

# Gap Minutes

Monday, June 19, 2017 @ 7:00pm

Belmont First Church, 102 South Central Ave, Belmont

Vision: Gaston Area Presbyterian Congregations working together to serve God

Mission: The mission is to support and facilitate the efforts of congregations in Gaston County in their work to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our hope in doing so is that we transform churches so that their members may find new life and new energy to respond to God's call and others will be attracted to them and their work.

Attending were:

Jean Faires	Robinson	Bill Glover	Southminster
John Pea	Robinson	Joanne Mitchell	Southminster
Starla Littlejohn	Third Street	Gayla Woody	Southminster
Lois Camp	Third Street	Jackson Mott	Southminster
Charles Whitesides	Third Street	Libby Sigmon	Olney
Charles Davenport	Presbytery & Long Creek	Charles Sellers	West Ave
Ken Unnasch	Long Creek	Sylvia Sellers	West Ave
Sue Johnson	Belmont	Jayn Cox	Mt Holly
Joseph Taber	Lowell	Brenda McKinney	Mt Holly

## I. Welcome and Introductions:

- Rev. Daria Ragan, associate pastor of Belmont First Presbyterian Church opened the meeting at 7:03 pm with prayer. The minutes of the last meeting on May 22, 2017 were approved with a motion by Joseph Taber and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Libby Sigmon.

## II. Presbytery News – Charles Davenport

- New Minister Janet DeWater will preach her first sermon at Mt Holly on Sunday June 25.
- Thanks to Southminster who donated blue hymnals to Lenoir Church.
- Barbara Ross will retire at end of month. Members signed a congratulations card for Barbara.
- Presbytery meets on July 29 at First Marion.
- Camp Grier – Southminster & Long Creek men instrumental in revamping cabins.
- Billy Robinson from Presbytery Staff is meeting with GAP tonight. He reminded us about the Hunger Action Committee which includes 5 cents a meal.

## III. Other reports and items

### • GAP – Past & Future Discussion

- **Notes from the Past and Present**
- GAP was formed, after the Evangelism Committee of the Presbytery held monthly meetings with the churches for Bible Study. At the end of that time, the churches were asked what they wanted to do and if they wanted to continue to meet. The congregations that had been meeting came up with the mission statement.
- Started up as a small church ministry & then added larger churches and ended up with all 16 county churches.

- Sponsor of Habitat House. Doing Social Ministry together. Those things that we can do in our local congregations better.
- Provided officer training for those churches that don't provide their own.
- Communication has been a benefit. Literature for Sunday School shared among churches.
- Clergy Capers supported Grandfather Home. Wonderful time of BBQ, silent auction, & pastor talent show.
- Ad in newspaper for Christmas & Easter. Makes more affordable as cost is split between participating churches.
- Youth groups – some churches would get together to do youth events. GAP Youth have recently done events for youth. Moderate to good results. Union & Lowell have mainly done events together lately. Transportation can be issue.
- Bible Schools – flyer shared between churches for when Bible Schools are happening. Consider in future to get an ad in newspaper.
  
- **Brainstorming about the future:**
- Partnering with schools.
- How to build & attract millennials and getting them into “service” mode. Billy Robinson from Presbytery indicated that Building HOPE Campaign may have money available to sponsor a seminar on this topic if GAP asked for it.
- Charles Davenport moved that a small group of 5 to discuss possibilities & come back to larger group with suggestions. Group charged to look at what GAP does & does well as well as what we want to do in the future (what to keep & what ) John Pea 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed. Volunteers to serve on this sub-committee were: James Holeman - chair, Libby Sigmon, Gayla Woody, Habitat Rep (Bill or Sue), and Beth Bolin/Roger Rizk. Committee to meet & make presentation at August 21 meeting.

- **Pulpit Exchange**

- Selected date of September 24. Churches who agreed to participate include: West Ave, Third Street, Union, Lowell, 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Robinson, Olney, & Long Creek. Mt Holly will check with their Session. Any other churches interested should email Joanne prior to Aug 21 meeting.
- Will determine where pastors will preach at August meeting.

- **Habitat Update** – Bill Glover & Sue Johnson

- Will either build near Spectrum off of Union Rd or McCarver St (off South 321) behind Marketplace Restaurant.
- 5 bedroom house is what we are in line to build off Union Rd
- Another option is 3 bedroom on McCarver St.
- Grant money recived from First Gastonia. Other churches encouraged to support through church budgets for the GAP Habitat House.

## **Announcements**

- Southminster's Mission Ministry asking if other churches have guidelines for giving youth & college students money for mission trips that are sponsored by other non-Presbyterian churches. If so, please email Joanne at [jmmitchell22@earthlink.net](mailto:jmmitchell22@earthlink.net).
- Presbytery sponsoring Mission Trip Oct 8-13 to Kinston to help with flood relief. Cost is \$150. See flyer attached.
- Ed Forsyth is new moderator of Session at Bessemer City.
- Bill Glover reported that there was an earthquake in Guatemala this week. Each church should check with their sister church to see if they were affected.

Sylvia Sellers moved to adjourned. Rev. Daria Ragan asked us to make a large circle, join hands & pray the Lord's Prayer.

**Next Meeting – West Avenue Presbyterian Church**, 1015 W. Franklin Blvd. Gastonia  
**7pm - Monday, August 21, 2017** Rev. David Lytle, presiding

**To: Church Administrative Assistants**

RE: GAP Information for Church Bulletin or Newsletter



In an effort to keep churches aware of how they can become involved in a service project, please include the following information in your church communication at the appropriate time and as you have room to include. In order for GAP announcements to be easily recognized, please include the GAP logo. Suggested times to include the information are noted in red. Thanks!

**Announcement for now thru summer**

Presbytery is sponsoring Mission Trip Oct 8-13 to Kinston to help with flood relief. Cost is \$150. (See flyer attached).

**Announcement for now until June 29**

Southminster hosts Community Movie Night by showing the movie *Sing*, Friday, June 30 at 6:30. Free popcorn, drinks, & candy.