

**Minutes of the Stated Business Meeting of the Session  
Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church  
August 30, 2011**

Members of the Session:

Rev. Dr. Peter Barnes	Rev. Dr. Carol Friesen*	Rev. Peter Haas
Alex Allmann	Drew Beckley*	Mike Douglas*
Phil Haag	Betty Hood	Barbara Humphrey
Jim Johnson*	Laurence Ligon	Jim Little
Liza Martin	Ray Mashburn	Mary Mills
Rick Milvanen	Dennis Pauling	Julie Smith
Sheryl Streder-Becker	Mike Ussery	Mike Ward
Wally Warrenburg	Weldon Whiteside	Fred Wilder

\*Excused and providentially prohibited from attending

Guests: Rev. Dr. Jim Bankhead and Rev. Amy Hanschen; Paul Gamel; John Hurst

**Call to Order and Opening Prayer and Devotion:**

Elder Jim Little opened the meeting with prayer and led the Session in a devotional.

**Approval and Reception of Minutes:**

*A. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the Session for the August 2, 2011, called meeting; the July 5, 2011, called meeting; and the June 28, 2011, stated meeting. The motion carried.*

*B. A motion was made and seconded: "That Session approve a correction to the June 28, 2011 Stated Session Meeting Minutes as follows with respect to two approved motions. (a) That Session approves moving the Financial Stewardship Committee from the Mission Division to the Support Division; and (b) That Session approves the move of the Denominational Relations Committee from the Mission Division to direct reporting to the Session." The motion carried.*

*C. Additional motions were made, seconded, and carried to accept and receive the minutes of the Session division meetings.*

**Communications and Matters of Record:**

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

*1. Baptisms*

- a. Hudson James Devin, son of Carrie and Jeff Devine*
- b. John Ryan Bailey, son of Sarah Goss*
- c. Jackson Ruiz, son of Nichole Ruiz*

2. Motions related to membership - Request to be removed from the membership rolls:
  - a. *Lyn La Cava sent an email to Peter Haas requesting to be removed from the membership rolls.*
  - b. *Lynnly and Steven Proffitt returned member response postcard indicating they are regularly attending another church and wish their names removed from the membership rolls.*

*B. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the request to serve communion at the Women's Weekend Retreat to be held at Laity Lodge October 14-16, 2011. Administering the Sacrament: Carol Friesen, Laity Lodge Senior personnel, or an available Minister of the Word and Sacrament. An elder will assist.*

### **2011 Financial Report:**

Bill Laughlin presented the 2011 financial report for the period ending June 30, 2011. The report was received for information. A copy of the report is attached. Bill noted that pledged revenue is projected to be behind budget, although the projected revenue is improved from years end 2009 and 2010.

### **Old Business:**

- A. **Worship Survey Results.** John Hurst presented the results of an all-church worship survey. A copy of the report of the survey will be sent to members of the session by email.
- B. **2012 Right-Sizing Budget:** *A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the 2012 Right-Sizing Budget of \$3,100,000, as presented. As is the practice each year, the budget will be reviewed and revised after the end of the stewardship campaign.*
- C. **2011 Stewardship Report:** Mike Ward presented a report on the stewardship campaign, noting that the campaign will focus on prayer and giving and will be executed through one on one meetings and networking through small groups.
- D. **Denominational Relations Committee Report:**
  1. Phil Haag presented an update from the Preferred Path Team regarding membership feedback on Amendment 10A.
  2. The Session received and reviewed the most recent 10A Comments/Feedback from the WHPC website.
  3. The Session received the Communications Team Written Report.
  4. The Session received a report on the August 20 Presbytery meeting. Those attending from WHPC agreed that the meeting was less hopeful than the July meeting, noting that the trustees of Mission Presbytery appeared to be taking a hard line on certain property issues. The moderator of Mission Presbytery asked Larry Coulter to identify and share with the presbytery the "gracious dismissal" policies followed by other presbyteries.
  5. The Session received a report from Dr. Barnes and Rev. Hanschen on the Gathering in Minneapolis. Both were very enthusiastic about the uplifting spirit of the gathering, summarizing the range of relationships the Fellowship will offer to Presbyterian

congregations over the next year. At a minimum, WHPC may consider the Fellowship as another resource, much as it does Willow Creek.

6. The Session received a report on option preferences for going forward, including:
  - a. Elders' option preferences in responding to 10A were discussed; although certain themes developed from the poll taken, no consensus emerged.
  - b. The Session agreed to give over the regularly scheduled reflective meeting on September 13 exclusively to a discussion of the key issues to be addressed in resolving our response to 10A. Dr. Barnes asked Alex Allman, Phil Haag, Julie Smith, Weldon Whiteside, and Phil Barnes to join him as an ad hoc committee to plan for the meeting on September 13.
  - c. Proposed "Expectations for WHPC Church Leaders" was presented for a first reading. After considerable discussion, the draft was received for information.

### **New Business:**

Ray Mashburn made a report from the Personnel Committee that Jason Webster be invited to serve as a Parish Associate at WHPC. It is believed that this action would satisfy the desires of the Committee on Ministry of Mission Presbytery and help Jason over the final hurdle to ordination.

A motion was made and seconded: *"That the Session of WHPC extend an invitation to Jason Webster to become a Parish Associate without remuneration and without portfolio (no compensation and no job responsibilities) to serve in our church life as requested and as available."* The motion carried.

The approved motion will be forwarded to Mission Presbytery's Committee on Ministry for its consideration.

### **The Meeting Was Adjourned with Prayer**

Phil Barnes  
Clerk of the Session