

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MINUTES OF CALLED MEETING OF SESSION
December 8, 2008

The called meeting of session was called by Pastor Dan Birchfield and the Session and was held in the Westminster Hall at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 755 Bard Road, Port Hueneme, CA. The purpose of the meeting was to examine new elders and discuss the budget. Minutes were taken by Mary Curtis, Clerk to the Session.

A quorum was present. Elders present: Linda Porteous, Ron Carrillo, Bob Williams, Janice Brown, Elna Ranson, Carol Norton, Marilyn Rothwell. Elders absent: Jim Bell, Gay Lanzarotta, Paul Spencer. Guests were elder nominees Mary Curtis, Vicki Hanks, David Neff and Scott Wieser.

Pastor Dan called the called meeting to order at 6:45pm and opened with a prayer. Pastor Dan gave the devotional using Ephesians 1:22-23. Session broke into the prayer triangles to pray for our church.

Pastor Dan passed out the questions for examination in the Essential Tenets of the Presbytery of Santa Barbara. The elder nominees have been meeting with Pastor Dan to review this document. The Session examined the elders by asking various questions and then a motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the new elders. The ordination will be held during the worship service on Sunday, December 28, 2008.

The Personnel Committee made a recommendation to hire Michele Southerland as the choir director. Personnel has conducted surveys of churches in the area and received information from Presbytery and recommends \$1,000 a month salary to start January 2009. A job description will be written for Session's approval and Michele will need to resign from the Treasurer position. The motion was APPROVED. A second motion was APPROVED to give Michele Southerland authority to start interviewing and searching for an organist. She will work with Personnel who will bring a recommendation with salary to Session.

The Youth Director promotional job description was distributed and discussed. A suggestion to change the salary to start at \$40,000 based on experience and education would bring in more applicants than if you started the range at \$38,000. Personnel had done some fact finding of comparative salaries for the school district and information from Presbytery to get the range of \$38,000-\$42,000. Additional suggestions to add the applicant should have a good sense of humor and change the name to Director of Youth Ministries not Youth Minister. Session APPROVED the use of this promotional piece.

Pastor Dan gave Session a rundown of the giving numbers from our stewardship campaign. We have received 54 pledge cards totaling \$190,392. 41 were repledging (\$209,222), gained 13 new pledges. 2008 Non pledger giving = \$63,776.80. We are expecting \$232,162.80 to come in from approximately 93 giving units. We lost 12 pledges. Last year we had 64 pledgers for a total of \$228,000.

Session discussed what to do with this information. We need to tell the church what we want to do next year with staffing and ministries.

A draft budget worksheet was distributed. Session was asked to pray about this budget, look at the numbers and see last year covered what we needed to do; what do we want to do next year and how much will that cost, and is there something we can cut that doesn't fit now. The challenge: what is expendable; what do we have to have to do ministry? Session discussed how we can communicate to the congregation what the pledge numbers are and what are plans are for 2009. Pastor Dan asked Session to review the budget and get with him to discuss their particular ministries.

We will discuss again at the December 22, 2008 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm with prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Curtis, Clerk to the Session