

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Akron, Ohio
Minutes of Annual Congregational and Corporation Meeting
Sunday, March 15, 2020 - FINAL

The Annual Congregational and Corporate Meeting of Westminster Presbyterian Church was called to order by Moderator the Reverend Jonathan Hauerwas at approximately 11:25 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 conduct the business of the Annual Congregational Meeting.

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

Pastor Hauerwas opened the meeting with prayer. Copies of the Annual Report were made available at the entrances to the sanctuary; also, electronic copies had been sent to members earlier in the week.

Pastor Hauerwas then called for a motion to elect Alec Works to serve as Clerk of Session for the congregational meeting. Following a motion and second, **MOTION C-2020-01 prevailed to elect Alec Works to serve as Clerk of Session for the Annual Congregational meeting.**

Based on current membership as of January 31, 2020 of 373, per our Manual of Operations, a quorum is 10%, or 38 members. Alec reported that a quorum was present. Alec counted at least 44 members present.

Pastor Hauerwas then turned to the business of the Annual Congregational Meeting. He called attention to pages 36-39 of the Annual Report, where copies of the minutes for the 2 congregational meetings from 2019 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-2020-02 prevailed to receive and approve the minutes from the two 2019 Congregational Meetings.**

Pastor Hauerwas explained that each committee was asked to write a report of activities from the previous year. These reports were also included in the 2019 Annual Report. He then called Alec Works, Acting Clerk, to present suggested changes to the bylaws of the congregation. Alec noted that the proposed changes had already been reviewed and found acceptable by Session. Most of the changes relate to sizes and terms of elected committees. The size of the congregation has decreased by over 100 since 2013, making it more difficult to fill positions. Changes to Article VIII clarify some terminology related to the Endowment Fund. With no questions, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adopt the changes [a two-thirds majority was needed]. **MOTION C-2020-03 prevailed to adopt the changes to the Congregation's Bylaws as proposed.**

Pastor Hauerwas then called Treasurer Shelley Koutnik forward to presented the 2019 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 \$589,369 and total expenses of \$552,562, there was a surplus of \$36,807. This amount was added to the Reserve Fund which was restarted two years ago. No Rowley Funds were needed to meet operating expenses. Higher interest earnings and endowment distributions contributed to higher revenues. There were significant savings in personnel expenses, along with savings in administrative costs and the delay of a youth mission trip. With no questions from the congregation, a motion was made and seconded to receive the report. With no further discussion, **MOTION C-2020-04 prevailed to receive the 2019 Treasurer's Report.**

Shelley then presented the 2020 budget, as included as pages 30-32 of the Annual Report. This budget had been approved by Session on January 28, 2020. The budget includes revenues of \$605,642 and expenses of \$626,611 for a projected deficit of \$20,969. This is within the limit set by Session which would be covered by Rowley Unrestricted Funds if necessary. Future challenges include fully funding certain expense items from current revenues rather than expiring or New Church Life funds. A motion was made and seconded to receive the 2020 budget. With no further discussion, **MOTION C-2020-05 prevailed to receive the 2020 Budget as presented.** There were no further questions for the Finance Committee.

Pastor Hauerwas next invited Shelley, as elder and member of the Personnel Committee, to present the Pastor's Terms of Call for 2020 on behalf of the Personnel Committee. Pastor Hauerwas then excused himself from the meeting. Ushers distributed the proposed 2020 Terms of Call for the pastor as approved by the Personnel Committee and then by Session on February 24, 2020. The terms represent a 3% increase in the pastor's total compensation. As part of explaining the terms, Shelley first commented on the status of Pastor Hauerwas' satisfactory progress towards his Doctor of Ministry degree from Columbia theological Seminary. She then shared some of the comments received from elders, committee moderators, staff and others regarding the pastor's performance evaluation. The comments received were substantially positive. Regarding the pastor's availability during coffee hour, Shelley noted that he greets attendees in the narthex immediately following the service, so he may not be in Wright-Herberich Hall right after a service. After opening the floor for a brief discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the 2020 Terms of Call. With no further discussion, **MOTION C-2020-06 prevailed to approve the Pastor's 2020 Terms of Call as presented.** Details of the Terms of Call, which were distributed, are available to members of the congregation upon request.

Pastor Hauerwas then returned and resumed duties as Moderator. He asked if there were any questions for him or other committees. Discussions again focused primarily on the decline in membership over the past decades and efforts made to draw more people in. It was noted that Westminster is not alone in its membership decline. Session has been actively engaged in seeking to discern how best to reach out to our community. We have funds available for new church life programs, but we also need committed people to carry out any new or expanded programs. The Jazz Vesper services were cited as an example of new efforts to reach out.

With no new business brought up, Pastor Hauerwas called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was so made and seconded. With no further discussion, **MOTION C-2020-07 prevailed to adjourn the meeting.** The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Pastor Hauerwas at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alec Works, Acting Clerk of Session

The Reverend Jonathan Hauerwas, Moderator