

**Las Placitas Presbyterian Church
APPROVED Stated Session Meeting
Minutes August 11, 2025**

Class of 2026

Donna Ebers
Jacque Fletcher
Colleen Rust

Class of 2027

Carl Allen
Janice Langdale
Lauren Mueller Skinner

Class of 2028

Steve Chewning
Judie Hendry
Mike Potter

***** THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM**

MEETING OPENED – 6:34 PM

Rev. Matthew Baugh Moderator

DEVOTION – Steve Chewning – Power in Community (1st Corinthians)

DECLARATION OF QUORUM (1/3 of Session plus Moderator)

Session Members Present: Steve Chewning, Jacque Fletcher, Janice Langdale,
Judie Hendry, Colleen Rust, Lauren Mueller Skinner, Mike Potter

Session Members Absent: Carl Allen, Donna Ebers

**MOTION: APPROVE ABSENCES OF CARL ALLEN AND DONNA EBERS
APPROVED**

JACQUE FLETCHER ACTED AS CLERK FOR THIS MEETING.

DOCUMENT APPROVALS

DRAFT Stated Session Meeting Agenda Monday August 11, 2025

APPROVED

DRAFT Stated Session Meeting Minutes Monday July 14, 2025

APPROVED with one correction:

Under NEW BUSINESS, **Fellowship**. “Discussion led by Steve Chewning The 4th of July fellowship effort, including food and a bouncy castle, yielded \$ 522 in **profit** (*last word missing*).

STATED SUPPLY PASTOR'S REPORT

Rev. Baugh

Non-Member Camping - Reviewed the reports that Matthew provided to Session over the past weeks. The non-member has moved out of the basketball court, now working in construction for Matt Gurule. A Placitas woman whose house they're working on is currently providing the non-member a place to live.

Member Knife Incident – Matthew has visited her twice and has spoken once with a mental health professional in ABQ who has judged that there is no danger in allowing her to attend church services. She is hungry for community.

- Lauren – Based on the way she produced the knife and declined to put it down when asked twice, was concerning. We are not mental health professionals so cannot judge. Lauren has concerns, doesn't trust her. We must think of the congregation.
- Janice – She was holding the knife point down. Even though she didn't respond the first 2 times Pastor Rich asked her to relinquish it Janice didn't feel that she was, or would be, dangerous.
- Matthew - when he first visited her he emphasized that it is not permissible to bring any weapon to the church; she said she wouldn't ever again. In different congregations in the past, Matthew knew members w mental health issues but he's never known it to become an issue of safety. Danger is more likely with those having no mental health issues. Honestly doesn't believe that she would endanger anyone. Therapist he spoke with indicates that we, the congregation, can be a community that cares for her.
- Steve – She brought the knife because she thought we wouldn't believe her.

MOTION – Steve. Second – Mike. Welcome her back to worship at LPPC.

APPROVED – UNANIMOUS.

Janice – maybe someone in the congregation could act as a companion when she comes to church, sit with her, talk with her. Matthew will ask a couple of people to do this.

CLERK'S REPORT

Carl Allen (Jacque Fletcher Acting)

The Presbytery of Santa Fe Annual Meeting will be held at Ghost Ranch on Saturday October 18, starting at 10:00 am. Staying overnight at the Ranch is a possibility. Ghost Ranch is approximately 2.5 hours from LPPC by car. Details can be found on the website: santafepresbytery.org

Room costs at Ghost Ranch range from \$135 to \$270 per night and meal costs are approximately \$12 each. **Session needs to decide how much of these costs LPPC will cover.**

LPPC is authorized to send two Session members as well as the Stated Supply Pastor as voting delegates. **The two Session members should be chosen at tonight's meeting in order to get everyone registered.**

- Volunteers: Judie and Lauren, but if Carl is going then only one of these two would go (postpone decision until we know if Carl wants to go)
- Matthew will go and would like to spend the night.
- Financial: Steve says the church would pay for registration fee (if there is one) but there is nothing budgeted for lodging or food.

OLD BUSINESS:

Steinway Piano:

Discussion led by Steve Chewning

Steve measured basement & upper room floor; the floor-ceiling is on 2X8 rafters, supporting beam in lower floor that holds up the ceiling to prevent collapse (but Steve wouldn't stand underneath it). 100-yr old boards w 600 lb static wt would be a challenge. A structural engineer has been contacted; waiting to hear back. Options for the Yamaha are limited. Putting it in the Fellowship Hall would be difficult during several events that traditionally use all the space available.

Session already voted to accept it, and we committed to PAS. We just need to find a place for it.

Delay vote until structural engineer weighs in and Carl Allen is here,

Matthew – Mindy has several ideas about the pianos. She will write these up and send to Carl.

Conclusion – wait for more info.

Camping on LPPC Property:

Discussion led by Matthew Baugh and Steve Chewning.

Covered above.

Steve: An LPPC member talked to Steve and wanted to let the non-member stay. ***Steve asks that we think deeply about how the church can deal with homeless individuals who pass through Placitas.*** Steve wants LPPC to create a formalized, written policy.

Things to think about:

- Food & water - Food & water available from Casa Rosa only on Sat. Is there a way to provide water at other times?
- Shelter & sanitation – More difficult; need to consider.
- Money - We have agreed that financial solicitations must go thru the pastor.

Matthew – Currently there are no resources in Placitas, or even in the county, for these needs. Looking into it is a long-range proposition. “Safe Spaces ABQ” works with churches in ABQ, could invite them for a presentation. Issues with a shelter: Must have security for the people staying there. There must be an attendant or video monitoring 24/7. Consider networking with other groups in Placitas who could be interested in working toward a solution.

Laruen – we are liable for people on our property. Safety, well-being of our church, sanitation, fires, etc.

Mike – if someone wanted to form a committee and explore, move forward, would be good.

Steve – we have 7K in Jubilee Garden; could spend some of it to clear the underbrush on the lot. Should do this anyway. Maybe add a water fountain outside the church or Casa Rosa for access.

Nothing we can do for sanitation.

Judy – at Third Sunday ask for a congregational task force to look at this. Everyone liked this idea. Matthew will lead the discussion. Put into announcements beforehand.

NEW BUSINESS

Worship

Discussion led by Colleen Rust

Fall schedule (8:30 and 10:30 services) will resume on Sunday Sept. 7.

Liturgist and ushers taken care of until end of year and into March. Youth will be signing up for these duties too.

Matthew trying to have quarterly meetings w music staff, invites Colleen to be part of this.

Finance

Discussion led by Steve Chewning

July profit and loss total income \$33,700, expenditures \$6,400. \$10K to the good.

Closing out oil royalties for Jubilee Garden, company to buy out royalties (~\$2000), discussing what to do with funds

Stewardship

Discussion led by Judie Hendry

The Stewardship campaign for next year will be conducted September 14 - October 5, 2025. (4 Sundays). This year's theme: "Be the Light". (Use also for WSPR?)

The committee includes Carl Allen (chair), Judie Hendry, Rev. Matthew Baugh and Karen Cox.

Matthew will investigate about our kids going to Ghost Ranch; when, how much, ask Presbytery.

Steve – if we send kids, they should report back to the congregation!

Pastor Nominating

Discussion led by Janice Langdale.

Making progress.

Mission Committee

Janice – the mission committee will be meeting with Matthew soon to move forward.

CALENDAR

Next Session meeting (Zoom 6:30)

Monday September 8, 2025

Delayed until September

29, 2025

Presbytery Meeting (Ghost Ranch)

Saturday October 18, 2025

Devotion / Lockup Schedule

August Steve Chewning

September Donna Ebers

October Janice Langdale

Adjourn with Prayer 7:48

Respectfully submitted Carl Allen Clerk of Session