

SOUTHPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Minutes of Stated Session Meeting
6:30 PM, June 20, 2023

Present: Rev. Robert Lapp, Rev. Joanna Hipp, Elders Rita Wissinger, Laura Nettles, Robert Blaber, Holly Mayberry, Robert Lambert, Linda Becken

Excused: Julia Hill, Nora Dziuban, Carson Williams, Erik Hedblom, Robert Bird

Rev. Lapp called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM, declared there was a quorum, and offered the opening prayer.

Clerk's Time

- Approval of the agenda moved by Robert Lambert, seconded by Robert Blaber, and passed.
- Approval of the minutes of the May 30 stated session meeting was approved by common consent.
- Approval of the removal of the following active members from the Southport Presbyterian Church rolls: Sherry Clapper, Fran Jarret, Marjorie Purnell, Glenda Thornton, Nancy Freeman; and removal of the following affiliate members: Daniel Clements, Ellen Duke, Joyce Furiness, Gladys Marshall, Jane McGinn, Neil Siebenhar, and Peg Siebenhar was approved by common consent.
- Updated church membership: Active 273; Affiliate 17; Total 290

Report from June 10 Presbytery meeting by Linda Becken and Rev. Lapp. Rev. Hipp served as vice moderator of the business meeting. Members of the Presbytery and volunteers from area churches worked on various community service teams in the Wilmington area. SPC members contributed food and supplies for the various tasks and teams. Rev. Hipp wrote cards for children who would attend church camp this summer. Linda Becken worked at a diaper bank. Rev. Lapp worked on refurbishing the Oak Grove Presbyterian Church's playground.

Pastors' reports

- Rev. Lapp officiated at the following: a memorial service for Lisa Kenet, the widow of a former pastor at St. Andrew's Covenant Presbyterian Church; the marriage of Marianne Edwards and Deward Douglass, SPC members, at the

Chapel of St. James; and the committal service of Dawn Ralph in the SPC memorial garden.

- Rev. Hipp completed her term as Vice-Moderator of the Eastern Community of the Coastal Carolina Presbytery. She and three SPC confirmands will attend the Montreat Youth Conference from Saturday, July 15 to Saturday, July 22. Laura and Jason Nettles will also accompany the group. On Rally Day, Sept. 10, the young people will lead the worship service.

Action Items

- A motion by Laura Nettles, seconded by Linda Becken, to hold a Stated Session Meeting at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, July 25 to receive confirmands Tucker Hedblom, John Blayne Williams, and Meryn Deutsch into membership was approved.
- A motion by Holly Mayberry, seconded by Linda Becken, to call a congregational meeting following worship on July 23 to hear reports from the Congregational Nominating Committee to fill vacancies on the Board of Deacons was approved.
- A motion by Rita Wissinger, seconded by Robert Lambert, that the Session as Trustees of the Corporation elect Holly Mayberry as President of the Corporation to replace Rick Barton was approved.

Information Items

- Treasurer's report for May: income \$26,623; expenses \$50,509
- Matthew 25 – A large team of volunteers participated in landscaping the Habitat House our church sponsored. Southport-Oak Island Inter-church Fellowship anticipates the opening of the Brunswick Partnership for Housing facility for homeless families.
- Mission committee is considering sponsorship of a Habitat House in Boiling Spring Lakes. They are exploring programs to help pay off medical/dental debt for needy families.
- Administration and Communication will clarify how to implement and publicize the recommendations for security and safety.
- Adult Christian Education – Forum classes are planned through May 2024. Sept. 17 – Oct.10 Rev. Hipp will teach a series on the Matthew 25 Church program.

- Children, Youth & Family – 24 children have registered for Vacation Bible School June 25 – 29.

Old Business

- Each Committee is expected to have a storyboard display on Rally Day, Sept.10. Sheryl Sykes is the organizer. Rev. Lapp will send an email invitation to Google Drive so committee members can access photos to use on their storyboard.
- The new church sign will cost \$8,300; \$2,450 is still needed. Gay Ausband will be inviting donations. Checks may be made payable to SPC with the notation “church sign”.
- The YWCA Diversity Training meetings sponsored by Southport-Oak Island Church Fellowship will be held at SPC on Aug. 9, 10, and 17.
- Administration and Communication will work on implementing and communicating to the membership how the recommendations for safety and security will be implemented. Holly is willing to make the recommended signs. Rita will draft information to appear in the weekly E-blast. Carol or another choir member will lock the choir door at the beginning of worship
- There was further discussion of the submerged/deeply held beliefs that the Balcony Team reported during their study. Does what we say we believe coincide with what we do? There needs to be further discussion and exploration of these topics.

Calendar Review

June Sundays, worship at 10:00

June 18-25 Laurie Russ at the Music & Worship Conference at Montreat

June 25 Fellowship after worship

June 25-29 Vacation Bible School 5:30-7:30 PM

June 30 Fellowship at the beach, 5:30 PM

July 2 Communion (Nora Dziuban elder)

July 9 Fellowship after worship

July 23 Called congregational meeting after worship

July 25 Session meeting at 6:00 PM, dinner and reception of confirmands

Joys and Concerns

Holly Mayberry’s brother is in critical care after a fall, Linda Becken’s daughter diagnosed with skin cancer, Bob Lambert will begin a clinical trial, Bob Blaber

having a knee replacement, Laura's godson having surgery for severe burns, James Pelcher remains missing, Dale Cagle recuperating at home, Eddie Wessel recuperating at home, Sally Barton being evaluated for a lung transplant, Tish Szwajer having hip surgery, Bob D'Reaux had a procedure for pain control.

Motion by Holly Mayberry, seconded by Bob Blaber that the meeting adjourn was approved. Rev. Lapp closed the meeting with prayer at 8:30 PM.