

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Akron, Ohio  
Sunday, August 11, 2019  
Minutes of Special Session Meeting - FINAL

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

The special meeting of the Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church was called to order by the Moderator, the Reverend Jon Hauerwas, at 9:22 a.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, Brian Rodabaugh, new member and guest.

**Opening and Quorum**

Pastor Jon opened the meeting with prayer at 9:22 a.m. on Sunday, August 11, 2019, immediately following the 8:30 a.m. worship service and a 9:00 a.m. new members class. The class was a continuation of the August 5 class. New members were invited to stay for the Session meeting. The presence of a quorum was confirmed and declared.

**New Business**

Pastor Hauerwas provided the initial agenda on August 6 when he called the meeting. One additional item was added on August 9.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the 4 individuals listed below as new members.

**2019-137 MOTION prevailed** to accept the following as new members of Westminster Presbyterian Church: Karen Elvin, Todd Newman, Sara Newman, and Brian Rodabaugh.

Pastor Hauerwas next explained his requests for upcoming time off. These include sick leave associated with a minor scheduled surgery; vacation time, and study leave. He would still be available for Rally Day, September 8, the Jazz Vesper Service on September 29, and the Stewardship campaign in October. Wednesdays and Saturdays are normally scheduled days off. The following motion was then made seconded and approved.

**2019-138 MOTION prevailed** to approve the following time off for Pastor Hauerwas: sick leave August 20, 22, 23 and 25; vacation September 12, 13, 15 and 16; and study leave September 17, 19, 20, 22, 23 and 24. [Clerk's note: Pastor Hauerwas reported on August 12 that he has received commitments for guest preachers which will be submitted for Session approval. He later reported he has also obtained commitments for emergency pastoral care.]

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the resignation of Lue Wertz, evening custodian. She will continue to serve through mid-September, since the daytime custodian has vacation time scheduled.

**2019-139 MOTION prevailed** to accept the resignation of Lue Wertz, evening custodian, effective mid-September.

Pastor Hauerwas explained that she was departing on good terms. She is planning to move to Arizona for most of the year; she expressed a willingness to serve as a back-up during the summers if needed. A new job description is being drafted. With the new daytime custodian picking up more maintenance responsibilities, more cleaning will be performed by the evening custodian. Many resumes have already been received.

The agenda had called for a motion to approve a final paycheck for Alcee Chriss, Music Director and Organist. Alcee's last day was originally scheduled to be August 4. Personnel approved his request to work 1 additional week. However, since his timecard has not yet been approved, the motion is deferred until the next Session meeting.

Our church was approached by Eastminster Presbytery, asking if we would offer a discussion forum for a PC(USA) International Peacemaker, the Reverend Lydia Neshangwe from Zimbabwe, on Sunday, September 29. Outreach is asking Session to approve this request, with the discussion to start at 2 p.m. This is the same date as the first Jazz Vesper Service, which is to start at 4 p.m. We may provide light refreshments (i.e., coffee, tea, cookies). [Clerk's note: Shelley Koutnik later reported that there are funds available for peacemaking.] Otherwise, there is no cost to our church since Eastminster Presbytery is handling the bills for her time in our Presbytery.

**2019-140 MOTION prevailed** to offer a discussion forum for a PC(USA) International Peacemaker, the Reverend Lydia Neshangwe from Zimbabwe, on Sunday, September 29 at 2 p.m.

The agenda had also called for a possible change to one of the Five at Five concerts. Since the contract with David Thomas to provide a jazz concert on that date has been completed, no further action is needed.

The final item is a request from Outreach's Pride Subcommittee to use part of their budget to order a banner to place in the front yard of the church. The 2-sided, reusable banner would be the same size as others previously placed. The following motion was made, seconded and approved.

**2019-141 MOTION prevailed** to permit the Pride Subcommittee to order a banner as proposed to place in the front yard of the church. The banner may be placed in the church yard from the Wednesday before the August 24 festival through the following Wednesday.

After a motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting, it was closed at 9:55 a.m. with all joining in the Lord's Prayer.

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Alec Works, Clerk of Session

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Pastor Jon Hauerwas, Moderator