

Minutes

PRESBYTERY OF SAINT ANDREW

CALLED MEETING

10:00 a.m. on March 26, 2007

First Presbyterian Church of Oxford, Mississippi

A meeting of the Presbytery of St. Andrew was held at 10:00 a.m. on March 26, 2007 in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, Oxford, Mississippi, on the call of the moderator and at the request of the Rev. Rusty Douglas, the Rev. Don Howie, Elder Larry Littlejohn (French Camp), and Elder Jeff Lambdin (Greenwood).

The meeting was called to order and an opening prayer was offered by the moderator.

A quorum was declared present, with the following enrollment:

Ministers of Word and Sacrament (28):

Frank Beck
Frank Brooks
Erin Bunnell
Jon Burnham
Rita Cochran
William J. Connolly
Katherine Cooke
Rusty Douglas
Don Elliott
David Freeman
Greg Goodwiller
Tom Groome
Sid Harmon
Robert (Chip) Hatcher
Wil Howie
Ann Kelly
Kent Landry
Olin McBride
Louis Narowetz
Ron Richardson
John Semmes
Sandra Sisson
David Snellgrove
Doug Sullivan-Gonzalez
John Taylor
Heather Williamsen
Don Wilson
Milton Winter

Elders (28):

Jimmy Wood (Aberdeen)
Chuck Brown (Amory)
Jimmy Herrow (Batesville, Independence)
Tom Coker (Blue Springs, Fairfield)
Keith Shackelford (Booneville)
Richard Tritinger (Byhalia)
Bill Andrews (Columbus)
Ricky Burgess (Corinth, First)
Larry Littlejohn (French Camp)
Richard Oakes (Greenwood)
Buddy Thompson (Grenada)
Ray Hill (Hernando)
Sue Webb (Leland)
James Edens (Okolona)
Thelma Curry (Oxford, First)
Cathy Yeoman (Pontotoc)
Jean Reeder (Providence, Southaven)
Evelyn Farrior (New Hope, Rienzi)
Charles Braddock (Ripley)
Frank Chiles (Starkville, First)
Bob Rogers (Starkville, Osborn)
Frank Mitchener (Sumner)
Maurice Brown (Toccopola)
Frances Brasfield (Tupelo, First)
Judy Hodges (Tupelo, First)
Andrea Marshall (VanVleet)
Lavora Blake (Waterford)
Souzen Steelhammer (First, Westpoint)

Commissioned Lay Pastors with Voice and Vote (1):

Charles Caldwell

Council Members with Voice and Vote: (6)

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| Ann Wood | Nolan Waller | Bess Beckham |
| Dero Ramsey | Willetta Swoope | Sydney Shaw |

Visitors:

Nadine Ramsey, Sue Littlejohn, Julian Allison, Hale Freeland, Mary Freeman, David Shaw, John Tucker, Gary Clowers, Joe Donahue, JoAnne Brooks, Evelyn Elliott, Ruth Galloway, Jim Clark, Robert Krohn, Derik Aikins, Randy Long, Beverly Thompson, Sam Jennings, Jimmy Braddock, Mary Ann Wilson, Roy Purvis, Bruce Broomfield, John Cockrell, David Vincent, Tommy Ward, Lewis Ward, Glen Burlson, Carol Prewitt, Helen Branning, Nita Curtis, Florence Broomfield, Edna Winkler, Sally Stewart, Judy Patton, Jeff Ribelin, KB Ribelin, Fred Davenport, Leroy Worsham, Holly Johnson, Marilyn Johnson, and Jana Weathersby, Presbytery Staff.

By common consent, the Rev. Bill Connolly and Elder Richard Tritinger (Byhalia, First) were appointed as a committee to review and approve the minutes of this meeting.

The moderator stated the call for the meeting, which was as follows:

“for the purpose of acting on the request of the French Camp Presbyterian Church to be dismissed with its assets to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.”

The moderator then recognized the Rev. Olin McBride, moderator of the French Camp Task Force, who delivered a preliminary report of his committee’s work, and noted that it is not yet ready to present its final report.

The moderator then asked the Stated Clerk to advise the body regarding its options for dealing with the business before it, which he did by means of reading a memo he had prepared for the moderator prior to the meeting (attached).

Several members rose to ask questions.

It was moved by the Rev. Jon Burnham and seconded “that we allow the task force to complete its work.”

After considerable discussion alternating between those for and against the motion, it was approved by a voice vote.

It was then moved by the Rev. Don Elliott that the task force be required to deliver its final report at the May stated meeting. The motion was seconded and approved by a voice vote.

The Rev. John Taylor then moved that the meeting be adjourned, which was approved by a voice vote.

The meeting was closed with prayer at 10:40 a.m. by the Rev. Tom Groome.

Gregory A. Goodwiller, Stated Clerk



Approved, June 4, 2007

attest 

Attachment

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Ann Kelly, Moderator
From: Greg Goodwiller, Stated Clerk and Parliamentarian
Date: March 19, 2007
Subject: Called Meeting of the Presbytery on March 26, 2007

When we received notice that two ministers and two elders were requesting a meeting of the presbytery for the purpose of acting on the request of the French Camp session and church that they be dismissed with their property, I was in hopes that the Task Force which was appointed to deal with the matter at the October 3, 2006 Stated Meeting would determine that it was ready to report at the Called Meeting.

Because that is not the case, as I read Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (RRONR) the only way for the presbytery to take up the session's request is through the motion to *Discharge A Committee*.

§36, pp. 299ff of RRONR reads as follows:

By means of the motion to *Discharge a Committee* from further consideration of a question or subject, the assembly can take the matter out of a committee's hands after referring it to the committee and before the committee has made a final report on it, and the assembly itself can consider it.

So long as a question is in the hands of a committee, the assembly cannot consider another motion involving practically the same question.

Here are a few other particulars regarding this motion that might be important to know in preparation for the meeting, with some thoughts about how you might rule on them:

Since the motion would change action already taken by the assembly, [the motion to *Discharge a Committee*] requires (a) a two-thirds vote, (b) a majority vote when notice of intent to make the motion has been given at the previous meeting within a quarterly time interval or in the call of the present meeting, or (c) a vote of a majority of the entire membership – whichever is more practical to obtain. To prevent business from being delayed by a committee, however, there are two special circumstances under which the motion requires only a majority vote (even without notice): (a) if the committee fails to report within a prescribed time as instructed, and (b) while the assembly is considering any partial report of the committee. RRONR §36, #7, pg. 301.

Although the call for the meeting did not *specifically* mention this motion, it is clearly the *desire* of the session to bring the matter directly before the body, and I think you can safely so rule. Besides, the papers sent out with the call from the Task Force could be considered a “partial report” of the committee. Either way, it appears to me that only a majority vote should be required to discharge the task force, if that is the body’s desire.

Instead of discharging the committee, the assembly can instruct it to report at a reasonable specified time. A motion to do this is an incidental main motion (unless it is moved as a substitute for a motion to discharge the committee, in which case it is a subsidiary motion . . .). If no instruction as to time of reporting has been given previously, this motion requires only a majority vote for adoption. RRONR §36, pg. 302.

I have already been asked by several individuals for advice on what to do if they want the Task Force to complete its work. This, it seems to me, is the proper form for that motion. As you can see, such an instruction can take the form of *either* a main motion (which would be the case if no one has yet moved to *Discharge the Committee*) or a substitute motion (if the motion to *Discharge the Committee* is already before the body).

When a committee is discharged from further consideration of a question which was pending at the time of its referral and which was referred by means of the subsidiary motion to *Commit*, the question comes immediately before the assembly automatically at that time . . .

On the other hand, a motion to discharge a committee from further consideration of a subject that was referred to the committee by means of a *main* motion is a particular case of the motion to *Rescind* or to *Amend Something Previously Adopted*. When such a motion to *Discharge a Committee* has been adopted, another main motion is needed to bring before the assembly the matter that was referred; otherwise it dies.

Referral of the French Camp Session’s request to a task force at the October Stated Meeting occurred as a main motion from the Committee on Ministry. The matter has not yet come directly before the body; therefore, if a motion to discharge the Task Force passes, a motion must be made by someone regarding the session’s request. And that motion can, of course, be amended, substituted, postponed, etc.

The substance of this memorandum should probably be shared at least with the French Camp Session member who will be its commissioner to the meeting, and you may distribute it to anyone at your discretion. I do not consider its contents confidential.