

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Akron, Ohio
Minutes of Annual Congregational and Corporation Meeting
Sunday, March 17, 2019 - FINAL

The Annual Congregational and Corporate Meeting of Westminster Presbyterian Church was called to order by Moderator the Reverend Jonathan Hauerwas at approximately 11:22 a.m. in the Sanctuary, following the morning worship service. An opportunity was provided for any so desiring to leave. He explained that the purpose is to elect one new deacon to fill an unexpired term and to conduct the business of the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Also present: The Reverend Jonathan Hauerwas, Pastor; Alec Works, Clerk of Session

Pastor Hauerwas opened the meeting with prayer. Then, as ushers distributed copies of the Annual Report [electronic copies of which had been sent to members earlier in the week], he invited Alec Works, Clerk of Session, to come forward. Alec declared that a quorum was present. [Current membership as of January 31, 2019 is 409. Per our Manual of Operations, a quorum is 10%, or 41 members. Alec counted at least 60 members present.]

Pastor Hauerwas invited Elder Phil Fry to present the committee's nominee for the open position. Phil submitted the name of Suzanne Grafinger to fill the unexpired deacon term. With no other nominations from the floor, a motion was called for, then made and seconded from the floor, to elect Suzanne Grafinger to serve as deacon by unanimous ballot. **MOTION C-2019-01 prevailed to elect Suzanne Grafinger by unanimous ballot to serve the unexpired 2019-2020 term as deacon.** Pastor Hauerwas noted that both Suzanne and deacon Pat Schumacher will be ordained and installed during worship on March 31, 2019. [Note: Pat was unable to attend the services in January 2019.]

Pastor Hauerwas then turned to the business of the Annual Congregational Meeting. He called attention to pages 31-34 of the Annual Report, where copies of the minutes for the 2 congregational meetings from 2018 were included. The minutes from each of these had previously been approved by Session. A motion was made and seconded from the congregation to receive and approve these minutes. **MOTION C-2019-02 prevailed to receive and approve the minutes from the two 2018 Congregational Meetings.**

Pastor Hauerwas next explained that each committee was asked to write a report of activities from the previous year. These reports were included in the 2018 Annual Report. He called Treasurer Shelley Koutnik forward to presented the 2018 Treasurer's Report on behalf of the Finance Committee. Shelley directed attention to pages 21-24 of the Annual Report. Highlights included: With total revenues of \$606,501 and total expenses of \$587,778, there was a surplus of \$18,723. This amount was added to the Reserve Fund which was restarted a year ago, bringing its balance to \$63,882. No Rowley Funds were needed to meet operating expenses. Contributions were below budget but savings in expenses, especially for personnel costs, contributed to the surplus. With no questions from the congregation, a motion was made and seconded to receive the report. With no further discussion, **MOTION C-2019-03 prevailed to receive the 2018 Treasurer's Report.**

Shelley then presented the 2018 budget, as included as pages 25-27 of the Annual Report. This budget had been approved by Session on January 29, 2019. The budget lists revenues of \$580,025 and expenses of \$620,979 for a projected deficit of \$40, 954 which would be covered by Rowley Unrestricted Funds. Revenues reflect lower pledges. Future challenges include fully funding certain expense items from

current revenues rather than expiring funds. Todd Willis, Moderator of the Finance Committee, noted that committees have been very responsive the past few years and expressed hope that the congregation would have confidence that their contributions were well managed. A motion was made and seconded to receive the 2019 budget. With no further discussion, **MOTION C-2019-004 prevailed to receive the 2019 Budget as presented.**

Pastor Hauerwas next called forward John Childs, Moderator of the Personnel Committee, and excused himself from the meeting. Ushers distributed the proposed 2019 Terms of Call for the pastor as approved by the Personnel Committee and then by Session on February 26, 2019. The terms represent a 2% increase in the pastor's compensation. After explaining the terms, John opened the floor for discussion. Discussion items included details of the congregational meeting minutes, the status of Pastor Hauerwas' doctoral work and his availability during coffee hour. John said that Personnel would ask about the doctoral work. It was noted that the pastor is often involved with committee meetings after morning worship. Following the discussions, a motion was made and seconded to approve the 2019 Terms of Call. With no further discussion, **MOTION C-2019-005 prevailed to approve the Pastor's 2019 Terms of Call as presented.** Details of the Terms of Call, which were distributed, are available to members of the congregation upon request.

Clerk Alec Works then invited Pastor Hauerwas to return and resume as Moderator. Pastor Hauerwas asked if there were any questions for other committees or new business. Discussions focused primarily on Visioning Discussions which Session started in 2018 and opportunities for membership growth. Pastor Jon noted that various personnel issues were addressed last year. Westminster is not alone among mainline denominational churches experiencing declining membership over the past decades. The Membership Committee was adopted to help address such concerns. A new church web page should help our visibility in the community. Pastor Jon noted, though, that personal outreaches can be the most effective way to get people engaged. The congregation was invited to share any ideas they have.

With no other new business, Pastor Hauerwas called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was so made and seconded. With no further discussion, **MOTION C-2019-006 prevailed to adjourn the meeting.** The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Pastor Hauerwas at 12:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alec Works, Clerk of Session

The Reverend Jonathan Hauerwas, Moderator