Call to Order:
Following dinner together, Dr. Donald Baird, Session Moderator, called the Session meeting to order with prayer at 7:00 p.m. in Ferguson Hall C.

Motion 1: to grant privilege of the floor to staff and visitors present (MSP).

Dr. Baird led the Session in reading the Fremont Presbyterian Church Mission Statement: Who We Are and Our Purpose.

Attendance (A quorum):

- Elders Present: Andy Bodemeijer, Russell Brown, Don Davison, Brooks Erickson, Marcia Garrison, Dan Johnson, Ken Moody, Clair Parsh, Carol Skinner
- Elders Excused: Martin Boersma, Char Gezi, Chris Jaime, Lynn Jordan, Vicki Meyer
- Elders Absent: Sean Doherty
- Clergy Present: The Reverend Dr. Donald Baird, The Reverend Jeff Hoffmeyer, The Reverend Dr. Dan Willson
- Staff Present: Cathy Cole, Mark Eshoff
- Deacon Representative: None
- Others: Elaine Moody (Clerk)

Agenda:

Elder Carol Skinner requested time under Old Business. Elders Marcia Garrison and Ken Moody requested time under Announcements.

Motion 2: to adopt the agenda as amended (MSP).

In addition to Session minutes and Session action requests, the packet of materials for the meeting include written minutes and reports from the following: Buildings and Grounds Committee, Board of Deacons, Finance Committee, Local Mission Committee and Worldwide Ministries.

Clerk’s Report:

Motion 3: to approve the minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of April 27, 2011, as corrected (MSP). There were two corrections: 1) On page 4, under Financial Report, the first sentence of the third paragraph should have read: “Brooks said this is the strongest first quarter Fremont has ever had.” 2) On page 5, under Announcements, the 297 people in the first line included the 21 mentioned on the second line.

Other:

Dr. Baird reported at the May Presbytery meeting the Stated Clerk gave her report on the annual examination of minutes of churches in the Presbytery. There were no exceptions noted to Fremont’s minutes for 2010.

The Clerk mentioned how grateful she was to Patti Dusel for serving as Clerk Pro Tem for the April meeting.

The Clerk requested The Reverend Jeff Hoffmeyer be excused for a discussion item. The
Clerk reported on a telephone call from member Carolyn Armstrong asking if there could be an approved opportunity for love gifts for Rev. Hoffmeyer.

**Motion 4:** to authorize a procedure for collecting a love gift for The Reverend Jeff Hoffmeyer (MSP).

**Motion 5:** to accept the Clerk’s report (MSP).

**Celebration:**

Rev. Hoffmeyer was invited to rejoin the meeting. There were cake and coffee in recognition that this was his last Session meeting. As the refreshments were being enjoyed, Session members shared some ways that Rev. Hoffmeyer’s ministry had been a blessing to them. In response, Rev. Hoffmeyer thanked Session for being bold and faithful and commended members for waiting on the Spirit.

**Session Calendar:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leadership Day Retreat</td>
<td>June 4, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communion</td>
<td>June 5, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Called Session Meeting – New Members</td>
<td>June 5, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July Grapevine Deadline</td>
<td>June 10, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ask An Elder</td>
<td>June 12, 2011 (Gezi/Jordan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff, Love and Casseroles</td>
<td>June 12, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stated Session Meeting</td>
<td>June 22, 2011</td>
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</table>

Communion was served to the congregation on May 1, 2011. In addition, The Reverend Jeff Hoffmeyer shared the sacrament of communion with Jim Arwood at his home on May 9th, assisted by Elder Patti Dusel. Sue Arwood, Sherman Wong and Jim Arwood’s caregiver were also present.

Dr. Baird highlighted the Leadership Day Retreat, stressing the important issues to be addressed, and requested all to attend, if possible. He also spoke about the Jeff, Love and Casseroles event, saying if there are people whom elders want to honor at the event, to send their names to Kalen Skinner as soon as possible. He noted the congregation is blessed by being able to thank members for their work.

**Consent Agenda:**

**Motion 6:** to approve all three (3) items on the Consent Agenda (MSP). Those items were:

Item 5-1 – Membership Report – Rolls and Register, For Session Meeting on May 25, 2011, Actions taken on behalf of Session during the month of April 2011.

**Rolls** (*Book of Order* G-10.0302a,b)

Additions/Changes to Membership Rolls: *Book of Order* G-10.0302a

Additions – Thirteen (13) Received by the congregation on April 10, 2011
On Profession of Faith

Nicolaus Contreras
Debby Cook
Randy Cook (with baptism)
Caroline Rojas
Madelyn Bustard-Gustafson (with baptism)
Julia Butterfield (with baptism)
Madison Hefler (with baptism)
Nathanael Drotts (with baptism)
Noah Spickelmier (with baptism)

On Reaffirmation of Faith

Nelson Lewallyn
Marion Lewallyn
Billy Gatlin

On Letter of Transfer

Hillary Gatlin

Deletions from Rolls: *Book of Order G-10.0302b*

Member Deaths – Two (2)

April 10, 2011        Kathleen Bates
April 15, 2011        Wayne Thomas

Certificates of Transfer – One (1)

April 8, 2011        Patricia Fairbanks to Westminster Presbyterian
                     Church, Sacramento, CA

Requests to be Placed on the Inactive Roll – None (0)

Requests to be Dropped – One (1)

April 14, 2011        Barbee Seymour

Dropped – No Known Address (NKA) – None (0)

*Register* (Book of Order G-10.0302c)

Marriages – One (1)

April 9, 2011        Heidi Lim (nm)
                     Timothy Keng (nm)
                     Officiated by Edward D. H. Lee
                     Fremont Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

Infant Baptisms – None (0)
Funeral/Memorial Services – None (1)

April 19, 2011  Wayne Hausman Thomas (m)
Officiated by The Reverend Jeff Hoffmeyer
Fremont Presbyterian Church - Sanctuary

Item 5-2 – that Session authorize Fremont to join congregations throughout Sacramento participating in the “One Day to Prevent Homelessness” campaign, part of Mayor Johnson’s effort to end homelessness in our city. The recommended campaign dates for Fremont are July 17, 24 and 31.

Item 5-3 – to allow the Mariner Fleet and designated Ships to use Ferguson Hall on August 20 – 21 to hold a Fleet auction fundraiser.

Action Items:

Financial Report:

Elder Brooks Erickson presented the financial report. The Balance Sheet as of April 30, 2011, showed Total Assets of $8.9 million, Liabilities and Funds of $2.8 million, and Net Worth of $6.1 million, including a Designated Reserve of $66,635.

The Statement of General Fund Revenues and Expenses for the month ending April 30, 2011, showed Revenues for April of $145,273 and Expenses of $154,771, giving a loss for the month of $9,498. Year-to-Date, Revenues of $569,524 exceeded Budget by $6,463, and Expenses of $616,461 were less-than-budget by $10,944, giving a Year-to-Date loss of $46,937 with a variance from Budget of a surplus of $17,407.

Brooks noted there is continued pressure on the Buildings and Grounds Committee budget due to maintenance needs. Dr. Baird noted the positive sign of a growing Designated Reserve which serves as a safety net.

Motion 7: to receive the April Financial Report (Item 5-4) (MSP).

Old Business:

Motion 8: to convene an Executive Session Meeting with exception made for Cathy Cole, Mark Eshoff and Elaine Moody (MSP).

Motion 9: to exit the Executive Session meeting and return to the Stated Session meeting (MSP).

During the Executive Session meeting there was an updated report and discussion on the status of activities remaining from the November Leadership Retreat.

White Papers – Elder Carol Skinner spoke to four (4) white papers that were distributed prior to the Session meeting. They were position papers which set forth fundamental beliefs about our faith. There was a suggestion that these statement papers, as approved by Session, be packaged into a booklet to be distributed as part of new member classes. There was discussion about each paper as it was considered.

Motion 10: to adopt the paper entitled, “In Christ Alone, The Centrality of Christ in the Life of the Church,” with changes as made on May 25, 2011, with an understanding that grammar can be tweaked (MSP).

Motion 11: to adopt the paper entitled, “The Value of Scripture,” as presented (MSP).
The Authority of Scripture

One of the unique characteristics of Presbyterian (Reformed) theology is its absolute dependence upon Scripture. The Reformation dates its origins to Martin Luther's posting of his 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenburg Chapel in Wittenburg, Germany on October 31, 1517. The modern day equivalent to this form of communication would be to send out a Tweet or post on Facebook, and it quickly became a challenge to Christianity's claim at that time that Truth was found equally in the Bible and in Tradition. Martin Luther claimed that Tradition could be wrong from time to time, but the Bible would always be an unquestioned authority for Christians. Standing before Roman Catholic authorities who had the power to excommunicate him, Luther declared, "Here I stand! I can do no other." John Calvin, the father of Reformed theology, joined Luther in this affirmation, saying that only the Bible, Old and New Testaments, held authority. Summing up this idea in a sentence, Calvin wrote (and we Presbyterians have echoed for 500 years), "Sola Scriptura," or SCRIPTURE ABOVE ALL.

Presbyterians, in virtually every confession in the Book of Confessions, affirm that same conclusion. As the Scots Confession declares, "As we believe and confess the Scriptures of God sufficient to instruct and make perfect the man of God, so do we affirm and avow their authority to be from God, and not to depend on men or angels." [3.19]. It was here that Luther found the authority to stand up to the Pope, it is here that Reformed theology finds all of its authority, and it is here that the church today has the authority to stand up to its troubled secular world.

For Presbyterians the authority of Scripture must come first in everything. Other denominations lift up other authorities in addition to scripture. The Roman Catholic Church, for example, holds "Tradition" and Scripture as having equal authority. John Wesley, founder of the Methodists church, said tradition, logic, experience, and Scripture held equal authority. Others have held that history, "new revelations", public opinion, and personal preferences have authority equal to or greater than that of Scripture. Against such things Presbyterians have stood firm. Without Scripture, we Presbyterians have no theology. Out of Scripture comes everything we know about God and the lives He would have us lead. Without Scripture, we are only guessing who God is and gambling on how to live our lives. With Scripture, as the Psalmist said, "[His] Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."[Ps. 119:105] Without God's Word, we join the parade of the "blind leading the blind." With Scripture, we have the Word from God that is clear, inspirational, and the basis upon which we can rest our eternal life.

Such authority is claimed, not just by Presbyterians, but by the Bible itself. The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the people of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." [II Timothy 3:16].

The Interpretation of the Bible

Much of the Bible – especially those parts that are central to our faith and salvation – is given to us in very plain, clear, and straight-forward language. On the other hand, there are passages that require more attention and effort in order to fully understand their meaning and application to our lives.

The right interpretation of the Bible is not accomplished by human effort alone. We need the guidance of the Holy Spirit to help us understand God's Word and apply it to our lives. In I Corinthians 2:12, the Apostle Paul writes about the vital role of the Holy Spirit: "We have not received the spirit of the world, but the spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us." The work of interpretation begins with humility and dependence on the Holy Spirit.

As we read, investigate, study, and apply the Bible to our lives, we are assured that God is faithful and will help us in our understanding. The Westminster Confession reminds us, "We must read the Bible with high and reverent esteem, being absolutely convinced that it is truly God's word and that only he can enable us to understand it. We should read with a desire to know, believe, and obey his will as revealed in the Bible. We should pay careful attention to its content and the extent of its meaning, meditate on it, apply it to our lives, deny ourselves under its direction, and use it as the basis for our prayers."

Given this caution, the whole of the Presbyterian heritage and Fremont's specific history is assaulted by those who would suggest that the Bible is only one of many ways to know God, or that the Bible is in error in certain parts because it is "culturally biased" or "humanly created." We should be greatly disturbed by those who would invite compromise with the content of Scripture in order that there might be denominational "unity". We should reject all efforts which, whether as changes to a Book of Order or a Book of Confessions, contradict the clear content of the Bible. In this we are in lockstep with Presbyterians of the past 500 years. Here we stand. We can do no other.

Motion 12: to adopt the paper entitled, “Value of Presbyterian Form of Government,” as presented (MSP).

VALUE OF PRESBYTERIAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT

In a survey done by our Presbyterian magazine, Presbyterians Today, it was reported that Presbyterian members, elders and pastors overwhelmingly felt that the most distinctive attribute of being a Presbyterian, as opposed to belonging to some other denomination, was its form of government. We would agree. Presbyterian denominations have gleaned from scripture a form of government that is so wise that the founding fathers of the United States of America adopted it as the basis for America's constitution and it has withstood the test of time well for the last 225 years.

Our church history has, for the most part, been defined by this government. Thousands of our forbearers in faith have died to preserve this form of government, as others tried to force down upon us bishops, priests and other authorities, seeking to transform the Presbyterian form of government into one more akin to other denominations. We are the beneficiaries of their great sacrifices. They
knew that, just as the bulb determines the flower, so the polity of a church reinforces its theology.

Our name, “Presbyterian,” comes from our form of government. That is, we are a church governed by its “elders” or, in Greek, “presbuteros.” Presbyterians are not a church governed from the top down or dominated by its clergy, as are so many other denominations. Instead, we are governed by a Constitution (Book of Order) that guarantees that within the boundaries of Scripture and the Book of Order, every local congregation should identify, by the leading of God’s Holy Spirit, its own leaders, including its pastors. We do not believe that a congregation should have a pastor unilaterally imposed upon it by its denomination, nor told how to spend its benevolences or carry out its ministry. Conversely, we do not believe that a congregation should be given free and unfettered rein to call any leader it pleases or do whatever it fancies. There is a system of checks and balances to insure a healthy interplay between autonomy and connectedness. The body as a whole is more important than any of its parts, including any of its leaders, and no individual is wiser than the whole. We are all sinners, leaders and followers alike, but not all at the same time and in the same way. Therefore, we need the majority to temper and correct the minority in the lives we live and decisions we make in the name of Christ. Everyone who confesses Jesus as his Lord and Savior has equal access to God’s Holy Spirit, and, therefore, an equal vote with any other church member.

It would be tragic if we were to lose our Presbyterian polity, whether by ignoring and disregarding its requirements, or by allowing its foundations to be chipped away and eroded through sheer apathy and ignorance. Each of us bears a responsibility and a privilege to understand and appreciate its protections and to hold each other and our denomination accountable thereto.

Motion 13: to adopt the paper entitled, “The Value of Belonging to a Denomination,” with changes as made on May 25, 2011 (MSP).

Motion 14: to send the four position papers to the Grapevine mailing list during the first week of June in booklet format (MSP).

Dr. Baird will work with Dr. Willson and Rev. Hoffmeyer to develop questions that could be used by small groups to discuss the papers. These questions will be contained in cover materials which will be sent with the booklet.

New Business:

Website – In the packet of materials for the meeting, there was a proposal to develop a “Session Area on the Website”. Clerk Elaine Moody spoke to the proposal, commenting the idea was to develop a password-protected area for non-sensitive Session materials. She hoped this would provide more readily available information to seated Session members. Before any work occurred to develop this area, she wanted to confirm that Session members thought they would make use of the site. There was very positive response. There were several suggestions of documents that could be placed on the site and a request that a search engine be included that would allow word search of all documents. The Clerk will work with office staff to establish this area on the website.

Pastors’ Reports:

Dr. Baird gave a report on the Presbytery meeting in McCloud, held on Saturday, May 21. Fremont had full representation of Commissioners. Those present were: Clergy members – Dr. Baird, Dr. Willson and Rev. Hoffmeyer; Commissioners – Lance Barnett, Kathy Chance, Lynn Jordan, Viola Larson, Vicki Meyer, Ken Moody and Clair Parsh. Dr. Baird reported there was a motion presented by Council to return monies paid by Fair Oaks and Roseville Presbyterian Churches for leaving the denomination, above and beyond the amounts originally suggested by the Presbytery of Sacramento, to the leaving churches. There was considerable debate with the outcome of a task force being established to recommend how the money will be spent, which could include returning monies to the churches. In addition to general business at the meeting, the new Transitional Executive Presbyter, Jay Wilkins, was introduced.

A sheet entitled “PC(USA) Amendment Voting As of May 25, 2011” was distributed.

Dr. Baird said he will be on his annual sermon retreat for three weeks beginning June 13, but plans to return for the June Session meeting.

Dr. Willson had a written report in the materials for the meeting and had nothing additional to report. In the written report, he commented on the annual Mariners banquet, which included celebration of the launching of a new ship. He also reported 44 people attended the very
successful Asilomar Retreat.

Rev. Hoffmeyer said how proud he was that Dr. Baird was the originator of Council’s motion at Presbytery. He felt it was a Christ-like action. In addition, he mentioned the ongoing congregational prayer time, held each Sunday at 10:15. He suggested Session members attend, even for part of the time.

**Other Staff Reports:**

Executive Minister Mark Eshoff talked about the Commitment Campaign. Things are going well. Although not many financial commitments have been made yet, there is a spirit-building occurring because of contacts, in-home desserts, etc. Members appreciate what God is doing at Fremont. The campaign is a blessing. Mark passed around commitment cards and spoke about how important commitment of the leadership is.

Executive Secretary Cathy Cole reminded Session members that input to the Program Calendar was due. She also said that Amanda Jantz, the new Administrative Assistant, is making a significant impact as a member of church staff.

**Ask An Elder:**

Elder Clair Parsh reported he had spoken with two people. One commented on the wonderful organ concert which over 750 attended. The other person said he had not attended Fremont for over 12 years; he attended the first service and was very impressed, he felt the service was powerful.

**Announcements:**

Elder Marcia Garrison reported $8,649 was collected for disaster relief in Japan. This included $707 collected by the children of the church. Marcia also reported $8414 was collected for the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

Marcia reminded Session members that Father’s Day, June 19, there would be the annual Pancake Breakfast; proceeds will be used to help fund short-term mission trips.

Marcia then announced presentations made to Fremont Presbyterian Church at the Ethiopia Network Conference held in Atlanta from the Illubabor Bethel Synod of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. There were two certificates presented: The first was a Certificate of Appreciation to Fremont Presbyterian Church in recognition of two decades of support for the Mekane Yesus Church. Marcia will have this certificate framed. Marcia presented the second certificate to Elder Carol Skinner in recognition of her work in teaching as part of the English for Ethiopia effort.

**Motion 15:** to hold a Witness Offering on June 19, with the funds to go to Ethiopia Mekane Yesus for the purpose of building a church for the Degele (MSP). Dr. Willson and Marcia spoke to the motion. The Ethiopians are amazing evangelists and a group in Degele, near the area of Masha which Fremont has been supporting, desires to build a church building as a center from which their congregation can go out to do their evangelism. The Witness Offering is an annual request for monies to be used for evangelism.

Elder Ken Moody reported a search committee for the Interim Minister for Congregational Life and Small Groups has started their work. A non-ordained person will be sought for the interim. The committee includes himself and Elders Andy Bodemeijer, Don Davison and Dan Johnson. Dr. Baird has been involved but may be replaced since his son, James Baird, may be a candidate. There was extended discussion about the approach and timeframes. Ken hopes to bring a candidate name to Session in June.

Dr. Baird thanked Session for their scholarship and commitment to Christ Jesus.
Motion 16: to adjourn the meeting (MSP).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m. with prayer by Rev. Hoffmeyer.

Elaine Moody  
Clerk of Session