

**MINUTES FOR STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION  
MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MIDLAND, MICHIGAN**

December 16, 2009, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

**CALL TO ORDER** – A joint meeting of the Session, Trustees, and Deacons was called to order by the moderators: The Rev. Dr. J. David Pierce, Tracy Perry, and Martin Severance at 7:04 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the church.

**OPENING PRAYER** – Elsie Misner offered the opening prayer.

**DEVOTIONS** – David Pierce welcomed the deacons and trustees to this meeting.

**MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS** – All present read aloud together the mission and vision statements of Memorial Presbyterian Church.

**ROLL CALL**

**Elders**

Steve Asher	Ginny Donald – E	David Kelley – A	Tom O'Brien – E
Sally Bowen	Norm Donker	Linda Lauderbach	David Ramaker
Jennifer Brenes	Rick Drimalla	Jerry Maxson	Ron Smith – E
Nancy Brown	Lou Garl	Mark Maxwell	Katie Talcott
Cindy Burt	Mary Ann Gilbert	Elsie Misner	Susan Waechter
Joanne Clever	Mark Goethe – A	Scott Neithamer - E	Jan Westveer – E

**Staff**

David Pierce, Moderator  
Wally Mayton, Associate Pastor  
Cathy Chang, Associate Pastor  
Susan Hoshaw, Clerk

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Trustees: Bill Lauderbach, Scott Haines, Sam Choo, Lee Christens, John T. Fraser,  
Chuck Kendall, Tom Misner, Linda Baker,  
Deacons: Jenny Pierce, Joanne George, Susie Kruse, Marilyn Wildes, Sharon  
Leenhouts  
Doug Ward, church treasurer

A motion was sustained to grant the guests privilege of voice without vote.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. None

**OMNIBUS MOTION**

A motion was sustained to approve items A through E.

**A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Stated Session Meeting, November 18, 2009  
Special Congregational Meeting, November 22, 2009

**B. APPROVAL OF THE CLERK'S REPORT – November 2009**

**BAPTISMS**

Destiny Marie Goss, daughter of Amy Marie Cross and John Goss      November 15, 2009      WHM officiated

**MARRIAGES**

**DEATHS**

1932      Zodora E. Gill      November 16, 2009      WHM officiated

**ADDITIONS**      None approved since October 28, 2009

**DELETIONS**

- Requests for Certificate of Transfer      (Approved November 18, 2009)
- 6574      James Cross      Transfer to Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church
- 6575      Kimberly (Schade) Cross      Transfer to Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church
- Requests for Removal from Roll      (Approved November 18, 2009)
- 2561      Grace L. Anderson
- Placed on Inactive Roll      (None approved since February 27, 2008)
- Removed by Session Action      (None approved since December 17, 2008)
- Removed from Inactive Roll      (None approved since August 26, 2009)
- Removed from the Baptized Members Roll      (None approved since August 26, 2009)

**MEMBERSHIP CHANGES**

Active Membership, October 31, 2009.....	<b>1,149</b>
Losses during November	
By Transfer .....	2
By Death .....	1
By Requests for Removal.....	1
By Session Action.....	0
Gains during November .....	0
Active Membership as of November 30, 2009.....	<b>1,145</b>

**C. APPROVAL OF LISTED MOTIONS**

**1. MOVED BY Memorial and Special Gifts (Marcia Leach, Chair)**

i. **Motion:** The Committee recommends a \$400 grant to Karen Banaszak for registration and expenses for the APCE event in 2010. The source of the grant is the Elra and Otta Key Christian Education Fund.

**Rationale:** The grant request is appropriate to the guidelines of the Fund.

ii. **Motion:** The Committee recommends the appointment of Andrea (McCormic) DuBois to the Scholarship Committee as an at-large member. Andrea fulfills the position held by her father Al McCormic.

**Rationale:** Andrea is a member of Memorial Presbyterian Church. She is an educator and counselor with Bullock Creek Schools).

## 2. MOVED BY Social Concerns (Joanne Clever, Chair)

- i. **Motion:** The committee recommends the Saginaw Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists hold their competition in the sanctuary on Sunday, April 25, 2010 or Sunday, May 23, 2010 beginning at 2 p.m. There will be 10-12 total individuals and ending time depends on the number of contestants. The \$100.00 fee will be waived.

**Rationale:** This competition is funded by the Kent S. Denis Memorial Scholarship and administered by the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Mair Alsgaard is the contact. Staff has approved the room use.

- ii. **Motion:** The committee recommends the H.H. Dow Orchestra Chamber Recital hold their performances in the parlor on Tuesday, February 16, 2010. Beginning at 5:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. There will be about 20 at a time (they perform and leave). The \$50.00 fee will be waived.

**Rationale:** The church has worked with the schools. Linda Ryden is in charge and we have provided rooms in the past, most recently when Karen Viele held this position.

- iii. **Motion:** The committee recommends the Michigan Music Teachers Association hold their state semi-finals here at the church on Saturday, April 17, 2010, from 7 a.m. (set-up) to 5 p.m. This is a piano competition for 10-18 year olds. Rooms needed are the choir room, parlor, sanctuary, fellowship hall and the assembly room. One other warm up room is needed. There will be about one hundred competitors. Adrienne Wiley is president of the MMTA. Their fees will be waived, but the Association will pay for piano tuning as needed.

**Rationale:** Adrienne is a member of staff. The church supports music programs.

## D. REPORTS BY STANDING COMMITTEES

### 1. Children's Ministry Team (Mark Goethe, Chair)

No report received.

### 2. Youth Ministry Team (Jennifer Brenes, Chair)

Upcoming Events:

December 20<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Parties for youth and young adults at the Blocks.  
2-4pm middle schoolers / 5-7pm high schoolers / 8-10pm college and young adults

January 9-10<sup>th</sup>: All youth (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) ski trip to Crystal Mountain

The Youth Ministry Team had some great discussions at our November meeting including the upcoming Violence in the Media events happening later this winter (Thank you to Juan for his input) and looking at the focus of our time together. We also discussed the upcoming ski retreat and looked ahead to the spring mission trips for both the youth and young adults. Chaperones / Drivers are needed for all three of these events. Please talk to Jenn or Patrick if you are interested! The ski trip to Crystal Mountain is January 9-10<sup>th</sup>. The youth mission trip to Copperhill, TN is scheduled for March 27-April 3<sup>rd</sup> (MPS Spring Break / Holy Week). The young adult mission trip to the Pilgrimage in Washington DC is scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup>.

Scheduling for 2010/ 2<sup>nd</sup> semester and programming will be as follows: Middle school youth will have TNL every Thursday night from 6-8 and one SAS (Sunday Afternoon Special) a month on a Sunday from 2-4pm; high school youth will have PYC every Sunday night from 5-7 and Inspiration Bible Study on Wednesdays from 7-9; Guitar Club will meet for any interested youth on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:00.

**3. Adult Ministry Team (Mary Ann Gilbert, Chair)**

See new business.

**4. Finance Committee (David Ramaker, Chair)**

See new business.

**5. Advance Concepts (Sally Bowen, Chair)**

See new business.

**6. Memorial & Special Gifts, (Marcia Leach, Chair)**

See consent agenda and new business.

**7. Membership Committee (Jan Westveer, Nancy Brown, Lou Garl, Co-Chairs)**

See new business.

**8. Mission Interpretation & Stewardship Committee (Mark Maxwell, Chair)**

**1. 2010 Stewardship Campaign Update**

- Pledge totals through Dec 1 (campaign at 17 days)

	2010 Number of Pledges	2010 Pledge Only	2009 Pledge Only	\$ Change Same 2009 Pledgers	% Change	2009 Campaign at 17 days
Increase over previous year	97	328,846.52	297,674.72	31,171.80	10.5%	
Decrease from previous year	27	88,922.00	113,302.40	(24,380.40)	-21.5%	
No change from previous year	90	276,606.00	276,606.00	0.00		
New pledging units	18	29,646.00	0.00	29,646.00		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>724,020.52</b>	<b>687,583.12</b>	<b>36,437.40</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>743,729.71</b>
Previous year pledging units not yet pledged	122	244,713.58	244,713.58			231,072.36
No pledge in either 2010 or 2009	383					

- Follow-up/reminder calls to non-pledging units occurring Dec1-Dec12

## 2. 2010 Affiliated Missionary Selection

- Initial communication of nomination process to be included in January Grapevine, Weekly "Great Things" beginning next week; and included on the MPC web-site
- Nomination process open through January 31
- Nomination forms to be available in Allen Street lobby; and on MPC web-site
- Mission Interpretation Task Force to meet in early February to review with final recommendation to Session for final decision at February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting

## 3. Planned Giving opportunities

- Bill Lauderbach continues to lead the Planned Giving sub-committee as an ad-hoc member of MISC. This role and relationship with MISC will continue with a formal link to Session through Bill's selection to the Trustees.
- An updated overview of Planned Giving opportunities is being added to the MPC web-site- along with an archive of prior planned giving articles.
- Bill to expand Planned Giving sub-committee with additional members, bringing additional expertise and energy to the sub-committee

## 9. Personnel Committee (Steve Asher, Chair)

The committee has nothing to report this month.

## 10. Social Concerns Committee (Joanne Clever, Chair)

The committee met at 1:00 p.m. on December 8, 2009 in Fellowship Hall.

The recent Alternative Christmas Gift Fair was reviewed. The upcoming visit by Mazen Alsaga and his family was discussed (Sunday, December 20). Ced Currin gave an update on Mazen's situation. \$600.00 has been sent for support in December.

Members in attendance: Betty Chenoweth, Ralph Hillman, Gloria Manary, Ann Rothman, Doris Steiner and Joanne Clever (chair). Ced Currin was there for information on Mazen.

## 11. Worship & Arts Committee (Katie Talcott, Chair)

December 2, 2009, meeting report

Our committee met briefly in the sanctuary after the Hanging of the Greens and lasagna dinner. We were pleased with the 60+ folks who helped decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. It looks beautiful. This is an easy way to get this job done without it becoming overwhelming for a small number of people. Our sincere thanks to all who participated.

Bill Bowen reminded us of the Welcome Ministry training sessions on Sun. January 10, and Wed., January 13. More info to come.

Betsey Guenther said the communion assignments for 2010 would be sent out soon.

Bob Granstra will contact WMPX and WMRX to see if the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service can be aired, as has been the tradition for the past several years. He will also check with MCTV to see if there is an extra time slot for the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service to be shown. If not, on Wednesday, Dec. 30, the time slots will be divided between the Children's Impromptu Service and the Traditional Worship Service. On Sunday, Dec. 27, at 9:00 a.m. on WMPX, the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service will be broadcast. We will return to our regular schedule on Sunday, Jan. 3.

Jean Hillman encouraged us to take the Advent brochures and bookmarks. They are displayed throughout the building.

### **Communion Served in December:**

Home Communion: Thursday, December 3 – Bickford Cottage

18 people served; Rev. Wallace H. Mayton, III  
Assisted by Tammy Hayhoe, Mary Mersereau-Kempf  
Sally Ann Sutton, Chapel Lane

Home Communion: Wednesday, December 9 – Advent Service at the King's Daughters Home

33 people served, Rev. Cathy Chang  
Rev. Dr. J. David Pierce  
Rev. Wallace H. Mayton, III  
Assisted by Betsey Guenther, Jerry Maxson and Thayre Talcott

Sunday, December 6

8:00 a.m. service -	31
9:00 a.m. service -	90
10:45 a.m. service -	<u>247</u>
Total	368

## **E. OTHER BOARD REPORTS**

### **1. Board of Deacons**

No minutes received.

### **2. Board of Trustees**

No minutes received.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. A motion was sustained to hold the annual meeting of the congregation on Sunday, February 21, 2010 rather than the previously determined date of Sunday, February 28, 2010. Consequently, there will be one service of worship on February 21, 2010 and the usual three worship services on February 28, 2010.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. A lengthy discussion was had among members of Session, Trustees, and Deacons concerning the Letourneau Pipe Organ project. The main question was: when, or by what criteria, will we tell Letourneau to start building the organ? Consensus was achieved around the position that some of the needed money should be in hand and that the congregation at large needed much more information before the organ building should begin. A motion was sustained to call a joint meeting of Session and Trustees, including the Deacons, in May, 2010, to consider whether and when to go forward with the organ project.
2. A motion was sustained to remove Kathy Hansen from our membership rolls per her request in writing to the Rev. Wally Mayton.
3. Report from the elder commissioners to the Presbytery meeting on Dec 1. Linda Lauderbach shared that the Rev. Cathy Chang was introduced to Presbytery, the Revs. David and Nancy Young were recognized for 13 years in Midland, and that the Rev. Melissa VanWert DeRosia was installed as moderator.
4. A motion was sustained to support the working church budget for 2010 as distributed. The final budget will be brought before Session at the stated meeting in January, 2010.
5. With the explanation that MPC is currently the only church supporting the construction of the new Spiritual Care Center and that First United Methodist Church, in addition to MPC, supports the spiritual care program at the hospital, a motion was sustained to approve a \$30,000 grant from Advance Concepts funds to MidMichigan Medical Center-Midland, payable in two \$15,000 payments, January 2010-2011, for stained glass for the new Spiritual Care Center in the Harlow Building.

Rationale: The Spiritual Care Center serves as a place of refuge for patients, visitors, staff and physicians. It is a place of comfort where patients, families and clergy can meet for prayer and words of comfort and encouragement. Memorial Presbyterian Church has supported the Spiritual Care program at MidMichigan Medical Center-Midland since it began.

6. With the explanation that a detailed budget is required during the grant application process and that these funds will be used for staffing and supplies, a motion was sustained to approve a \$12,500 grant from Advance Concepts funds to Big Brothers Big Sisters in the Heart of Michigan for expansion of the Teaming Up With YOUth Moving On middle school mentoring program.

Rationale: This mentoring program has proven successful at Central Middle School, and we support its expansion to Bullock Creek Middle School. The program provides mentoring for high-risk middle school students in order to improve their long-term opportunities for academic, career and life success. It allows high-risk students to be influenced by people who have positive life experiences to share with them. The mentors are volunteers.

7. After clarifying that the Elra and Otta Key Christian Education Fund was designed to support individuals from Lake Huron Presbytery, a motion was

sustained to grant \$300 from this fund to Heather Bailey for registration for the APCE event in 2010. Heather is Christian Educator for First Presbyterian Church in Bay City.

8. Following the AMT Chair's enthusiastic promotion of the Violence in the Media program, a motion was sustained to receive the AMT report:

**AMT Session Report—December 2009**

Current status of classes: **Contemporary Issues** class is doing an Advent series on Advent hymns.

The **Present Word**—class continues with a new unit.

**Scripture Today** is continuing.

**Calling All Parents** led by Cathy Chang, is mostly comprised of parents whose children attend Bible Blast.

**“Violence and the Media”** there will be three aspects to this program

**Wednesday, January 13**, Kim Bruce from Midland's Shelterhouse will speak to parents of pre-school and elementary age children about the effects of violence in media on their children. This session will begin at 5:30 pm with a pizza supper and Kim's presentation 6:00 -7:00.

**Friday, Feb 5, through Sunday, Feb 7**, we will have various activities with Mr. Rick Ufford-Chase, co-director of Stony Point Center in New York and former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly. Ufford-Chase will be the keynoter for our annual observation of Peace Weekend. One of his presentations will deal with our topic of violence in media. This session for adults is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Feb 6, 10:00-12:00 am. On this day, he is also tentatively scheduled to make a presentation to our youth, 4:30-6:30 pm.

**Sunday, Feb 21**, we are planning two concurrent sessions 5:00-7:30 pm. One session for teenagers will be conducted by Ric Shahin, social studies teacher at Dow High. Barbara Handley-Miller, Associate Professor of Communication at Delta College and former TV5 News Anchor, will facilitate a session for parents of teenagers dealing with parent – teen communication, “Talking with Your Teens.” This evening will begin with a meal 5:00 – 6:00 with the concurrent sessions 6:00 – 7:30.

**Budget discussion:** a sum of \$400 was added to our budget for next year. This sum is targeted for workshops and honorariums. Our total budget is \$9525.

Cathy plans a **Class for Parents Confirmands**. This class would parallel the time frame of the confirmation class and would precede the confirmation date in June.

9. After clarification that the Organ Maintenance Fund is also called the Kent Denis Fund and that the 10% down payment on the new organ was taken from this fund, a motion was sustained to receive the Finance Committee report:

Session Finance Committee Meeting

November 11, 2009, 5:00pm

Members Present: Drimalla, Ramaker, Schmidt, Ward

Staff Present: Renas, Pierce

We reviewed the complete financial reports for November. The General Fund showed a negative balance of \$8,247 for the year with \$790,000 in total pledge contributions.

Financial Summary through November 30, 2009:

Pledge contributions	\$ 789,784
Total income and transfers	1,221,281
Total expenses	1,229,528

It was noted that at this time in 2008 we had a negative balance and still finished the year with a surplus because of the strong collections of pledges in the last month of the year.

Lisa provided an update of the balances in funds that will be available for use towards the Organ Project. The Committee directed her to spend the Organ Maintenance Fund first on direct expenses of the organ and to use the Capital Opportunity Fund for other expenses associated with the project such as the campaign consultant.

The Budget Committee met on December 3 and has presented a preliminary budget to Finance for approval and recommendation to Session. After discussion of the projected pledge income and other sources reflected in the budget, there was a consensus in the Finance Committee to recommend the preliminary budget as presented with the understanding that final adjustments to the budget will be necessary for the January meeting.

Lisa updated the Committee on the progress of the stewardship campaign. At the current time, the number of pledge cards returned and the total of the commitments made is ahead of where the 2008 and 2009 campaigns were at the same point in the campaign.

As Plan Administrator for the MPC Retirement Plan, Lisa requested that the Finance Committee provide guidance as to the scope of the investment options available and asked if they would review the composition and determine if adjustments in the offerings are necessary. The Committee advised that the options available is appropriate and requested that Lisa obtain current performance data on the funds offered for review at the January meeting.

Dr. Pierce closed the meeting with prayer.

10. After Lou Garl clarified that he will check on the dates for the church tours, a motion was sustained to receive the Membership Committee report:

December 8, 2009

Attendance-- Jan Westveer, Nancy Brown, Lou Garl, Cinda Morrison, Marilyn Forsythe (excused)

Opening Prayer-- Jan Westveer

Budget--a copy of the budget was given. There was no budget increase and the budget remained the same. The item G on evangelism was discussed as to the use of new member class and dinner that is budgeted. We have not had dinners in some time. It was decided to keep this item in the budget since Cathy may have a plan to use these funds.

Bulletin Boards--are now to be maintained by the assigned committee.

Membership changes--

Jim and Kim Cross requested a transfer to Chapel Lane. This was already voted on by session.

Stewardship letters that were previously destroyed will now be placed in the membership box. Membership will try to locate these former members.

New member classes will be held on January 10,17,24, and 31. George Quayle who has been taking new member pictures is not able to continue. Cinda was going to ask Dave Morrison if he will do the picture taking.

Church tours were discussed. Lou Garl has talked to Ivan, and the 2nd Sunday of the month is a tentative date. We will request a notice be put in Great Things one week before and on the second Sunday announcing the tour and asking interested parties to wear comfortable shoes. We would also request a notice be placed in the grapevine. These tours would be given on a quarterly basis starting in January. We would also like to have a map of the church to give out.

Calendars were discussed. There will be a table at the Allen Street entrance and at fellowship hall before and after the 10:45 service. There was quite a bit of left over paper which could be used another year. Membership pays for paper and ink, which gets repaid through sales. Wally uses approximately 100 for shut ins and more for new members. 400 calendars were made at an approximate cost of \$200.00. New formats were discussed.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. January Stated Session meeting is January 20 (third Wednesday). Docket items are due to the Clerk by January 13 (January 14, 8:00 p.m. latest).
2. Session meeting assignments for January:  
Opening Prayer: Cindy Burt  
Closing Prayer: Steve Asher
3. Called meeting of Session, January 23, 2010, noon-1:30 p.m. to examine new officers. Installation will be January 24, 2010.
4. Jill Isola has completed her first semester of seminary.
5. Submissions for the annual report are due to the office by January 15, 2010.
6. Cathy Chang provided an update on the Welcome Ministry.

**ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER** – The joint meeting was closed with prayer by Tracy Perry at 8:48 p.m. Session reconvened at 8:52 p.m. The Session meeting was closed with prayer by the Rev. Wally Mayton at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Hoshaw, Clerk of Session