.11.01

Present: Elders Jean & Sid Stickles, E.C. Toppin, Liz Woodbury, Kathy Hynes, Michael Pierce (via conference call), Moderator Rev. G. Douglas Eddy, Clerk of Session Dennis Robison, Guest: John A. Mitchener III. A quorum was present. The meeting began in the Church kitchen at 1:38PM. Elder Kathy Hynes opened the meeting with prayer.

Update on Church History: John Mitchener III reviewed his current work on the Church History which he was asked to do by the 100th Anniversary Committee. He sought and was granted permission to use some of the pictures from the 75 Anniversary album and the pictures of the pastors which are on the wall in the old fellowship hall. He believes the publication will be around 80+ pages and wants to make sure it is in a sturdy bindery. E.C. Toppin raised the question of cost. John Mitchener said not to worry about that indicating that the cost would be covered. He also added that he was disappointed in the lack of a narrative in the Session meeting minutes which, as he understood it, came as a directive from Presbytery to keep minutes brief and to the point. Moderator Eddy asked the Clerk to docket a discussion of this issue for the April docket.

Approval of Minutes: Upon proper motion the minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of February 11, 2010 were approved.

Reports:

Christian Education: No report.

Administration and Stewardship: Elder Pierce reviewed the February financial statement indicating that while income was 5% under that projected for the year, expenses were also lower. Elder Sid Stickles indicated that his report would recommend that work be done on the Manse which would result in some expenses which is covered in the Buildings and Grounds Budget. Moderator Eddy reminded the Elders that by common agreement Session wanted to hold off any major expenses until income was more certain given that the approved budget for 2010 began with an estimated deficit of over \$7,000. Manse expenses will be reviewed in April. Elder Pierce reported that the audit would be accomplished in March, probably during the week of the 21st. He is going to ask Marc Woodbury, Cary Pittman and Louise Robison to conduct the audit. He also requested that Clerk open any pertinent mail addressed to the committee to avoid any bills being neglected. He will return to Edenton on the first week in May. Upon proper motion, the Financial Report for February was received.

Congregational Life: Elder Jean Stickles sought comments regarding the Soup Supper that was held the previous Sunday. This evoked some discussion as to whether or not such events should be held immediately after Worship or in the evening. Nothing was concluded. She also reported that some in the congregation had approached her about having wine available at dinner events held at the Church. In general Session was opposed, primarily because North Carolina law makes whomever serves alcoholic beverages responsible for those who imbibe. It was expected that some in the congregation would find the serving of wine offensive as well. Elder Stickles also reminded Session that our Church was responsible for the Lenten Lunch on Wednesday, March 31st. She will be seeking volunteers to help.

Building and Grounds: Elder Sid Stickles distributed his report. His request for spending up to \$3,000 for vinyl work on the manse was postponed until April (see Administrative and Stewardship report). He is going to spend up to \$200 to have the trees trimmed. A letter was received from the Edenton Police

**First Presbyterian Church
Edenton NC**

Stated Session Meeting Minutes March 11, 2010

3.11.02

Department indicating they had check on security of the Church building. Moderator Eddy will write a letter thanking them for their diligence. Elder Stickles, representing the Little Theater Group, asked permission for them to use the facilities on March 16. Upon proper motion, this request was approved. Some discussion ensued about the Facilities Use Policy and fees for outside groups to use the facilities. The Clerk read the appropriate sections of the use policy regarding fees, mentioning that it was relatively rare that fees were charged since one of the reasons for building the fellowship hall was outreach to the community. Moderator Eddy asked the Clerk to distribute copies of the Facilities Policy to Session for discussion in April.

Outreach: Elder Toppin reported on a meeting of the Committee held earlier in the day. The Committee is exploring the idea of expanding the Holiday Family program to include mentoring individuals (with the College of the Albemarle) who are trying to further their education. They are currently working with a single mother who is trying to complete her GED. She needs three months of child care (approximately \$810). Elder Toppin moved, seconded by Elder Jean Sickles, that the Session authorize the Outreach Committee to raise the funds to pay for this. If successful, it would serve as a model for the community which might result in other churches involvement. Motion passed. Moderator Eddy indicated that he had access to a fund which could be used to this purpose and would use that fund to guarantee the money would be there should it not all be raised. Cary Pittman will be working on the guidelines for the project. Elder Toppin also reported that the brochures about the Church were now available and were being distributed at the Visitor's Center and to motels, and B& B's.

Worship: Elder Woodbury reported that the Committee was working on preparation for the Seder Meal which will be on April 1. Elders currently scheduled for communion (Allen & Allene Renz, Sid & Jean Stickles) will be among the leaders of the event. There will be a rehearsal on Sunday, March 28 which needs to be announced in the Bulletin for that day. Moderator Eddy will be having a showing of the Mel Gibson's *Passion of Christ* at 2:00pm on Good Friday for those who care to see it.

Clerk: The calendar for April was distributed for comment. Several events were added and some changed. Upon proper motion the calendar was approved. Robison mentioned that he had Elder Anniversary Certificates to be given out. This will be done during worship on Sunday, March 28. The Clerk reported that the 2009 Sessional Records were approved the the New Hope Presbytery Session Records Committee without exception.

Pastor's Report: Moderator Eddy reported on activities of the local Clergy relative to meeting the hunger needs of the community. They will be meeting with the Food Pantry Board of Directors fairly soon. More African-American clergy are now involved with the local Clergy meetings. He reported he has asked one of them to preach in his place during the Lenten Service on March 31st.

Old Business: The request from gaychurch.org was delayed until April due to the lateness in the day.

New Business: There was no new business.

The meeting adjourned at 3:41pm with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

s _____
Rev. Dr. G. Douglas Eddy, Moderator

s _____
Dennis E. Robison, Clerk of Session