

Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church
Austin, TX

The stated monthly **Session meeting** was held on Tuesday, **April 26, 2011**, in Room 200 at the church.

Members present:

Rev. Dr. Peter Barnes	Phil Haag	Ray Mashburn	Mike Ward
Rev. Peter Haas	Barbara Humphrey	Mary Mills	Wally Warrenburg
Jarrett Anderson	John Hurst	Rick Milvenan	Sarah Wehner
Drew Beckley	Jim Johnson	Dennis Pauling	Weldon Whiteside
Mike Douglas	Jim Little	Kerry Pollard	Fred Wilder
Vicki Gabriel	Liza Martin	Sheryl Streder-Becker	

Guests: Rev. Dr. Jim Bankhead, WHPC Business Manager, Bill Laughlin, WHPC Facilities Manager, Travis Lewis, and incoming elders Alex Alleman, Betty Hood, Laurence Ligon, Julie Smith, and Mike Ussery

Members excused: Rev. Dr. Carol Friesen and Elder Helen Marrow

Dr. Barnes called the meeting to order and Elder Wally Warrenburg shared a devotion and opened the meeting with prayer. Elder Jim Johnson gave an update on his cancer treatment and expressed his gratitude for the support and care shown to him and his wife, Edith. Prayer was offered for Jim and for Carol Friesen, who is recovering from back surgery.

Dr. Barnes welcomed guests Bill Laughlin and Travis Lewis, WHPC staff members, and the new elders who will be ordained on May 1st.

Approval and Reception of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the [March 22, 2011](#) Stated meeting. Additional motions were made and seconded to accept and receive the minutes of the Session division meetings.

The motions carried.

Communications and Matters of Record:

A motion was made and seconded to receive and approve the Membership Report and the related information concerning membership as follows:

Motion: To approve the Membership Report of [April 18, 2011](#), and the motions related to membership.

1. Baptisms:

- a. Walker White Sewell and Sterling Stone Sewell, sons of Laura and Jeff Sewell
- b. Ronan Elijah Blais, son of Tami and Robert Blais
- c. Samuel Nathan Fitzhugh Rhem, son of Angie and Ben Rhem

2. Transfer of membership:

- a. Corbin James Chaffin- joined First Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX

The April New Member agenda item was moved from New Business to the Membership Report. Dr. Barnes reported that with the New Members class moving to the Mission division, Associate Pastor Carol Friesen will serve as the staff liaison and convene the Session meetings to accept new members. Because of her emergency surgery, she was unable to attend the April meeting and Elders Jarrett Anderson, Phil Haag, Liza Martin, and Dennis Pauling presided in her place. Elder Kerry Pollard offered the following motion to accept the new members and ratify the action of the elders:

Motion: That Session ratify the action of elders Phil Haag, Jarrett Anderson, and Dennis Pauling (April 17) and Liza Martin (April 13) in examining and receiving new members on April 17, 2011. Each of the prospective members responded affirmatively to the questions of membership in the Book of Order

The motions carried.

Financial Report: A motion was made and seconded to approve the financial reports for March, 2011. Elder Wally Warrenburg reported that revenue for the month of March and for the year-to-date is up and that expenses continue to be below plan. Through March, total revenue is up .7% and expenses are down 12.9%. Net income is well above plan and the church continues to be in a strong financial position. Elder Warrenburg also pointed out that results of the annual audit were reflected in updates to depreciation of the building and equipment on the balance sheet. Dr. Barnes noted that the Finance Committee is already at work on the 2012 budget and that plans will include provisions to ensure adequate funding for operations and facility maintenance.

The motion to accept the report carried.

Old Business:

1. Next Steps Implementation Report. Dr. Barnes reported that the Officer/Staff retreat coming up would focus on the Next Steps implementation.

2. Report from the 2011 Administrative Commission regarding their review of the officers-elect take-home exams. Elder Jim Johnson spoke on behalf of the commission, saying that the written exams of the officers-elect were reviewed to ensure theological and personal preparedness for leadership. The conclusion of the commission was that all should be approved for ordination and installation and their examinations were sustained.

3. Denomination Relations Committee Report. Elder Jim Johnson reported that two parallel tracts are being followed as we await the outcome from national presbytery voting on the amendments to the Book of Order. The results will not be known until the middle of May. The first tract is to continue contacting ministers, elders, and presbytery staff to discuss a possible realignment within the current presbytery structure based on theological rather than simply geographic alliances. One proposal under consideration is to create an "overlay" within the current presbytery system that would allow theologically like-minded churches to align, yet coexist with other churches in their presbytery geographic area to share mission and other ministry initiatives. The second tract involves adopting a clear statement of the essential tenets of faith, authority of scripture, and ordination standards that would be followed by the churches

that the new presbytery would represent. Elder Johnson said that in talking to others, whether they support the proposal or not, all agree on the importance of maintaining the unity of the Presbyterian denomination if possible. Any proposals brought forth will be as broad based as possible to gain the support of the majority of churches. Dr. Barnes added that other churches around the country are looking at the proposal we are considering and watching for the response of the churches in Mission Presbytery. If the response is favorable, the proposal may be used as a model for change within their own presbyteries. Dr. Barnes reiterated that we are waiting for the outcome of the voting on changes to the Book of Order as it will provide direction for the next steps to be taken.

New Business:

1. Elder Dennis Pauling reviewed the list of necessary repairs and improvements required by the recent Fire Marshall inspection. He presented two motions requesting the use of \$40,000 from the Facilities Reserve account as follows:

Motion: That Session approve the Facilities request for improvements needed per the recent Fire Marshall inspection.

Motion: That Session approve the Facilities request for needed roof and restroom repairs.

The motions carried.

2. Elder Sarah Wehner made the following motion to amend the WHPC bylaws to reflect the recommendations from the Role of Elder/Work of Session Task Force:

Motion: To amend the Restated and Amended Bylaws of Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church to reduce the number of elders on Session from 24 to 15.

After discussion of the motion, it was amended to read:

Motion: That Session recommend to the congregation to amend the Restated and Amended Bylaws of Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church from electing annual classes of eight members to Session to annual classes of five members, thereby reducing the number of currently sitting elders from twenty four (24) to fifteen (15).

The motion as amended carried.

3. A motion was made as follows:

That Session hereby authorizes Bill Laughlin, the church Business Administrator, who started on April 16, 2011, to conduct business matters on behalf of Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church (hereinafter referred to as "WHPC"). These business matters shall include, but are not limited to, authorized check signer on WHPC accounts and a signatory permitted on all WHPC contractual matters.

An amendment was offered and approved to remove the date of hire from the motion and the amended motion carried.

4. Matter for Discussion- What should Stewardship look like at WHPC in the future? Because of the late hour, it was agreed to move this item to the May agenda.

5. Words of Wisdom from the outgoing Elders. Elders John Hurst, Vicki Gabriel, Jarrett Anderson, and Kerry Pollard offered their thoughts on their time of service and encouraged and challenged the new elders to be strong leaders, outward thinkers, visionary and joyful followers of Christ.

6. Proposed Elder Assignments for 2011-12. Assignments for the coming year were distributed. Dr. Barnes said that they were the result of matching staff and elder preferences and that hopefully they would fulfill the passions of the elders for service. He asked them to contact him or Clerk Sarah Wehner if there were any questions or comments.

Division Reports:

Worship- Elder John Hurst reported that the Worship/Mission survey was closed and that the worship division would report on its findings at the next meeting.

Pastor Reports:

Dr. Barnes asked for continued prayer for Carol Friesen's healing and recovery.

With no further business to discuss, Elder Mike Douglas closed the meeting in prayer and the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Wehner
Clerk of Session