

Southport Presbyterian Church
Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting
6:00 PM July 25, 2023

Present: Rev. Robert Lapp, Rev. Joanna Hipp, Elders Robert Bird, Laura Nettles, Nora Dziuban, Rita Wissinger, Julia Hill, Carson Williams, Holly Mayberry, Linda Becken, Robert Lambert, Erik Hedblom, Robert Blaber (via Zoom)

Moderator Rev. Robert Lapp called the meeting to order at 6:10 and declared there was a quorum.

Rev. Joanna Hipp read an inspirational passage “The Oyster” and offered the opening prayer.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Nora Dziuban, seconded by Bob Lambert, and approved.

Rev. Lapp introduced two confirmands, John Blaney Williams and Tucker Hedblom who were present to be received into membership. They shared their statements of faith, shared thoughts about confirmation class, what they had learned, and how their faith was deepened. They responded to Elders’ questions about their faith journey, responded affirmatively to the constitutional questions and affirmation of faith. A motion to receive John Blaney and Tucker into full membership at SPC was made by Erik Hedblom, seconded by Carson Williams, and approved. Session members congratulated the new members, and all shared a pizza supper.

Order of the day - Rev. Carrie Evans joined the meeting via Zoom to become familiar with the Elders and their committees. She will be moving to our area in the coming weeks and will assume duties as our pastor on Sept. 15.

Clerk’s Time

- Motion by Nora Dziuban, seconded by Julia Hill, to approve the minutes of the June 20 Stated Session Meeting and the July 9 Called Session Meeting. Approved.
- Motion by Nora Dziuban, seconded by Linda Becken, to approve the minutes of the July 23 Called Congregational Meeting.
- The Clerk will remove our Ministry Information Form from the CLC website.
- Membership update: death of James Pelcher, final review of the rolls, 3 new confirmands: Active members 273, Affiliate 17; Total 290
- Resignation of Ardene Noss from the Board of Deacons

Pastors’ reports

Rev. Lapp

- Lena Fisher, a long-time member who resides at Universal Health, has donated \$4,000 to SPC to be used for landscaping. A special endowment fund will be set up for landscaping.
- Rev. Lapp has sent the Terms of Call for Rev. Evans to presbytery; the original document signed by the Pastor Nominating Committee is filed with the church register. Rev. Evans and Rev. Hannah Vaughan have both been informed of the vote outcome at the Congregational meeting. Our clerk of session will verify that our Ministry Information Form has been removed from the CLC website.
- The Wilmington YWCA will hold diversity training sponsored by SPC in our Fellowship Hall on Aug. 9, 10, and 16 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. Dinner will be included.
- There has been a request from Deacon Carol Morrill to help find housing for church member Tish Szwajer who is now in rehab at Universal Health following hip surgery. She will need housing when she is discharged, but she has very limited finances. Any information on inexpensive rental units would be appreciated. Helping Hands of the Cape Fear may be able to help for 60-90 days.

Rev. Hipp reported that the Montreat Youth Conference had been a great success for the adults as well as the young people.

Information Items

- **Treasurer's report** for June: Income \$45,058; Expenses \$41, 695
- **Finance & Stewardship:** Holly Mayberry reminded Elders that there is money in the budget that should be spent.
- **Administration & Communication,** Julia Hill reported that they are working to complete the recommendations on safety and security made by the Southport Police Chief. Further clarification is needed on the policy of locking and unlocking doors on Sundays. The Elder of the Month should check that lights are turned off and doors locked after worship/Fellowship.
- **Mission** committee is exploring the possibility of sponsoring another Habitat house for a single mother of one child who is expecting another baby.
- **Children, Youth & Fellowship** Vacation Bible School was a great success with 27 children participating. The Montreat Conference was inspiring for both adults and young people.
- **Building & Grounds** – Robert Bird reported that he is trying to find a more efficient way to work with the fire and safety company. The new Moore St. sign is being created. Joe Lhotsky will cover for Bob Bird while he recuperates from foot surgery.
- **Adult Christian Education** – Plans are set for the coming academic year.
- **Matthew 25** What are we doing to alleviate systemic poverty? Smart Start program for parents and children; Habitat House sponsorship; YWCA diversity training.

Old Business

- The Personnel and Finance Committees made a motion to approve Rev. Lapp using one week of vacation and one week of continuing education after August 13 to complete his interim pastorate at Southport Presbyterian as of August 28. Approved

Calendar Review

Aug. 6 communion
 Aug. 9, 10, 16 YWCA diversity training 5:30 to 7:00 PM
 Aug. 13 Pastor Robb's last Sunday, Fellowship after worship
 Aug. 22 Session meeting 6:30 PM
 Aug. 25 last beach gathering at 5:30 at the Point, Oak Island
 Aug. 27 Fellowship after worship
 Sept. 3 Worship at 11:00, communion
 Sept. 10 Rally Day, adult and children's Sunday school classes begin,
 Committees will display storyboards during Fellowship
 Sept. 15 Rev. Carrie Evans begins work as our pastor.
 Sept. 26 Session meeting 6:30

Joys and Concerns

Holly is grateful as her brother is recovering.

Bob Bird having foot surgery, Bob Blaber recuperating from knee revision, Bob Lambert beginning treatment for prostate cancer next week, Laura's godson undergoing skin grafts for serious burns. Laura's mom is recovering from a fall.

Rev. Lapp expressed his thanks to the Session since this is his last meeting as our interim pastor.

Erik Hedblom made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bob Bird, and approved. Rev. Lapp closed the meeting with prayer at 8:15.