

PRESBYTERY OF ST. ANDREW
SPRING STATED MEETING

Ripley Presbyterian Church – Ripley, Mississippi

May 1, 2007

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Minutes

The Presbytery of St. Andrew met for its Spring Stated Meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 1, 2007 at Ripley Presbyterian Church in Ripley, Mississippi.

The meeting began with a service of worship that included a sermon by the Rev. Joan Gray, Moderator of the 217th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and the installation of the 2007/8 Presbytery Youth Council.

The following individuals were installed to the Presbytery's Youth Council:

Molly Black, Babs Bouchillon, Bill Dickerson, Catherine Freeland, John Goodwin, Katie Hatcher, Bob Henson, Hannah Hill, Bert Huddleston, David Jackson, Hollis Kimmel, Molly Murphree, Hayden Phillips, Frances Sullivan-Gonzalez, Dee Walker, and Becky Worsham.

The following individuals were installed as advisors to the Youth Council:

Ann Kelly (Presbytery Staff), Steve Bryson, Forrest Foxworth, Daniel Howie, Jody Huddleston, and Jennifer Nelson.

Following a brief recess, the meeting was opened with prayer by the moderator. A quorum was declared present, and the following committees were appointed by the moderator: Committee to Review and Approve the Minutes of the meeting: Elder Brad Clark (Batesville), and the Rev. Louis Narowetz. Committee on Thanks: Elder Keith Shackelford (Booneville), and the Rev. Rita Cochrane.

The Presbytery was then officially welcomed to Ripley Presbyterian Church by its Pastor on the occasion of its 170th Anniversary. Visitors to the meeting and first time Commissioners were introduced.

The Rev. Joan Gray, Moderator of the 217th General Assembly and a minister member of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta was then recognized and brought greetings to the body on behalf of the larger church.

Roll of the Meeting

There were 75 voting members and commissioners present at the meeting, plus an additional 40 visitors and corresponding members, for a total enrollment of 115. The following ministers, elders, and visitors were enrolled for the meeting, and excused absences were granted as noted:

Minister Members (30):

John Akers	H.R., excused	Rusty Douglas	Absent
Frank Beck	Present	Donald Elliott	Present
Frank Brooks	H.R., Present	Joseph Etua	Present
Erin Bunnell	Present	McCoy Franklin	H.R., Excused
Jon Burnham	Present	David Freeman	H.R., Present
Tom Cheatham	Present	Coker George	Absent
Rita Cochrane	Present	Gregory Goodwiller	Present
William J. Connolly	Present	Tom Groome	Present
Katherine Cooke	Present	Scotty Hargrove	Absent
Belinda Curry	Excused	Sidney Harmon	Present

Robert Hatcher, Jr. Present
 Charles Holland H.R., Excused
 Donald Howie Present
 Wil Howie Present
 Michele Howie Absent
 Jennifer Johnson Excused
 Ann Laird Jones Excused
 Ann Kelly Present
 Bruce Lancaster Present
 James Landrum H.R., Excused
 Kent Landry Present
 James Maner H.R., Excused
 Wendell Manuel H.R., Excused
 Olin McBride Excused
 Barbara McKee H.R., Excused
 Louis Narowetz Present

Annette Ragsdale H.R., Present
 Judith Reese Present
 Ron Richardson H.R., Present
 John Robison H.R., Excused
 John Semmes Present
 Neil Sherman H.R., Excused
 Sandra Sisson Excused
 David Snellgrove H.R., Excused
 David Southcomb H.R., Excused
 Doug Sullivan-Gonzalez Present
 John Taylor Present
 Kelly Unger H.R., Excused
 Robert Walton H.R., Excused
 Richard Whitney H.R., Excused
 Heather Williamsen Present
 Don Wilson Present
 Milton Winter Present

Elder Commissioners (35):

Aberdeen, First Jimmy Wood
 Algoma, Monroe Excused
 Amory, First Jenifer Fisher
 Batesville Brad Clark
 Batesville, Blackjack Absent
 Batesville, Independence Jenny Sullivant
 Benoit Excused
 Blue Springs, Fairfield Tom Coker
 Booneville Keith Shackelford
 Byhalia, First Richard Tritinger
 Cleveland, First Excused
 Columbus, First John Earhart
 Corinth, Covenant Excused
 Corinth, First Randy Long
 Falkner Absent
 French Camp Larry Littlejohn
 French Camp, Huntsville Absent
 Greenville, Calvary Billy Glasgow
 Greenville, First John Sandefur
 Greenwood, First S.H. Jeff Lambdin
 Grenada, First Buddy Thompson
 Hamilton Absent
 Hernando, First Ray Hill
 Hollandale Absent
 Holly Springs, First Absent
 Horn Lake, New Bethlehem Absent

Lake Comorant, Eudora Absent
 Lamar Richard Gullick
 Leland Absent
 Louisville, Bethany Absent
 Louisville, Messiah Absent
 Louisville, St. James Absent
 McCool, Mt. Zion Absent
 Nesbit A.M. Taylor
 Nettleton Absent
 Oakland, Pine Hill Julian Allison
 Okolona Absent
 Okolona, Garden of Eden Absent
 Okolona, Wren Absent
 Olive Branch, Bethel Daryl Dye
 Oxford, First Thelma Curry
 Oxford, First (2) Martha Burnett
 Oxford, Sand Spring Absent
 Philadelphia, Dixon Absent
 Plantersville, Unity Absent
 Pontotoc, First Gary Kidd
 Rienzi, New Hope Evelyn Farrior
 Ripley Norris Howell
 Ripley, New Prospect Bernice Gaillard
 Ripley, Westminster Absent
 Rosedale Absent
 Saltillo, First Absent

Scobey, New Hope Absent
Senatobia Absent
Southaven, Providence Jimmy Braddock
Starkville, First Anna Marie Rasberry
Starkville, Osborn David Richardson
Starkville, Trinity Mike Goree
Sumner Frank Mitchener
Toccopola, Lebanon Dock Brown

Tunica, First Absent
Tupelo, First Kirk Biddle
Tupelo, First (2) Aubrey Patterson
Tupelo, Zion Absent
Van Vleet, Friendship Andrea Marshall
Waterford, Greenfield Absent
Weir Absent
West Point, First Souzen Deavers
West Point, Trinity Absent

Commissioned Lay Pastors (3):

Charles Caldwell Present
Gary Dunaway Absent
Tom Hewitt Present
Freddie Rasberry Present

Elders Enrolled for Terms of Service (7):

Bess Beckham
Nolan Waller
Sydney Shaw
Ann Wood
Dero Ramsey
Frank Chiles
Wiletta Swoope

Corresponding Members (with voice, but without vote) (2):

The Rev. Joan Gray, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta
The Rev. R. Christy Morgan, Presbytery of the Mid-South

Visitors (34):

Tony Franks, Beverly Thompson, Hale Freeland, Jo Anne Brooks, Katie Hatcher, Hannah Hill, Dick Atkins, Bicky Burgess, Scott Sullivant, Jimmy Gaillard, Molly Murphee, Harrison Barry, Ray Beckham, Tristan Clark, Tom Gary, Richard Oakes, Danny Kelly, Donita Schultz, W. E. Douglas, Ferrill Cunningham, Mary Ann Wilson, H. Glen Barlow, David Vincent, Ruth Gallway, Jack Jones, Nick Phillips, Mary Edith Walker, Bert Huddleston, Becky Worsham, Hayden Phillips, Mary Boteler, Sue Hatcher, Bill Parrish, Leroy Worsham

Presbytery Program Staff (4):

Camp Hopewell Staff: Darren and Allyson Ashmore, Jennifer Johnson; and Presbytery Staff: Kim Renfroe.

Report of the Stated Clerk

The docket for the meeting was presented by the Stated Clerk and adopted by common consent.

The Stated Clerk read a letter of apology from the Synod Executive regarding an error in the synod's newspaper regarding a motion to establish a policy for Special Administrative Review. The article attributed the motion to "St. Andrew Presbytery." The motion was actually from Synod's Executive Committee, upon recommendation of the Council of the Presbytery of St. Andrew.

The Stated Clerk then read an agreement to which the Presbytery of St. Andrew, through its legal counsel, has agreed to abide regarding its care and oversight of First Presbyterian Church, Corinth. This agreement successfully avoided a preliminary injunction hearing which had been requested by the Session of First Presbyterian Church. The substance of the agreement is as follows:

1. FPC Corinth agrees that the Presbytery may meet and proceed with all matters before it in accordance with the *Book of Order*, including specifically, but not limited to, the formation of an administrative commission to deal with issues related to FPC Corinth;
2. The Presbytery agrees that it will provide FPC Corinth with written notice 20 days prior to any attempt by the Presbytery (including any administrative commission of the Presbytery) to (a) remove FPC Corinth's Pastor, (b) assume original jurisdiction of FPC Corinth's Session, (c) file any documents in the conveyance records of Alcorn County or otherwise attempt to cloud the title of the subject property; (d) sell, encumber, or prevent access to the subject property; or (e) otherwise interfere with FPC Corinth's ability to prosecute this lawsuit;
3. FPC Corinth agrees that it will provide the Presbytery with written notice 20 days prior to any attempt by FPC Corinth to sell, encumber, or prevent access to the subject property.

The Presbytery does not agree that the Court can consider and delve into matters of church leadership, which would include issues relating to the Pastorate, Diaconate, or Session. The Presbytery, however, recognizes that FPC Corinth does not view the Court's involvement as interfering with ecclesiastical matters and is willing to participate in a hearing to allow the Court to determine whether it can decide these issues.

Report of Presbytery's Council

The report of the Presbytery's Council was given by Elder Nolan Waller, who reported as information that the Presbytery's Council has reviewed the reports of the committees prepared for this meeting and commends their recommendations to the Presbytery for its consideration.

Reports of Council's Program Committees

Report of the Administration and Stewardship Committee

Elder Sydney Shaw reported for the Administration and Stewardship Committee. The following items were presented for information:

1. The committee has met and reviewed financial statements for the presbytery and Camp Hopewell for the first quarter of 2007. They are attached for information (Attachment 1).
2. The Presbytery Executive was authorized to hire a summer intern for the presbytery office during the Administrative Assistant's maternity leave.

Elder Shaw then moved on behalf of the Committee that up to \$100,000 of the St. Stephen Church reserve fund be utilized to pay the presbytery's legal fees related to property issues. The motion was adopted by voice vote without discussion.

Report of the Camps and Conferences Committee

The Rev. Don Howie delivered the report of the Camps and Conferences Committee, noting the immediate need for a new pool at the camp, and describing the committee's efforts to organize a fundraising campaign for this purpose.

Report of the Campus Ministry Committee

An informational report of the Campus Ministry Committee was given by Elder Tom Hewitt, who discussed the ministry transition in Starkville, Mississippi, as a result of the presbytery's decision to delete the Associate Executive Presbyter for Campus Ministry position, and the ongoing campus ministry efforts of First Presbyterian Church, Starkville, and the Starkville Presbyterian Campus Ministry Board.

Report of the Education, Worship, and Nurture Committee

A Brief oral report was delivered by the Rev. Erin Bunnell, who called on the Rev. Katherine Cooke on behalf of the Clergy-Spouse task force. A survey was distributed regarding the idea of an overnight retreat later this fall in place of the usual clergy-spouse retreat which was postponed due to a lack of registration.

Report of the Evangelism and Church Development Committee

Elder Dero Ramsey called on the Rev. Kent Landry for a presentation on church growth efforts at Leland Presbyterian Church. His multimedia presentation highlighted several innovative programs.

Elder Ramsey then discussed the recent announcement that an automotive manufacturing facility will be located in Blue Springs, Mississippi, and the possible ramifications of this announcement on the presbytery's church growth efforts in that vicinity.

On behalf of the Evangelism and Church Development Committee, he moved that line item 535.30 be designated for a Staff Associate position at the Fairfield Presbyterian Church near Blue Springs, at an annual amount of \$15,000 with a three year commitment. The motion was adopted by voice vote.

Elder Tom Coker from the Fairfield church then asked to address the body, which was granted by common consent. He expressed his gratitude to the presbytery, and described the church's efforts to prepare for the growth coming to their area, noting the church's openness to receiving any ideas and suggestions from the presbytery.

Report of the Missions Committee

The Rev. Wil Howie delivered an informational report from the Missions Committee. The Presbytery of St. Andrew will sponsor a mini-mission trip to the Mississippi gulf coast on July 20 - 22, 2007, in an effort to interest more individuals in the ongoing hurricane relief efforts underway there.

Report of Presbytery's Ecclesiastical Committees

Report of the Governing Body Relations Committee

Elder Willetta Swoope reported that the following congregations have submitted their sessional records for review, and that the minutes have been found in order: FPC, Aberdeen; Calvary, Greenville; Booneville; Lebanon, Toccopola; FPC, Corinth; FPC, Pontotoc; FPC, Tupelo; and Fairfield, Blue Springs.

Report of the Committee on Ministry

Elder Frank Chiles reported for the Committee on Ministry. The following items were presented as information:

1. 2007 Triennial visits are now under way. The following sessions are scheduled to be visited this year:

Scobey, New Hope	Pontotoc, First	Leland
Van Vleet, Friendship	Hernando, First	Nesbit, First
Holly Springs, First	Lamar	Philadelphia, Dixon
Weir	Batesville	Batesville, Independence
Southaven, Providence	Rosedale, First	Starkville, Trinity
Columbus, First	Louisville, St. James	Olive Branch, Bethel
Waterford, Greenfield	Ripley	Oakland, Pine Hill
Ripley, New Prospect	Ripley, Westminster	Tupelo, First
Tupelo, Zion	Nesbit, New Bethlehem	Tunica, First
Nettleton		

2. The pastoral relationship between the Rev. Ann Jones and First Presbyterian Church, Greenville was dissolved at the request of both parties effective March 4, 2007, due to the church's determination that it can no longer afford an Associate Pastor position.
3. The Interim Pastor contract between the Rev. Judith Reese and Trinity Presbyterian Church, Starkville, has been extended for one year effective April 1, 2007.
4. At the Lay Pastor's request, the commission of Elder Charles Caldwell to the Hamilton Presbyterian Church has been ended.

Elder Chiles then reviewed the history of the Committee on Ministry's work with First Presbyterian Church, Corinth, after which he moved on behalf of the Committee that an administrative commission be appointed by the presbytery to the First Presbyterian Church of Corinth, Mississippi comprised of the

following individuals in accordance with G-9.0503a(4) of the *Book of Order* “to visit particular churches, governing bodies, or other organizations of the church reported to be affected with disorder, and to inquire into and settle the difficulties therein,” and that the commission be granted the authority to direct the presbytery’s legal counsel in any proceedings regarding First Presbyterian Church of Corinth, Mississippi and any other such responsibilities as the presbytery might assign at a future time:

Ministers:

Bill Connolly, Moderator
Annette Ragsdale
Frank Beck

Elders:

Aubrey Patterson (FPC, Tupelo)
Sue Hatcher (FPC, Columbus)
Iris Stacker (Calvary, Greenville)
Buford Givens (Senatobia)

Rev. Don Elliott, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Corinth spoke in favor of the recommendation, and asked three questions regarding the authority being granted to the commission at this time: is the commission being granted permission to remove the pastor? Is the commission being granted permission to assume original jurisdiction? Is the commission being granted permission to dismiss the congregation? The answer given to all three questions was “no.”

Elder Randy Long from FPC, Corinth then spoke in favor of the recommendation, recounting the session’s actions and interactions with the presbytery from the perspective of the FPC session.

It was moved by Rev. Semmes, seconded, and approved to call the question, after which the Committee’s recommendation was adopted unanimously.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to arrest the Committee on Ministry’s report and proceed to the Orders of the Day.

Several announcements of upcoming events were given, after which the body recessed for lunch at 12:30 p.m. with prayer by Rev. Connolly.

Following a delicious lunch in the Gregg Center, the Presbytery re-convened at 1:30 p.m. to continue its business.

Elder Chiles then moved on behalf of the Committee that the following ministers be named moderators of sessions as noted, which was approved on voice vote:

Tom Cheatham - Covenant, Corinth
Sid Harmon - Grenada, First
Heather Williamsen - Hamilton

Elder Chiles then noted that the Rev. Rusty Douglas had tendered his resignation as moderator of the session of French Camp Presbyterian Church. He moved that the resignation be accepted and that the Rev. Greg Goodwiller be appointed moderator of the French Camp Presbyterian Church session. The motion was seconded and adopted by voice vote.

Requests for changes in Terms of Call were then presented by Elder Chiles, who noted that the Ongoing Pastoral Relationships Sub-Committee has reviewed the changes, and determined that they meet or exceed the presbytery's minimum standards. He then moved that the changes be approved. The motion was seconded and adopted by voice. The changes so approved were as follows:

William J. Connolly to Ripley	from	\$ 73,143	to	\$ 77,845
John M. Semmes to First Church, Oxford	from	\$109,642	to	\$114,737
Katherine W. Cooke to First Church, Oxford	from	\$ 60,140	to	\$ 67,872
Rita Cochrane to First Church, West Point	from	\$ 53,992	to	\$ 56,179

Report of the Nominations Committee

Elder Bess Beckham delivered the report of the Nominations Committee, in which she noted the committee's response to the matter referred to it at the last stated meeting regarding a perceived geographic imbalance of representation on the presbytery's committees and its Council. The motion adopted by the Nominations Committee after reviewing the matter was as follows:

Following an in-depth study, we believe that the current imbalance does not need to be addressed with any changes at this time; however, we will continue to monitor this situation and seek to ensure that all regions of the presbytery are fairly represented on our committees and boards. We do encourage EVERY minister and session to actively recruit and present candidates to the Nominations Committee. A form will be provided for that purpose in the packet for each Spring Stated meeting in preparation for its fall slate of nominees."

Elder Beckham further noted that sessions in Areas "C" and "D" of the presbytery will have the privilege of nominating elders for consideration as the presbytery's Alternate Elder Commissioner to the 218th General Assembly, and Primary Commissioner to the 219th General Assembly, and that all sessions may nominate youth for consideration as our Youth Advisory Delegate to the 218th General Assembly. The Stated Clerk will send a mailing to this effect to the appropriate sessions in the coming months.

Other Reports

Elder Ann Wood delivered a brief oral report on the work of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of St. Andrew.

Elder Nolan Waller, Elder Commissioner to the Synod of Living Waters, then offered the following report on the synod's annual meeting:

A meeting of Synod is quite similar to a meeting of Presbytery. At the last meeting in January, 2007, for instance, most of the meeting was taken up with reports from various institutions, committees, and programs. The Synod Executive reported that for the second year in a row, the Synod finished last budget year in the black. Hurricane relief efforts are continuing as there are still churches needing repair of storm damage. The Living Waters for the World program continues to gain support and participation from many areas. A report of the January meeting appeared in the February issue of the Voice.

Since this is my last year of eligibility to serve as commissioner, I thought I might tell you what to expect if you should be chosen to serve as Commissioner to Synod. Terms are for two years, and you may be elected to two consecutive terms. The first thing that you can expect is that you will be assigned to a Synod committee—for example, Representation; Communications; Living Waters for the World; or Presbytery Ministry Partnership. Committees meet occasionally as the need arises, some more than others, and meetings are usually held at the Synod office in Franklin, Tennessee, a suburb of Nashville.

The Synod meets annually at a place chosen by the Executive Committee, usually at a church which has invited Synod to meet with them.

You may be asked to review the minutes of one of the twelve presbyteries that comprise the Synod of Living Waters. This is a somewhat tedious task but is quite informative.

My tenure as Commissioner has been overall a quite pleasant experience. Even the trips to meetings were mostly enjoyable, except for the one in Kentucky where snow was on the ground. I have met a lot of good people from the four states comprising the Synod and have enjoyed working with them. I trust that future commissioners will also have good experiences.

Respectfully submitted, E. Nolan Waller

The Rev. Rita Cochrane, Minister Commissioner to the Synod of Living Waters, then noted that her report, which follows, was submitted in writing to the body:

The Synod of Living Waters held its annual meeting January 29 and 30, 2007, at Rivermont Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga, TN

I left for Chattanooga immediately after worship on Sunday, thinking I had plenty of time to get to Chattanooga before dark. That was not to be. After stopping twice for directions, I was happy to get to the motel that was reserved for the members of Synod. Good with directions, even I got lost. I was not alone. There were several others in the lobby who had just arrived as well. We checked in and headed out for something to eat. We ran into others, including Pierce Buford, who were enjoying fellowship and food. Even during these challenging times, the Synod was a good place to be with fellow Presbyterians to enjoy fellowship, share meals and conduct the business of the Synod.

The meeting began with worship the following morning. Dan Sansbury, pastor of Rivermont, preached at the opening worship, assisted by Associate pastor Heather Shortlidge. Tom Pickering was thanked for his service as Moderator in 2006. Patrick Smith was installed as the 2007 moderator with Robyn Abel serving as Vice-Moderator.

Good news--it was reported that the Synod completed its budget in the black for the past two years. The 2007 budget was adopted in the amount of \$1,078,674.00

Executive Presbyter of Mississippi Presbytery, Rev. Bill dePrater, reported on the ongoing efforts at Hurricane Katrina relief.

Good news--Steve Young, administrator for Living Waters for the World gave a presentation and informed us that they were to receive the Birthday Offering grant from Presbyterian Women for 2007. This gift will amount to close to \$250,000 in support of Clean Water U.

The next morning, newly elected Moderator Patrick Smith gave the message at worship about the nature of Presbyterianism; a church dedicated to the nurture of people, a love of preaching and a commitment to service in the world.

This was followed by a prolonged discussion about a motion from the Synod Executive Committee to establish a policy for Special Administrative Reviews. The motion states that the "primary reason for adopting a policy for Special Administrative Review is to ensure that the Synod has the opportunity to respond in a timely fashion to matters requiring such a response.." Such matters might include cases in the Presbytery of Mississippi, the Presbytery of the Mid-South or the matter of Signal Mountain church in East Tennessee Presbytery. The motion passed with a 20-3 vote.

Following this matter a motion was presented that the Synod conduct a Special Administrative Review of the actions of the Presbytery of Mississippi relating to church property issues in accordance with G-9.0408 and G-9.0409. This motion, after much discussion, passed with a vote of 17 in favor and 3 opposed.

Yes, these are difficult times . . .

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Cochrane, minister commissioner, Presbytery of St. Andrew

Reports of Special Committees

The Rev. Kent Landry reported for the Task Force to French Camp Presbyterian Church. The committee's report, as submitted, was as follows:

On December 6, 2006, the congregation of the French Camp Presbyterian Church voted to request that they be dismissed to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARP). The vote of the congregation was almost unanimous (92%) in support of this course of action. The session of French Camp communicated this decision to the Presbytery by letter and this Task Force was eventually appointed by the Presbytery to lead the Presbytery in its consideration of the request. At the called meeting of the Presbytery on March 26, 2007, the Presbytery voted that this Task Force should have a recommendation for the Presbytery for the May 1, 2007 meeting. This is our recommendation and report.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the ARP, suffice it to say that it is a old (1782) Presbyterian branch closely associated with Scots who settled in the South. It is most heavily concentrated in the Carolinas and Georgia with a total membership of approximately 200 churches with 30,000 members. The ARP has indicated their willingness to receive the French Camp church into their communion.

The Task Force has been in conversation and prayer with the session and membership of the French Camp church during this difficult time. In addition, the members of this Task Force have also been in

frequent contact with many of the pastors, sessions and members of our various congregations throughout the Presbytery. We are well aware of the history of the French Camp Church, the French Camp Academy and this Presbytery and its predecessors, much of which was discussed in our prior draft sent out to all of our churches in February 2007. Members of our Presbytery have and continue to support the Academy faithfully, this Presbytery's leadership was crucial in the renovations and expansion of the church property in the 1980s and that the Academy and the Church are separate entities but they are also linked by a long-standing history and relationship.

As a result of these conversations, the Task Force recognizes that opinions of what to do about this request are numerous and varied. We have been asked to recommend the whole range of options, from not dismissing the congregation to dismissing them with their property without consideration and everything in between.

On February 6, 2007, this Presbytery voted that we would not implement a single rule in dealing with requests of this sort. In fact, the Presbytery voted that "the presbytery will deal with property issues on a case-by-case basis, being mindful of our ultimate unity in Christ." We take very seriously this statement and have been guided by its wisdom throughout our discussions and deliberations. We are aware of the many congregations that are discontent with the denomination and are considering leaving our fellowship as well as the concerns of many that what we do here today will set some precedent in our Presbytery's dealings with similar situations. However, we feel that each church and ministry is unique and that our recommendation is just and fair.

Recommendation: The Presbytery dismiss the congregation of the French Camp Presbyterian Church to the ARP. The property of the French Camp Presbyterian Church will be given to the Church in recognition of a \$75,000 gift from the Church, which is to be placed in an appropriate fund (we suggest it be used to help build a new pool at Camp Hopewell and/or to support Living Waters for the World).

Respectfully submitted,

The French Camp Task Force
(Olin McBride, Kent Landry, Bob Rogers, Billy B. Phillips and Jean Magee)

Rev. Landry then moved the recommendation above on behalf of the task force.

Elder Frank Mitchener moved to amend the recommendation by striking "\$75,000" and inserting "\$30,000." The motion was seconded and adopted by voice vote, after discussion.

The Rev. Milton Winter, the Presbytery's Resource Center Director and Historian, then moved to amend the recommendation by adding a requirement that the French Camp Church submit to the presbytery a full and complete copy of its minutes. This motion was seconded and adopted by voice vote.

Elder Freddie Rasberry then moved that the recommendation be amended by striking the parenthetical phrase "(we suggest it be used to help build a new pool at Camp Hopewell and/ to support Living Waters for the World)" and inserting, "designated as a gift to French Camp Academy." The motion received a second, but after discussion it was defeated by a voice vote.

The Rev. Don Elliott then Called the Previous Question. After it was determined that the body was ready to vote, the motion, as amended, was adopted as follows:

The Presbytery dismiss the congregation of the French Camp Presbyterian Church to the ARP. The property of the French Camp Presbyterian Church will be given to the Church in recognition of a \$30,000 gift from the Church, which is to be placed in an appropriate fund (we suggest it be used to help build a new pool at Camp Hopewell and/or to support Living Waters for the World), and the submission to the presbytery of a full and complete copy of the church's minutes.

The report of the Committee on Thanks was given by Elder Keith Shackelford, as follows:

On behalf of the Presbytery of St. Andrew, may we express our appreciation to the Ripley Presbyterian Church for their hospitality, their fellowship, food, and beautiful flowers.

We have been blessed today by our Moderator Joan Gray and her inspiring message, and we salute you on your anniversary and wish for you another 170 years.

New Business

The Rev. Milton Winter moved to place Rev. Sam Patterson's paper, "Seeking a Biblical Basis for the Conduct of Believers Who Are in an Erring Church" in the hands of the presbytery and particularly in the hands of the committee appointed to draft an overture to the 218th General Assembly. This motion was seconded and adopted by a voice vote, and the paper is attached to these minutes as "Attachment 2."


The Rev. John Taylor then moved to direct the Education, Worship, and Nurture Committee to sponsor a presbytery-wide workshop on church property. The motion was seconded and adopted by voice vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned with prayer by the Moderator.

Gregory A. Goodwiller, Stated Clerk



Approved June 13, 2007

attest 

Account name

Year to Date

Assets

General Account	9,742.09
Special Account Balance	552,427.44
Campus Ministry	4,122.39
Ministers Emergency Fund	8,714.97
Salary Emergency Fund	56,813.22
Investment in Camp Hopewell	4,804,301.90
Real Estate-Office	199,489.00
Real Estate-Louisville	89,750.00
Real Estate - Providence	149,559.00
Office Equipment	92,161.56
Crumpton Fund	8,425.44
Louise Childers' Fund	3,300.31
Jim Stanford Youth Leadership	3,962.62
Gift Annuity	77,855.00
Total Assets	<u>\$6,060,624.94</u>

Liabilities and Fund Balances

Accounts Payable	\$5,215.43
Total Liabilities	<u>\$5,215.43</u>

General Fund	23,072.71
Fund Balance-Fixed Assets	527,349.00
Reserved Fund	69,848.07
Fund Balance - Camp Hopewell	4,804,301.90
Total Special Fund Balances	\$630,837.83
Total Fund Balance	<u>\$6,055,409.51</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$6,060,624.94</u>

	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers	End Balance
Missionary Support	0.00	350.00	350.00	0.00	0.00
Hurricane Katrina Relief	73,485.44	100.00	1,370.62	0.00	72,214.82
Stewardship	8,333.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,333.33
Camp Hopewell	0.00	3,408.00	3,408.00	0.00	0.00
Campus Ministry	50.00	1,710.04	0.00	0.00	1,760.04
Christmas Joy	831.00	4,141.98	4,141.98	0.00	831.00
Legal Fees	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Witness Offering	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pentecost Offering	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mothers Day Offering	43.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	43.60
One Great Hour of Sharing	(155.00)	1,203.04	1,203.04	0.00	(155.00)
Living Waters Project	0.00	4,442.83	4,292.83	0.00	150.00
Presbyterian Mission	309.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	309.35
2 Cents a Meal	13,378.22	2,024.35	0.00	0.00	15,402.57
Heifer Project	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hunger Offering	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hunger for Presbytery	1,287.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,287.64
Peacemaking Offering	5,218.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,218.47
G.A. Unif Missionary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Emergency Food Relief	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00
Disaster Relief	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Montreat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Presbyterian School of CE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Historical Foundation	0.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
Coffeeville	4,344.94	0.00	572.71	0.00	3,772.23
American Bible Society	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund for Theological Ed	458.33	3,000.92	3,000.92	0.00	458.33
Columbia Seminary	0.00	418.50	418.50	0.00	0.00
Louisville Seminary	0.00	333.50	333.50	0.00	0.00
Union Seminary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Austin Seminary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stillman College	0.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
Mary Holmes College	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Belhaven College	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rhodes College	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
French Camp Academy	41.67	1,956.97	1,956.97	0.00	41.67
Palmer Home	0.00	2,918.00	2,918.00	0.00	0.00
Chamberlain Hunt	0.00	270.00	270.00	0.00	0.00
Medical Benevolent Fund	0.00	390.00	390.00	0.00	0.00
Mission Haven	0.00	270.00	270.00	0.00	0.00
NTEM Partnership	473.52	210.00	150.00	0.00	533.52
Childers Fund	3,375.08	25.41	0.00	0.00	3,400.49
Hopewell Church	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stanford Endowment Fund	3,962.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,962.62
Crumpton Fund	8,560.20	45.86	0.00	0.00	8,606.06
Crisis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
New Church Development	84,198.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	84,198.39
E.N. Bruce Memorial Fund	365.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	365.00
Loan Repay - Coker	750.00	825.00	0.00	0.00	1,575.00
Clean Water U	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Special Fund	77,855.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	77,855.00
Campus Ministry Expansion	1,949.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,949.70
Prepaid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Evangelism Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
General Fund Reserve	20,270.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,270.95
Office Equipment Reserve	3,181.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,181.93
Office Repair Reserve	8,765.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,765.84
Reserve for NCD Building	40,802.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,802.57
St. Stephen Church	271,666.92	0.00	13,689.21	0.00	257,977.71
Continuing Ed - Goodwiller	2,910.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,910.00
Continuing Ed - Cheatham	1,315.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,315.00
Total	\$641,029.71	\$28,564.40	\$38,756.28	\$0.00	\$630,837.83

Fund: Missionary Support thru Continuing Ed - Cheatham

Account Number	Account Name	Current Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
<i>Income</i>					
411.00	Per Capita	0.00	24,422.61	92,701.00	68,278.39
411.05	Unified Giving	0.00	94,328.03	432,000.00	337,671.97
411.06	Tapestry	0.00	6,094.00	5,000.00	(1,094.00)
411.07	Clergy-Spouse Retreat	0.00	675.00	7,500.00	6,825.00
411.08	Selected Giving-Presbytery	0.00	250.04	18,000.00	17,749.96
411.11	Grant Income	0.00	10,659.48	40,000.00	29,340.52
411.12	Hunger Action Grant	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00
411.16	New Covenant Funds (Camp Min)	0.00	0.00	24,000.00	24,000.00
411.98	General Account Interest	0.00	191.73	1,600.00	1,408.27
	Total General Income	\$0.00	\$139,620.89	\$623,801.00	\$484,180.11
	Total Income	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$139,620.89</u>	<u>\$623,801.00</u>	<u>\$484,180.11</u>
<i>Expense</i>					
510.10	G.A. Unified	1,750.00	1,750.00	7,000.00	5,250.00
510.30	G.A. Per Capita	9,350.75	9,350.75	37,403.00	28,052.25
510.40	Synod Unified	4,500.00	4,500.00	18,000.00	13,500.00
510.50	Synod Per Capita	5,846.25	5,846.25	23,385.00	17,538.75
	Total Gov. Body Commitments	\$21,447.00	\$21,447.00	\$85,788.00	\$64,341.00
520.10	Employer Social Security	(10,402.04)	(2,670.56)	4,598.95	7,269.51
520.20	Salaries	2,329.80	16,308.60	55,915.00	39,606.40
520.30	Pension and Insurance	0.00	2,410.17	17,333.65	14,923.48
520.50	Salary-Janitorial	0.00	1,050.48	4,202.00	3,151.52
	Total Non-Ordained Expense	(\$8,072.24)	\$17,098.69	\$82,049.60	\$64,950.91
530.20	Executive Salary	1,995.63	13,969.41	47,895.00	33,925.59
530.30	Housing & Utilities	1,180.21	8,261.47	28,325.00	20,063.53
530.35	Continuing Ed	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
530.50	Board of Pensions	0.00	5,628.51	23,628.20	17,999.69
530.60	Social Security	242.95	1,700.65	5,830.83	4,130.18
530.70	Assoc Exec - Camps - Salary	1,373.33	9,613.31	32,960.00	23,346.69
530.80	Assoc Exec - Camps - Housing	645.04	4,515.28	15,481.00	10,965.72
531.00	Assoc Exec - Camps - BOP	0.00	3,997.71	15,016.71	11,019.00
531.10	Assoc Exec - Camps - S.S.	926.44	926.44	3,705.74	2,779.30
532.20	Assoc Exec. - MSU - Salary	0.00	8,141.64	21,711.00	13,569.36
532.30	Assoc Exec - MSU -Housing	0.00	3,960.75	10,562.00	6,601.25
532.35	Assoc Exec - MSU - Cont. Ed.	0.00	380.53	1,000.00	619.47
532.40	Assoc Exec - MSU - BOP	0.00	3,555.00	10,004.63	6,449.63
532.50	Assoc Exec - MSU - SS	0.00	925.83	2,468.88	1,543.05
	Total Called Ordained Expense	\$6,363.60	\$65,576.53	\$220,088.99	\$154,512.46
535.00	Staff Assoc - Camp.Min.-Tunica	0.00	0.00	0.00	
535.10	Staff Assoc - Resource Ctr Dir	0.00	4,500.00	18,000.00	13,500.00
535.20	Staff Assoc. - Global Missions	0.00	5,793.75	23,175.00	17,381.25
535.30	Larger Parish Support	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
535.40	Staff Assoc - Hunger Action	0.00	750.00	3,000.00	2,250.00
	Total Staff Associate Expense	\$0.00	\$11,043.75	\$54,175.00	\$43,131.25
540.20	Committee Expense	0.00	92.80	500.00	407.20
540.30	Office Operations	535.82	5,457.57	15,000.00	9,542.43
540.31	Office - Building	414.75	6,713.87	21,000.00	14,286.13
540.32	Office - Travel & Epenses	1,103.61	5,118.94	21,000.00	15,881.06
540.40	Communications	400.00	1,800.00	5,600.00	3,800.00
549.90	Stated Clerk	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Total Office & Administration	\$2,454.18	\$19,183.18	\$63,100.00	\$43,916.82
550.10	Committee Expense	76.80	212.80	750.00	537.20
550.20	CTS/St Andrew Study	0.00	0.00	4,200.00	4,200.00
550.30	Pastor to Pastor/Spouses (sal)	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
550.40	Pastor to Pastor/Spouses (exp)	0.00	0.00	0.00	

04/13/07

Account Number	Account Name	Current Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
550.45	Clergy-Spouse Retreat Expenses	0.00	584.20	7,500.00	6,915.80
550.50	Resource Center	660.00	541.77	2,000.00	1,458.23
550.70	Youth Ministry	122.21	5,040.77	9,000.00	3,959.23
550.80	Training and Program	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
550.90	Tapestry	0.00	10,601.99	11,000.00	398.01
	Total Education and Nurture	\$859.01	\$16,981.53	\$38,700.00	\$21,718.47
555.10	Committee Expense	0.00	44.00	1,250.00	1,206.00
555.15	Program Support - Ole Miss	0.00	0.00	0.00	
555.16	Program Support - MS State	0.00	1,500.00	6,000.00	4,500.00
555.17	Program Support - Delta State	0.00	1,750.00	7,000.00	5,250.00
555.18	Program/Salary Support - MUW	0.00	2,100.00	8,400.00	6,300.00
555.30	State-Wide Retreat	0.00	367.88	1,600.00	1,232.12
555.35	Programs & Events	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
	Total Campus Ministry	\$0.00	\$5,761.88	\$24,750.00	\$18,988.12
560.10	Committee on Ministry	0.00	966.62	2,000.00	1,033.38
560.30	CPM - Prep for Ministry	0.00	408.16	5,000.00	4,591.84
560.33	CLP Training & Cont. Ed	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
560.35	First Call Partnership	0.00	0.00	750.00	750.00
	Total COM/CPM Ministries	\$0.00	\$1,374.78	\$8,250.00	\$6,875.22
570.10	Evangelism Committee Exp	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
570.40	Congregational Revitalization	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
	Total Evangelism & Church Dev.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
570.60	New Church Development	0.00	293.80	500.00	206.20
	Total New Church Development	\$0.00	\$293.80	\$500.00	\$206.20
580.10	Council Expense	0.00	212.80	1,500.00	1,287.20
580.16	Legal Fees	0.00	961.00	3,000.00	2,039.00
580.20	PJC	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
580.30	Trustees	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
580.40	Evaluation	0.00	20.00	500.00	480.00
580.50	Nominations	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
580.60	Representations	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
580.80	Governing Body Relations	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
580.90	Missions	0.00	142.10	1,000.00	857.90
581.00	Camps and Conferences	0.00	4,250.00	25,500.00	21,250.00
	Total Council & Program	\$0.00	\$5,585.90	\$32,800.00	\$27,214.10
590.20	Equipment Replacement	0.00	(150.00)	2,000.00	2,150.00
590.30	Office Repairs	0.00	0.00	1,900.00	1,900.00
	Total Other Expenses	\$0.00	(\$150.00)	\$3,900.00	\$4,050.00
	Total Expenses	<u>\$23,051.55</u>	<u>\$164,197.04</u>	<u>\$616,101.59</u>	<u>\$451,904.55</u>
	Difference	<u>(\$23,051.55)</u>	<u>(\$24,576.15)</u>	<u>\$7,699.41</u>	

Account name

Year to Date

Assets

Bancorp South - General	683.36
PCUSA Found-Endowment	2,639,950.63
Endowment Fund Receivable	220,826.33
Land	89,657.00
Building	692,748.00
Equipment	156,748.64
Improvements	73,206.00
Cornerstone Lodge	210,919.00
Overlook Lodge	387,376.92
Williamson Expansion	255,989.79
Capital Improvements	324,447.58
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$5,052,553.25</u>

Liabilities and Fund Balances

TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$227,532.95</u>
Fund Balance - General	(24,458.33)
Fund Balance - Property	1,621,986.00
Endowment Fund	2,653,965.94
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS	<u>\$573,526.69</u>
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	<u>\$4,825,020.30</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$5,052,553.25</u>

	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers	End Balance
Diabetic Fund	3,177.70	6,500.00	0.00	0.00	9,677.70
CLWC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,404.00
Scholarship Fund	11,821.51	984.00	0.00	0.00	4,401.51
Development Fund	5,523.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,523.23
Bricks of Honor	2,070.57	200.00	746.00	0.00	1,524.57
Pool	2,920.00	2,555.00	0.00	0.00	5,475.00
Maintenance Support	0.00	32,868.00	32,868.00	0.00	0.00
Total	<u>\$25,513.01</u>	<u>\$43,107.00</u>	<u>\$33,614.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$35,006.01</u>

Fund: Diabetic Fund thru Maintenance Support

Account Number	Account Name	Current Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
<u>Income</u>					
411.01	Presbytery	0.00	4,250.00	25,500.00	21,250.00
411.02	Annual Ministry	0.00	2,090.00	10,000.00	7,910.00
411.03	Resident Camp	2,900.00	17,490.00	165,000.00	147,510.00
411.05	Presbyterian Rental	80.00	26,010.00	66,000.00	39,990.00
411.06	Other Rental	1,790.00	18,697.50	90,000.00	71,302.50
411.08	Concessions	0.00	298.00	10,000.00	9,702.00
411.10	Transfers - Diabetic Fund	0.00	0.00	8,500.00	8,500.00
411.11	Transfers - CLWC	0.00	0.00	13,000.00	13,000.00
411.12	Transfers - Scholarship Fund	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
411.13	Transfers - Development Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	
411.14	Transfers - Endowment Income	0.00	32,868.00	130,000.00	97,132.00
411.15	Interest	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	TOTAL INCOME	\$4,770.00	\$101,703.50	\$521,000.00	\$419,296.50
<u>Expense</u>					
510.30	Education - Director	0.00	151.93	1,000.00	848.07
510.40	Travel - Director	301.71	420.52	3,200.00	2,779.48
	DIRECTORS	\$301.71	\$572.45	\$4,200.00	\$3,627.55
530.01	Social Security	65.94	461.58	1,582.60	1,121.02
530.02	Secretary/Registrar	861.98	6,033.86	20,687.55	14,653.69
530.03	S/R Benefits	0.00	1,466.64	5,184.00	3,717.36
530.10	Telephone	177.30	2,050.62	7,000.00	4,949.38
530.20	Postage	0.00	321.95	1,500.00	1,178.05
530.30	Supplies	0.00	540.02	2,100.00	1,559.98
530.40	Publicity	0.00	3,271.30	7,000.00	3,728.70
530.50	Equipment & Service	0.00	0.00	800.00	800.00
530.60	Committee Expense	0.00	245.30	500.00	254.70
530.70	Credit Merchant Fees	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
530.90	Audit	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
530.95	Workers Comp.	0.00	1,625.27	7,000.00	5,374.73
	OFFICE	\$1,105.22	\$16,016.54	\$56,854.15	\$40,837.61
540.01	Social Security - PD	73.91	517.37	5,139.75	4,622.38
540.02	Program Director/Host	966.10	6,762.70	23,186.33	16,423.63
540.03	Insurance PD/Host	0.00	2,154.36	8,554.00	6,399.64
540.04	Ed/Travel - PD/Host	0.00	292.09	1,500.00	1,207.91
540.05	Camp Staff Salaries	0.00	0.00	44,000.00	44,000.00
540.10	Arts & Crafts	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
540.20	Curriculum/Library	0.00	407.17	500.00	92.83
540.30	Program Equipment	0.00	42.27	500.00	457.73
540.40	First Aid	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
540.50	Staff Travel	0.00	78.67	500.00	421.33
540.60	Horse Program	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
540.70	Program Supplies - Camp	0.00	39.27	2,000.00	1,960.73
540.80	Program Travel	0.00	0.00	6,500.00	6,500.00
540.90	Staff Training	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
541.00	Refunds	0.00	480.00	0.00	
541.01	Program Supplies - Retreat	0.00	162.55	500.00	337.45
541.10	Retreat Leadership	0.00	602.80	700.00	97.20
542.10	Accredit/Licence Fees	400.00	600.00	1,600.00	1,000.00
542.50	Accident: Resident Camp	0.00	0.00	3,400.00	3,400.00
545.00	Staff Recruiting/Retention	0.00	497.90	1,900.00	1,402.10
546.00	Background Checks	0.00	0.00	600.00	600.00
547.00	Incentives	0.00	17.25	2,000.00	1,982.75
	CAMP PROGRAM	\$1,440.01	\$12,654.40	\$108,580.08	\$96,405.68
550.01	Social Security	96.30	840.90	4,250.00	3,409.10
550.02	Food Service Manager	869.45	6,086.15	20,866.77	14,780.62
550.03	FSM Benefits	0.00	1,540.89	5,184.00	3,643.11
550.10	Food	66.32	18,245.34	80,000.00	61,754.66
550.50	Cooks	402.90	5,002.69	33,000.00	27,997.31

Account Number	Account Name	Current Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
FOOD SERVICE		\$1,434.97	\$31,715.97	\$143,300.77	\$111,584.80
560.20	Drinks	0.00	79.39	500.00	420.61
560.30	T-shirts	0.00	1,395.28	2,500.00	1,104.72
560.40	Photos	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
560.60	Souvenirs	0.00	201.11	2,500.00	2,298.89
CONCESSION		\$0.00	\$1,675.78	\$7,000.00	\$5,324.22
570.01	Social Security	111.29	755.34	2,424.00	1,668.66
570.02	Site Manager	966.10	6,762.70	23,186.33	16,423.63
570.03	Insurance - Site Manager	0.00	2,154.36	8,554.00	6,399.64
570.04	Ed/Travel - Site Manager	0.00	284.45	1,500.00	1,215.55
570.05	Maintenance Assistants	513.50	3,134.34	8,500.00	5,365.66
570.06	Outdoor Equipment	0.00	1,302.84	2,000.00	697.16
570.10	Vehicle Care/Repair	0.00	140.85	1,900.00	1,759.15
570.20	Fuel	98.50	1,023.00	5,000.00	3,977.00
570.30	Grounds Care	636.65	781.39	5,000.00	4,218.61
570.40	Equipment Care/Repair	153.36	417.45	1,500.00	1,082.55
570.50	Building Care/Repair	39.85	2,514.15	20,000.00	17,485.85
570.60	Cleaning Supplies	0.00	1,523.45	5,000.00	3,476.55
570.65	Kitchen Cleaning Supplies	0.00	779.59	3,000.00	2,220.41
570.70	Tools & Equipment	26.72	342.80	2,000.00	1,657.20
570.80	Pool Care/Repair	0.00	26.89	2,000.00	1,973.11
571.00	Capital Improvements	0.00	0.00	0.00	
571.02	Loan Repayment	0.00	0.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
571.10	Waste Removal	87.00	271.00	1,300.00	1,029.00
571.30	Property & Liability	0.00	9,050.49	32,000.00	22,949.51
571.40	Equity Allowance	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
MAINTENANCE		\$2,632.97	\$31,265.09	\$138,864.33	\$107,599.24
590.10	Electricity	0.00	7,235.52	34,000.00	26,764.48
590.20	Gas	32.10	10,012.85	20,500.00	10,487.15
590.30	Water	0.00	2,482.94	7,500.00	5,017.06
UTILITIES		\$32.10	\$19,731.31	\$62,000.00	\$42,268.69
TOTAL EXPENSE		<u>\$6,946.98</u>	<u>\$113,631.54</u>	<u>\$520,799.33</u>	<u>\$407,647.79</u>
Difference		<u>(\$2,176.98)</u>	<u>(\$11,928.04)</u>	<u>\$200.67</u>	

A Paper on

SEEKING A BIBLICAL BASIS FOR THE CONDUCT OF BELIEVERS

WHO ARE IN AN ERRING CHURCH

by

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BIBLICAL CONCERNS AND CONDUCT OF TRUE BELIEVERS IN THE FACE OF AN ERRING CHURCH

THE ISSUE

From Christ and the Apostles there comes to us in the New Testament warnings that in the course of time, and at the end of this present age, there will be grave departures within the church at the point of doctrine and conduct.

Matthew	7:15-20 24:10-14
Acts	20:28-32
II Timothy	3:1-4 4:1-4 2:1-3
II Peter I John	4:1

As we face today the tension caused by error and various approaches to apostasy in the church; as we face the possible or probable division within our own denomination, the **issue could be stated as follows:**

What course does the true believer discover in Scripture for his course and conduct in the face of an erring, apostasizing, or even apostate church?

The purpose of this paper is not to attempt to prove or disprove various charges of apostasy in the church, and in our own denomination, but rather to address itself to the proper Biblical course for believers when their circumstances place them in a time of church apostasy.

PRESUPPOSITION PRINCIPLES

For folk of Reformed Faith our church, world, and life view is established and supported by two tremendous facts which must determine our outlook, attitude and conduct:

The Scriptures provide our only infallible guide.

The Sovereignty of God is the church's stay and support, forbidding our "playing God" with the church, but encouraging our obeying God in regard to the church.

1. *The Scriptures* are to be appealed to in this issue as "the only rule to direct us."

We may not appeal too much to church history but to the church's Book. We may not appeal too much to the Reformers, etc., as to their course, but directly to the Book they brought back to guide us.

As we contemplate a possible division, or separation within the denomination in which the Sovereign Providence of God has placed us, we may not appeal to our discomfort and unhappiness ("I'm fed up," "I'm tired of fighting," "I've taken all I can," etc.). To be led by these things can result in petulant disobedience to God. Our feelings must be, in themselves, set aside that we pay appeal wholly and directly to the Scriptures for guidance.

In our appeal to Scriptures we must seek to:

- a. Avoid seeking to support a personal prejudice.
- b. Avoid using a "proof-text" approach, rather than seeking the full sweep of Biblical truth in the matter.
- c. Affirm our Reformed belief that the Church is one in the Old Testament and the New Testament and recognize that precept and example in both Testaments are applicable.

2. *The Sovereignty of God* assures the church of His sufficient power, wisdom and concern for the fulfillment of His purposes in the church of His Son.

By His sovereign providence we have been placed as ministers in the Presbyterian Church U.S. When we took our ordination vows we bore clear evidence that (1) we believed the Presbyterian Church U.S. to be a true part of the true Body of Christ on earth, (2) we believed He was placing us in *this* part of the Body of Christ, and (3) we were obligating ourselves to seek the purity and peace of *this* church with zeal.

We may not play god but rather obey God in our conduct of the affairs of His Church, or of our own ministry.

Our Sovereign God will guide, chasten, shape, shame, revive, withdraw power from, and otherwise deal with the church in the course of her periods of obedience and of disobedience. It is for *Him alone* to dispose of her and to predestine her. It is *for us* to obey Him in her and set at doing it earnestly.

Keeping constantly before us His sovereign power and purpose will contain our impatience so we can, with patience and with obedience, look in the Bible for His way for us.

SOME SCRIPTURE CONSIDERED

In seeking to find our course in the face of apostasy and error within the church, the following Scriptures are suggested as having some bearing:

Exodus 32

Perhaps we can call this the initial apostasy of the Church. Delivered by God from Egyptian bondage under the leadership of Moses, in a temporary absence of Moses, Israel cried: "Up, make us gods who will go before us. . ." (32:1) They proceeded to make and worship a golden calf. God

tested Moses with, "...let me alone...that I may consume them; but of you I will make a great nation." In other words, "Let me scrap these and start a new church with you." God was pleased with Moses' reply and did not consider it to be compromise with evil. (*Exodus 32:11-14*) He reminds God that they are His people, erring as they are, and appeals for God's covenant providence and blessing for them. No "new church" came of this but chastening did!

Numbers 14

Perhaps this could be called the second apostasy of the church. At Kadesh, promised success by God, the people of God are commanded to go in and take the promised land. They react in fear of the people to be encountered and rebel against God and Moses. Moses, Aaron, Caleb and Joshua appeal to Israel to obey God and trust Him. All is to no avail. God is disobeyed. Moses' leadership is rejected. The people almost stone the four faithful men. God again speaks of abandoning Israel and starting a new church with Moses, "How long will they despise me...not believe me? I will strike them...and make of you a greater and mightier nation."

Again Moses evidently pleases God by mediating for Israel, appealing to the fact that God's honor and name are at stake in seeing Israel through; appealing to the power of God, and His promise of patience, "saying, 'The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but will not clear the guilty...'" He then says, "Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray Thee, according to the greatness of Thy steadfast love, according as thou has forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now." (*Numbers 14:13-19*)

God did not consider this a compromise by Moses. It pleased Him. No new church emerged. However, a wilderness journey for many years stretched ahead of this disobedient church. Moses, Aaron, Caleb and Joshua went right along with the erring ones in this wilderness way, though they did not go along with their rebellion. *They were at once separated from disobedient Israel by their faithfulness, but in and among them in their ministry.*

Daniel 9

God's people, because of their deep and persistent disobedience to Him, were chastened in part with the Babylonian captivity. Daniel had been, we may be sure, a faithful servant of God, not sharing in the evil ways of the people...and yet he ended in Babylon as a captive because of the sins of the people. There, instead of renouncing the people of God in their sins, he prayed to God on their behalf and gave us one of the greatest prayers of pathos and passion in the Bible. Though *not* a party to their delinquency he identifies himself with them and their sins, appeals for mercy and concludes, "O my God incline thine ear and hear; open thine eyes and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name; for we do not present our supplications before thee on the ground of our righteousness, but on the ground of thy great mercy. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord give heed and act; delay not, for thy own name's sake, O my God, because thy city and thy people are called by thy name."!

What a prayer! Is this in contrast to how we express our concern for the erring church today? Do we love, intercede for, identify with, assume our share of guilt in, and seek to keep both ourselves and our God related to her?

The approach of Daniel in an apostate church seems to be the pattern of God's men in the Old Testament church.

Jeremiah

Representative of the Prophets of the Old Testament is Jeremiah. The heart-beat of his problem and purpose is found in the book by his name.

The prophets, to some degree, seem to be **independent** forces the Lord raised up to counter, in part, the erring and evil priesthood and kings. The priest and kings often disliked the prophets whom they could not control and who criticized them. Jeremiah was a prophet of a priestly family.

Though independent in mission, God *never* used the prophets to start new bodies, churches, etc.

Jeremiah is a sample. Faced with a situation in Israel comparable to our situation today in the church, he wanted to quit, or get out, even wished he had not been born. Yet God refused to let him have an exit, kept him **in** that erring people until at last he was with them way down in Egypt as God's voice in their midst, though God, through Jeremiah, had forbidden the move to Egypt.

Zephaniah 3

Last of the minor prophets before the captivity, Zephaniah was unsparing in his pronouncements regarding Judah, Jerusalem and other nations. Chapter 3 presents what is considered to be a "Woe" against Jerusalem. We might think of Jerusalem as the "headquarters" of the church of the Old Testament, the place of the church leaders. "Woe to you, rebellious and defiled, the oppressing city" (3:1) are his opening words. He mentions "her officials" (v.3), "her judges" (v.3), "her prophets" (v.4), and "her priests" (v.4) charging great delinquency (perhaps apostasy would be appropriate). Yet he makes the amazing statement in v. 5, "The Lord *within her* is righteous, he does no wrong...In v. 8 God says, "Therefore wait for me." The Sovereign God then states His decision (v. 8) and says (v.11-12) "...for then I will remove from your midst your proudly exultant ones, and you shall no longer be haughty in my Holy Mountain. For I will leave in the midst of you a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord..." Then, "The King of Israel is in your midst..." (v. 15) and "The Lord, your God, is in your midst," (v. 17). *God in the midst of an erring people!*

The questions seem to be: Do we have a right to withdraw from our church until God withdraws from it...if He does? Do we find in His Word the counsel as to how to remain in an erring people who are called by His name, yet not follow their evil ways, but rather seek with zeal to intercede for, correct, denounce and witness to as needed the people among whom God has placed us?

Matthew 7:15-20

On moving through the New Testament, this is the first passage dealing with the prospect of false teachers in the church.

Christ's counsel is for the disciples to beware, watch for, and recognize false teachers as they arise. He declares that evil trees will be cut down and burned. Who is to cut them down and burn them? Are disciples to do it, or does God do it? The Epistles call for discipline by the church. The Scriptures below (Matthew 13) reveal how God at the end of the age cuts out the evil and burns it. At any rate here the issue is separation by elimination, not departure.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Our Lord's parable of the wheat and the tares relates to the co-existence of farmer's wheat and the enemy-sown tares. The comparison is to the "Kingdom of God." The counsel is, "No (re-weeding out the weeds) lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest." 13:29:30.

"Kingdom," "field," "world" are used. The Kingdom in this world would be the church. The point of the parable is to show a truth about the *Kingdom in the world*, not just the world outside the Kingdom. In fact in verse 41 the tares are reported to be taken by the angel reapers "*out of his Kingdom*."

The Wheat are the "sons of the Kingdom" (the Elect). The tares are the children of Satan. *God* will make the separation at the end of the age.

Without carrying an interpretation to the extreme, it is clear that no encouragement is here given to division in the church.

Matthew 13:47-50

Again our Lord uses a parable to indicate that the Kingdom of Heaven in this age, on earth (the church) will catch into it good and bad fish (saved and unsaved, elect and non-elect). While the fishing was going on no division of the two kinds was forced. After the boat was ashore (the age ended) the separation was made by the angels.

One reflects at this point that when man enforces division in the church, divisions have resulted in which **true** brethren are divided, and in each group are some who may not truly be brethren.

Matthew 23:37-39

Here our Lord announces that Jerusalem, earthly headquarters at that time of God's earthly church, will be a house "forsaken" and "desolate." This probably refers to the setting aside of the Israel-of-unbelief, which would reject Christ before and after His Resurrection, that Paul sets forth in Romans 11. Both Christ and Paul allow an "until" provision, indicating a time (at the Lord's return?) when Israel and Jerusalem will turn to faith.

The point here is possibly this: In the New Testament we do not have an instance of one group of people *who profess faith in Christ separating from another group who profess faith in Him* to set up another fellowship or church. Christ, in setting aside unbelieving Israel, is anticipating the

separation which surfaces in the Book of Acts *in which believers in Christ* begin to part with those who *never* believed, or professed to, in Israel. (See Acts 19:8,9).

We *do* have instances of false disciples of Christ leaving *Him* and those who do truly believe in Him. See John 6:66.

Acts 20:28-32

Paul counsels the elders of Ephesus regarding the sure rise of "wolves, who would mislead and seek to draw away the sheep." He urges the elders to "take heed" and to "be alert" and so guard the flock. There is no positive counsel to divide in the event that the "wolves" have partial success. The thrust is that they should keep false men exposed, and to try to keep them out.

Romans 16:17-18

Paul appeals to the "brethren" to "take note" of those in the fellowship "who create dissensions and difficulties in opposition to the doctrine which you have been taught." This could be both doctrine as to *gospel truth* and also doctrine as to *proper godly conduct*. At any rate the ones going against the apostolic teachings are branded the causers of division. In this sense these departing from the doctrine of the Apostles make *themselves* the causers of division. Nevertheless, to the true brethren, Paul indicates objection to dissension and division. Where there are present the troublesome folk referred to above, Paul tells the "brethren" not to follow, or go along with them, or to encourage them. Rather stay away from them. All this can be done without leaving the general fellowship of that church and starting another purer group across town. One need not read into this a command to divide the church. One dare not.

II Corinthians 6:14-18

This was evidently not an attempt by Paul to start another or second Corinthian Church. The separation called for here evidently has in mind that with the pagan world which did not ever profess to belong to Jesus or to belong to His fellowship.

It would be evident, too, that IF one did believe that this passage refers to a situation involving unbelievers and believers *within* the Christian fellowship or church, the counsel to separation would require that we be able to accurately judge those in the church we will separate from as being "Belial" (or of him), "unbelievers," given to "idols," and "unclean."

I Corinthians 5:1,2

Here Paul asks that the one who has sinned as he had just described "be removed from among you." True to Paul's consistent advice, church discipline ought to be exercised. This is not calling for church division.

I Timothy 4:11

Having warned of departures from the faith in verse 1, Paul counsels Timothy to, "take heed to yourself." Timothy is counseled to keep his own doctrine and conduct right, though an influx of

false teaching and teachers come.

II Timothy 2:24-26

In the next sentence Paul will talk of coming evil days of the last days. Here he calls on Timothy, as the Lord's servant not to be "quarrelsome" about "senseless controversies" (those on unvital issues) but rather to be kind to all, forbearing, correcting opponents with gentleness. Thus, he says, "God may perhaps grant that they will repent and come to know the truth."

II Timothy 3:1-16

In the face of the perilous time to come as the age lengthens, Paul counsels Timothy to attend to himself, "But as for *you*...continue in what you have learned, stay in and true to the Scriptures." Note Paul's steadfastness and example and expected persecution.

No counsel to draw out a "true witness" from the church.

II Timothy 4:1-8

Part of the value of these passages by Paul, here and above, is to be seen in what he does *not* counsel Timothy to do. He does not counsel as to promote a "drawing away" type of division.

Here Paul tells Timothy, who he believes will face the rise of false teachers and false teaching, to "Preach the Word!" He urges him to be "unfailing in patience." Righteous anger at false teaching is proper, but a short fuse, untempered with "unfailing patience" can disrupt God's flock. Even though Paul says, "the time will come when folk will not endure sound teaching," keep giving it! Be steady! Suffer! Evangelize! These will "fulfill your ministry."

All of Paul's teaching regarding error in the church tends to be in the direction of exposing and resisting error at all costs, combating it with strong doctrine, pure living, great patience, trusting God to give repentance where needed, willing to suffer, seeking to discipline error, seeking to save those in the church who are in the snare of the devil. It does not seem to be bent toward division.

II Peter 2-3

Peter draws a vivid picture of error and apostasy in connection with the "false teachers (who will be) among you," (verse 1) in chapter 2. What description he uses of those "who have forsaken the right way," "accursed children" (verses 14 and 15)!

Reminding them of the Lord's coming and the sure judgment to come, he urges believers in the face of all, as they "wait for these things," to be "zealous," to be pure and "at peace," to remember the forbearance of the Lord, grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord, and thus not be carried away with the error."

II John 8-11

John, warning of deceivers and anti-Christ's in the midst who depart from the doctrine of

Christ, commands the true believer not to "receive" such ones into the home (treat as a brother, as godly, etc.). Here again the counsel is to recognize, expose, reject and not share in the ways or companionship of deceivers.

Jude

Jude clearly identifies and vigorously characterizes the evil ones who "secretly gained admission" to the church and thus carry on their evil work of promoting bad doctrine and bad conduct. What counsel will he give the true believers who face this in the church? It is to be found in verses 20-23. Scoffers and ungodly men will "set up divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit." **"but you"** (true believers):

- "keep yourselves in the love of God"
- "build up yourselves in the most holy faith"
- "pray in the Spirit"
- "wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life"
- "convince some, who doubt"
- "save some, by snatching them out of the fire"
- "on some have mercy with fear, hating the garment spotted with the flesh"

He then commits them to the keeping - Christ.

Again, we note what he did not encourage them to do. No dividing is mentioned.

Revelation 2-3

There is special value here, perhaps. Here we have our Risen, Exalted, Enthroned Lord's last addresses to the seven churches of Asia. These seven probably represent the church and churches of the whole church era.

Our Lord rebukes and commends as the church deserves or needs in these letters.

Let us take for a sample one of the problem churches He addresses, the church at Sardis (3:1-6). This church is described by Christ as having the name of being alive but really is dead (spiritually). He has not found its works perfect in His sight. However, there "are still a *few* names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments."

The picture is clear. The church is soiled and dead. The majority and the leadership belong to the erring party. Only a minority, and those not in leadership, remain. This would be the ideal situation for the Lord to call for a pull-out and the starting of a new church elsewhere in Sardis by the faithful few. However, to our surprise, He tells them to, along with all the church, awaken and "strengthen what remains" (v. 2).

"He who has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." (v. 6)

OBSERVATIONS

The Scriptures seem not to divide the urgency of seeking *purity* and *unity* in the church. Neither is sacrificed. They:

1. Call for vigorous promotion of true doctrine, evangelization, and godly living... **purity!** It calls for the rebuking of, contending with all error, and an earnest seeking to correct and restore the erring.

2. Call for a vigorous seeking for unity (John 17, Ephesians 4:3). The separation that the Bible calls for does not foment division, but promotes unity. It is the separation that comes when (a) discipline is given (when possible) and (b) believers avoid compromise with and companionship of false teachers and erring people (c) in which fervent efforts are made to recover the erring. **Unity** is promoted among true believers in an erring church as they fellowship together, share and promote the "apostles' doctrine" (we believe this to be the Reformed faith), declare their faith, rebuke the erring, and seek to evangelize within and without the visible church, **looking to God for such disposition as *He* will make of our witness and of His Church.**

Martin Luther said, "Here I stand," not "Here I split."

To seek reform, revival and even regeneration from God for the erring church may bring rejection and expelling. If so, then the erring ones are the "dividers" as Scripture has said they are. If we thus suffer at the hands of an erring church, let us be dead sure that we suffer the "fiery trial" for behaving as a Christian.

Let us not go beyond Scripture in dealing with God's church, "but trust the Sovereign God to rule over, in and through His church.