

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Akron, Ohio

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Minutes of the Session Meeting – FINAL

*Be adaptive, engaging, generous, inclusive and relevant. Be faithful. Be Westminster!*

The regular meeting of the Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church was called to order by Moderator and Pastor Jon Hauerwas at 7:00 p.m.

Elders (+ present, \* excused, - absent)

Class of 2019	Class of 2020	Class of 2021
* Marcia Holcomb	+ Michael Dunbar	+ Phil Fry
+ James Gray	+ Brad Hall	- Nancy Keogh
+ Ed Labbe	+ Shelley Koutnik, Treasurer	+ Becky Pool
+ Alec Works, Clerk of Session	- Todd Willis	+ Don Rearick

Also present: Pastor Jon Hauerwas, Moderator, Greg Grafinger, Assistant Clerk of Session.

### **Opening and Extension of Floor**

Pastor Jon opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00 pm.

### **Quorum**

The presence of a quorum was confirmed and declared.

### **Adoption of Agenda and Consent Agenda**

A **motion prevailed** to adopt and approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda as amended (only one motion from Worship). The report from Personnel was moved to later in the meeting.

### **Clerk's Report**

Alec reported that he received information from our denomination on the Presbyterian Hunger Program (being recognized as a supporting congregation). This information was passed on to Outreach. The Annual Statistical Report, Necrology Report (deceased elders) and updated church office directory were submitted to Eastminster Presbytery on January 31, 2019.

There being no other volunteers, Alec offered to serve as a commissioner at the March 5 Presbytery meeting at Oak Hill Presbyterian Church.

**2019-024 MOTION prevailed** to elect Alec Works to serve as a commissioner at the March 5 Presbytery meeting at Oak Hill Presbyterian Church.

Alec also noted that he has started to work with Claudine Schooley, Office Administrator, to start developing the Session information on the new church web page. Besides having current and past year minutes available on the web page, information from prior years needs to be available somewhere.

The Consent Agenda as approved included the following motions:

**2019-025 MOTION prevailed** to approve the minutes of the regular Session meeting of January 29, 2019.

**2019-026 MOTION prevailed** to approve the minutes of the Session E-meeting of February 6, 2019 (to hire a Financial Accountant).

**2019-027 MOTION prevailed** to approve the minutes of the Session E-meeting of February 8, 2019 (to approve having Rev. George Murphy officiate at the February 10 worship service).

**2019-028 MOTION prevailed** to receive the following report of all weddings, funerals, baptisms, and Communion that have taken place since Session's January 29, 2019 meeting:

1. Weddings: none
2. Funerals: none
3. Baptisms: none
4. Communion: February 10, 2019 (10:30 a.m.); attendance 122.

**2019-029 MOTION prevailed** to receive the report of the average worship attendance for January: 106 (10:30 a.m. service). [Clerk's note: Cold with heavy snow 1/20/19; attendance 46.]

**2019-030 MOTION prevailed** to approve the membership statistical report for the month of January 2019:

Total Membership as of 1/1/19	409
Additions: none	0
Deletions: Janis Hutchinson, Aaron G. Lepp, Patricia A, Sargent	3
Deaths: Frances Keller (died 12/26/18); Martha Wilson (died 1/19/19)	2
Total Membership as of 1/31/19	404

No motion is needed to delete anyone from membership since the persons listed above were removed during the January meeting.

From Personnel:

**2019-031 MOTION prevailed** to approve a pay increase for Dave Bodnar, Daytime Custodian, from \$18 to \$20 per hour, effective with the pay cycle beginning February 26, 2019.

**2019-032 MOTION prevailed** to approve a pay increase for Luella Wertz, part-time Evening Custodian, from \$13 to \$15 per hour, effective with the pay cycle beginning February 26, 2019.

[Clerk's note: Provisions for both of these increases were included in the 2019 budget and follow completion of each one's 90 day review.]

From Worship:

**2019-033 MOTION prevailed** to approve the following Communion schedule for the summer of 2019: June 9, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.; June 23, 8:30 a.m.; July 14, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.; July 28, 8:30 a.m.; August 11, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.; August 25, 8:30 a.m. [Clerk's note: The only changes to the schedule approved on November 27, 2018 are the additions of Communion at the designated 8:30 a.m. services.]

## **Committee Reports and Actions**

Discipleship Committee (February minutes were attached; no motions) Ed Labbe  
Moderator Ed Labbe reported that planning continues for a youth mission trip. He reminded us that the Godly Play training is March 1-2 and the Talent Show is March 9.

Finance Committee (January financial report was attached; no motions) Shelley Koutnik  
In Todd's absence, Treasurer Shelley Koutnik reported that January income was above budget. This may occur with prepayment of pledges. A more realistic budget picture should be available in April.

Properties Committee (February minutes were attached; no motions) Brad Hall for Ginny Melver  
Brad reported that the new dishwasher is operational. Phil Fry reported that, for the Third Sunday Dinner, it "exceeded expectations." A church clean-up day is planned for April 13. They plan to obtain some initial estimates for the chimney repair and the steeple.

Membership Committee (No minutes nor motions) James Gray  
Moderator James Gray reported that work is underway on the church history project / update. There is much symbolism in the design of the church and grounds.

Nominating Committee (No minutes; see motions below) Phil Fry  
Moderator Phil Fry reported that the committee met on Sunday. Suzanne Grafinger has accepted the invitation to fill the open deacon position. The following motion was made, seconded and approved: **2019-034 MOTION prevailed** to receive the report from the Nominating Committee as part of the Annual Congregational Meeting, scheduled for March 17, 2019, to vote on electing Suzanne Grafinger to fill the open position for a Deacon (remainder of the 2019-2020 term).

Pastor Jon will contact Suzanne and Pat Schumacher to schedule their ordination and installation sometime after the Congregational Meeting.

Outreach Committee (No minutes nor motions) Becky Pool  
Moderator Becky Pool said their committee will have more to report at the next meeting.

Worship Committee (No minutes; see Consent Agenda for motion) Pastor Hauerwas  
Pastor Jon noted that Alcee Chriss III has suggested trying an alternative, possibly a jazz, service in the fall. This could be offered in conjunction with a Third Sunday Dinner; Rowley New Church Life funds might be available.

Board of Deacons (February minutes were attached; no motions) Pastor Hauerwas  
The Deacons' minutes noted that they plan to place a box at the Connection Point during the month of April for the purpose of collecting old CD's and DVD's to be sent to a recycling center. The question was raised as to whether this needed Session approval and whether it should be limited to 2 weeks. Pastor Jon offered to follow up with the Deacons.

## **Pastor's Report and Remarks**

Pastor Jon reported on a new program offered by Presbytery called "Healthy Pastors Healthy Congregations." The Board of Pensions is leading this project. There is a grant available. With 75% of Presbyterian Church pastors potentially retiring within 10 years, the church wants to keep its pastors able to effectively serve.

## **New / Other Business**

There was no other new business.

The next regular Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. A Visioning discussion is scheduled for Saturday, March 30, from 10 a.m. until noon.

Pastor Jon then excused himself from the meeting.

Personnel Committee (No minutes; see motion below) Shelley Koutnik for John Childs  
Shelley Koutnik reported for Moderator John Childs that Personnel recommends a 2% wage increase plus a Social Security supplement for Pastor Jon, effective April 1, 2019. The committee had asked for input for Pastor Jon's performance evaluation. The following motion from the committee was approved after the Clerk agreed to contact the Personnel Moderator asking that he confirm a positive evaluation and present the results of the evaluation to Session at a later date.

**2019-035 MOTION prevailed** to approve the 2019 Terms of Call for Pastor Jon Hauerwas as presented. The terms reflect a 2% raise, to be effective April 1, 2019, pending approval at the March 17, 2019 Congregational Meeting.

Pastor Jon then returned. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved. The meeting was then closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:29 p.m.

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Alec Works, Clerk of Session

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Pastor Jon Hauerwas, Moderator