

Deer Creek Shores  
Brazilian Christian  
Christ Fellowship  
Chickamauga  
Cartersville  
Acworth  
Sixes  
Euharlee ~ Cloudland ~ Cohutta ~ Bethany  
Beersheba ~ Woodlawn ~ Kirkwood ~ Southminster  
Woodstock ~ **Cherokee Presbytery** ~ Covenant  
Calhoun ~ Parkway ~ Rockmart ~ Trinity ~ Marietta  
Grace ~ Eastminster ~ Calvary ~ Faith Canton  
Menlo  
Dalton  
Macland  
Heritage  
Mars Hill  
John Knox  
LaFayette  
Cedartown  
Providence  
Summerville  
Silver Creek  
Westminster  
New Lebanon  
Morton Memorial  
Faith North Georgia  
Ray Thomas Memorial

**One Church, Forty-One Locations, Following Christ Together**

Supplemental Handbook for the Gathering and Stated Meeting of  
Cherokee Presbytery – July 25, 2009, 10:00 a.m.  
Bethany Presbyterian Church, 4644 Sandy Plains Road, Marietta, GA 30066,  
770-643-1459

## Supplement to the Stated Clerk's Report

9. The Stated Clerk received minutes of meetings of the Cherokee Retreat Center Board on June 16, and July 21, 2009. **Recommend admitting to record per G-90502. (This action is part of the omnibus motion.)**
10. The Stated Clerk received a report from Presbyterian Women Moderator Nancy Collins on the Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering July 11-15. **Recommend admitting to record. (This action is part of the omnibus motion.)**

### Omnibus Motion

	Motion	Page(s)
7.	That Presbytery admit to record minutes of the Cherokee Retreat Center Board meetings on June 16 and July 21, 2009. (Attachment H)	3-6 Supplement
8.	That Presbytery admit to record the report of Presbyterian Women Moderator Nancy Collins on the Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering July 11-15. (Attachment I)	7

### Committee on Preparation – Fritz Bogar

For Information:

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry met on July 21, 2009. The Committee reviewed progress of Inquirers and Candidates under the care of Cherokee Presbytery. Minutes of the May 19, 2009, meeting were approved.

1. The Committee met with Silvio Renato Esteves, who came before the committee from the Ray-Thomas Memorial Presbyterian Church seeking to be received as an inquirer. He was accompanied by elder Doug Roberts. Following the interview, the Committee approved the motion that Silvio be enrolled as an inquirer pending receipt of the completed, signed paperwork.
2. Alan Gibson came before the Committee on his application for candidacy. He was accompanied by Tim Erskine, interim pastor from Eastminster Presbyterian Church. Following the interview, the Committee approved the motion to recommend to Presbytery that Alan be received as a candidate.

### Recommendations:

1. **\*That, upon examination and approval by Presbytery, Alan Gibson (Eastminster) be received as a Candidate for the Office of Minister of Word and Sacrament. (Attachment J, pages 8-9 - Supplement)**

## Cherokee Retreat Center Board of Directors Meeting June 16, 2009 6:00pm

### NEXT MEETING: July 16, 2009, 6:00pm

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#### Roll Call:

In attendance: Corrin Baines, Anita Errickson, Jon Hayes, Cheryl Jenkins, Becky Jordan, Nate Marini, Heather Perrin, John Wells, Kelly Howington, Andy Hendrix, Rebecca Blackwell (Mission Coordinator)

Not in attendance: Brian Enlow, Mark Thompson

#### Handouts:

Cherokee Presbytery and Properties Profit & Loss Budget Overview (January 2009 to date)

CRC Coordinating Ministry Bylaws

“Friends of Camp Cherokee” letter/solicitation for donations

Clerk/Pastor letter/solicitation for aid

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#### I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30pm with a prayer.

**Introductions.** All board members went around and introduced themselves. It was noted that board members would likely serve on committees as follows:

Corrin Baines – Programs & Services

Brian Enlow – Resources

Anita Errickson – Programs & Services

Jon Hayes – Site Management

Cheryl Jenkins – Oversight

Becky Jordan – Site Management

Nate Marini – Resources

Heather Perrin – Outreach

Mark Thompson – Outreach

John Wells – Oversight

Kelly Howington – Ex-officio

#### II. Approval of the Minutes from the last meeting:

Minutes from the May 19, 2009 meeting were distributed via email. The minutes were approved as submitted.

#### III. Old Business:

1. Two AED/Defibrillators are needed. Anita will bring information regarding price and vendors to the July meeting.
2. Groundwork has been laid for A/C and room insulation. Andy does not have a materials list from Habitat for Humanity. Andy does not want to replace the air handler and not do the insulation. The total cost of the HVAC and insulation is up to \$2800 (\$1,600 HVAC and remainder is insulation).

#### IV. New Business

**Officer elections.** John Wells noted that we need to make officer elections a board agenda item at the July meeting. We will be electing a Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer, as well as formalize and take volunteers for the 5 standing committees. January will be the routine time of year for officer elections in the future. Board members will rotate to maintain consistency and to bring in fresh ideas.

#### Resources/Financial.

- Kelly provided the monthly financial statement to the Board.

- We may not meet the rental fee budget for the year.
- We currently have \$117,000 in bookings (\$125,000 budgeted)
- Day Camp registrations could be better, but Mars Hill will be sending some children and this will be a test run.
- The board needs to determine if a negative cash flow is okay with the Presbytery since the budget has not been approved yet.
- CRC very much needs the capital campaign funds from First Presbyterian – Marietta.
- The CRC Development fund has \$25,400; however, this was to be a reserve fund not used for operating expenses/cash flow.

### **Outreach.**

- A letter is needed to solicit donations. A draft letter was provided to the board and the content was discussed/reviewed. Corrin will incorporate comments provided to her and complete the letter for distribution within the next few weeks. Once the letter is complete, Corrin will send it to Becky so that she can make a new pledge form in publisher format.
- John Wells has drafted a second letter to go to the Clerks and Pastors. The letter was reviewed and discussed. John will incorporate changes and mail.

At this point in the meeting, Kelly and Andy took leave of the meeting so that the Board could discuss personnel issues.

Kelly and Andy returned and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm.

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### **Agenda items for next board meeting:**

- Board officer elections.
- Financial review – Kelly
- Preparation for July Presbytery Meeting
- Job descriptions for Kelly and Andy

### **Action Items:**

1. Corrin will complete the donation letter, incorporating board comments and prepare to mail.
2. Becky will create new pledge cards once Corrin finishes the donation letter.
3. John Wells will complete the “aid” letter to the Clerks and Pastors and mail (via email and regular mail).
4. Becky will research staff issues, including job descriptions for Kelly and Andy.
5. Anita will bring quotes for two AEDs to the next board meeting in July.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Heather Perrin.

## Cherokee Retreat Center Board of Directors Meeting July 14, 2009 6:00pm

**NEXT MEETING: August 11, 2009, 6:30pm**

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**Roll Call:**

In attendance: Corrin Baines, Anita Errickson, Jon Hayes, Cheryl Jenkins, Nate Marini, Heather Perrin, John Wells, Brian Enlow, Mark Thompson, Kelly Howington, Andy Hendrix

Not in attendance: Becky Jordan

**Handouts:**

Spreadsheets: Camp Cherokee Payroll

Liabilities and Equity

Cherokee Presbytery and Properties Profit & Loss Budget Overview (January 2009 to date)

2009 Operating Budget

Donor Pledge Form

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**V. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30pm with a prayer.

**VI. Approval of the Minutes from the last meeting:**

Minutes from the June 16, 2009 meeting were distributed via email. The minutes were approved as submitted.

**VII. Old Business:**

3. Kelly provided a brief overview of the current month's finances. CRC is currently \$2,500 in the black, but there is an outstanding food bill for \$2,000, so the CRC will almost break even with \$500. .
4. There will be an annual giving line in both the operating and restricted budgets for CRC.
5. The CRC Board needs to vote to move the funds in the 67002 restricted CRC Development fund into the operating budget.
6. Nate made a motion to use the CRC Development Fund to cover operating expenses. Several board members seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
7. Kelly will talk to Sarita to change the restricted 67002 line into the operating budget as a bookkeeping item.
8. Nate went over the yearly projections for the 2009 operating budget.
  - a. There will be a shortfall of \$48,000 in a best case scenario or a \$93,000 in a worst case.
  - b. We need more revenue to make up the shortfall, and a great deal more outreach.
  - c. It appears that payroll taxes have not been paid or have not been appropriately credited. We may have been overcharged for workers comp.
9. Presbytery meeting on July 25th. Bethany Church and Pastor Choi have designated all funds paid for meals to the CRC. They will be asking for \$5 donations. We have posters and handouts, and they expect approximately 120-130 attendees. The Presbytery Meeting is from 10am to 3pm, and Coffee is at 9:30 am.

- a. Attendees from the CRC Board will be Heather, Corrin, Jon, and Brian. We mostly need people there during breaks when we can talk to them about CRC.

Attachment H-4

- b. The Board discussed our approach to the meeting, and Jon will introduce the CRC Board at the meeting and note that all ministries are suffering, not just the CRC.
10. Kelly provided a Program Update. There have been no major issues recently, but there will be a drop in attendance in the next few weeks.
  11. Andy provided a Site Management Update. There was a recent complaint that the A/C is not working in the Lodge. The lodge will need a new heat pump by winter so that it is not cold. The cost is \$1,595 to replace the air handler. Insulation is additional. Andy has not been able to contact Jeff at Habitat to get the materials list, so Andy will restart this list.
  12. **Officer elections.** The Board needs to elect officers at the August meeting since this was not done at the July meeting as originally planned.

#### VIII. New Business

##### **CRC Board Book.**

Jon stated that there are technical issues that need to be corrected for consistency. These items need to be put on the agenda for the next meeting. These changes largely relate to our operating procedures in the Presbytery Manual.

##### **Outreach.**

- Corrin will begin sending Thank You Notes to those who donate or pledge as a result of the letter outreach campaign.
- Quarterly statements need to be generated for those donating/pledging.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.

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##### **Agenda items for next board meeting:**

- Board officer elections.
- Financial review – Kelly
- Job descriptions for Kelly and Andy
- Discuss procedures for donations, both individual and group
- Discuss ways the Friends of CRC group can participate/help in outreach
- Committees – need descriptions of these. We need to look in the previous work that was completed during the CRC Board’s development as this was completed already.

##### **Action Items:**

6. Corrin will complete the donation letter, incorporating board comments and prepare to mail. **Complete**
7. Becky will create new pledge cards once Corrin finishes the donation letter. **Complete**
8. John Wells will complete the “aid” letter to the Clerks and Pastors and mail (via email and regular mail). **Complete**
9. Becky will research staff issues, including job descriptions for Kelly and Andy.
10. Anita will bring quotes for two AEDs to the next board meeting in July.
11. John will look into getting the CRC on the agenda for the September and October Presbytery meetings.
12. Andy will generate a materials list for the insulation/A/C issue at the lodge.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Heather Perrin.

Attachment I

### **Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering, Louisville, KY July 11-15**

**“God will work wonders among you”** resonated throughout Bible studies, skits, sermons, plenary sessions, singing and worship. We had fellowship with 2500 women from all over the world and were inspired by the Kenya women singing: “The Love of God Is a Wonder.” Marta Rodriguez (Puerto Rico) was elected Moderator and is the first Hispanic Moderator to the CCT.

Voting delegates voted to incorporate Presbyterian Women, and a new 31-month budget was approved.

Twenty mission co-workers who will be serving from Nicaragua to Taiwan were commissioned along with their 10 children. \$68,595 and counting was the amount of the *Wonderfilled* Gift cards And \$54,328.70 and counting was the amount of the offering which will be used for a scholarship. \$66,000.00 was the amount raised for Columbia Friendship Circle.

Nancy Collins and Barbara Elliott, voting delegates, Sue Spivey, Summerville, Erma Jones, John Knox, Doris Grimm and Chris Curschmann, Southminster enjoyed a lovely lunch sponsored by the Synod of South Atlantic.

It was a wonderful gathering!

**Nancy Collins, Cherokee Presbytery Moderator of Presbyterian Women**

### Autobiographical Sketch

Life is often mistaken for a series of distinct and disconnected roads, but even the slightest bit of perspective shows how life is one journey, with each road leading (often seamlessly, but sometimes over the rockiest of trails) to the next path along the way. My path seems like an odd one, but as I take time to reflect upon it, I see more and more of the tapestry of God's grace in my life, and appreciate more and more how God truly does use all of our life experiences for His glory. I grew up in a small independent Baptist church, which could easily be mistaken for a Pentecostal church. As a 19 year old boy, I felt called to ministry. That same 19 year old, however, did not feel at ease with pursuing ministry at that place and at that time. Some of it was undoubtedly related to theological issues, but mostly it was rebellion on my part. I simply wanted to be apart from the church, and for several years in college and law school, I seldom found myself attending a church of any kind. Fortunately, however, in this journey with Christ, He has been holding my hand, never willing to let go regardless of how far off of the path I wandered.

Along this path, one stop was at Oglethorpe University, where I met my beautiful wife Teri, to whom I have now been married for eight years. After college, and then law school at the University of Georgia, I became a litigation attorney, which involved many jury trials, court hearings, and oral arguments before the state court of appeals and the Federal Circuit courts. I have a great love for being in the courtroom, and enjoyed the work tremendously, but during fifth year of my practice, the call to attend seminary became overwhelming. At the time, though, I was not in a position at that point to walk away from my job as an attorney. After some searching, I began to study at Reformed Theological Seminary in Atlanta in August of 2005. The R.T.S. campus in Atlanta specially catered to non-traditional students, and at the time, this was a perfect fit for me. I began by taking one class at a time, then two, then four, and eventually a full load of five classes. This three- year period at R.T.S., during which I also became an elder at my home church, caused me to develop a deep love of the Reformed tradition, hardly something that was expected given my background. I am now "hopelessly" reformed, as evidenced by my love for teaching the doctrines of grace in an adult Sunday school class for the past year.

I am now looking forward to finishing the academic portion of this journey at Columbia. As excited as I am about studying at a seminary like Columbia, I am equally as excited that I will be able to be home in the evenings to spend time with Teri, and my children Ellie (age 5) and Brady (age 3). Being away from home four nights a week was very hard, and would have been even more difficult given that Teri and I are expecting once again! This is both an exciting and frightening time for my family, given the uncertainty of income, and new commitment to being a full-time day student once again. If I have learned anything, though, it is that I should always be attentive to where God is calling. Never be afraid to follow a path you feel called to just because you can't work out all of the details yourself. Trust in God, because He will never take you down a path you can't handle. And while sometimes it is frightening to walk by faith and not by sight, it is equally as exciting to be called as a servant of God, and to share in His ministry.

**Faith Statement – Alan Gibson**

My statement of personal faith is a story from beginning to end of how God, who began a good work in me, is constantly at work to carry it out. I am in full agreement with Chapter 6 of the Westminster Confession of Faith where it says that “we are utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to evil...” When I teach and preach about the doctrine of total depravity, I teach with what some might find to be an uncomfortable degree of authority. I have lived a life of arrogance, pride and vanity, and when my life is held up against the life of Christ with his humility, selflessness and self-offering, I am ashamed of what I am. Yet God in love has regenerated my heart, and has set the Holy Spirit to war with those things of which I am not proud. If it is not God who elects, God who calls, God who justifies and God glorifies as Romans 8 teaches, then I have no hope, because my hope and comfort would in some way depend upon me, which it cannot. I am not a Calvinist because of the tidy and intellectual theology, although I do love it. I am a Calvinist because I have to be. I have no faith in myself, but only in Jesus Christ, and even that faith is a gift from God, expressed only in response to the love God has shown me.

As a child, and even as a young adult, I held on to the idea that my relationship with God was held together by my profession of faith. But nothing like a healthy dose of rebellion can reduce a person’s faith in themselves to rubble. As I set about my life with a kind of mindless confidence that I could find my own way down my own paths, it became abundantly clear, through what I now believe to have been the Holy Spirit’s guidance, that I would only find frustration and dissatisfaction. When the Holy Spirit had sealed my heart in Christ, nothing else could ever match the love and peace that it brought. No amount of striving after wealth and acclaim could bring the same joy. A person can only “kick against the goads” for so long until the weight of trying to carry one’s own load becomes too much.

In the end, I see that my profession of faith was nothing more than a heartfelt response to the love the Holy Spirit placed in my heart. And even now, my statement of faith often rings hollow when I consider my failings and half-hearted obedience. Yet I find comfort and praise God when I consider that God is holding my hand, and not the other way around, as I would surely let go and travel down a path leading to nowhere.