

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Akron, Ohio
Thursday, March 17, 2020
Minutes of Session E-meeting - FINAL

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

The e-meeting of the Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church was called to order by the Moderator, the Reverend Jon Hauerwas at 11:38 a.m. on March 17 by email in continuing response to concerns about the spreading and containment of the corona virus.

Elders (+ present, * excused, - absent)

Class of 2020	Class of 2021	Class of 2022
+ Michael Dunbar	+ Phil Fry	+ Rob Gilbert
+ Brad Hall	+ Nancy Keogh	+ James Gray
+ Shelley Koutnik, Treasurer	+ Becky Pool	+ Sandy Gruneich
+ Todd Willis	+ Don Rearick	+ Ginny Melver

Also present by email: Pastor Jon Hauerwas, Moderator.

New Business

As a follow up to the special Session meeting of March 14, 2020, and recognizing new information and guidelines issued by State of Ohio officials, Pastor Jon proposed additional measures for Westminster to take. The meeting was opened with a prayer.

The opening email included 10 additional proposed measures to help insure the health and safety of staff, members and visitors. Subsequent discussions recognized that we do not know how long these measures would be in place. Some of the provisions may not be needed (e.g., additional supplies), but approving them now may reduce the need for any future action.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 10 motions in aggregate. By 9:32 p.m. that day, 10 elders had responded, with all 10 measures approved.

2020-064 MOTION prevailed that, effective Monday, March 23, the church office will be open from 9:00 a.m. until noon. [Note: This permits staff members who have children at home due to the closing of schools and daycares to complete job responsibilities from home when possible.]

2020-065 MOTION prevailed to postpone in-person worship services until further notice, beginning Sunday, March 22. [Note: This temporary postponement of worship services complies with the regulations of our federal and local governments as they attempt to protect our communities and limit the spread of the Coronavirus.]

2020-066 MOTION prevailed to provide childcare to families participating in the video worship service from 9:00 a.m. until noon on Sundays, beginning Sunday, March 22. [Note: We wish to encourage our staff and paid musicians to participate in worship services without the hardship of securing independent childcare.]

2020-067 MOTION prevailed to ask all outside groups scheduled for building use to reschedule at a mutually convenient date and time after the federal and local governments remove all restrictions that are in place due to the spread of the Coronavirus. WYDACA is exempt from this action pending further government guidelines. [Note: This is in recognition of local and national regulations to prevent the spread of Coronavirus and to protect our staff as they work to provide an opportunity

for affirmation of faith through video worship, provide essential services for our building and organization, and lead communication efforts to keep our church family cared for and informed.

2020-068 MOTION prevailed to subscribe to Zoom Videoconferencing at a cost not to exceed \$300 (\$14.99 per month plus taxes and fees) for the period of up to one year. [Note: Zoom Videoconferencing will enable Session, Staff and Committee Moderators to conduct group meetings from the church.]

2020-069 MOTION prevailed to approve adding a link for online giving to the weekly Constant Contact update email. [Note: We want to encourage our membership to continue their regular giving by mail or through online giving.]

2020-070 MOTION prevailed to approve the payment of all bills less than \$300 without the prior approval of the Moderator. Bills exceeding \$300 will be scanned and emailed to the Moderator for approval before payment. Bills that are not approved at this time will be approved at a later date. [Note: This will enable the Finance Office to continue payment of bills on a timely basis without an in-person visit by the Committee Moderator to approve expense vouchers. Committee members should inform the Moderator of planned purchases.]

2020-071 MOTION prevailed to approve placing one or more food collection receptacles in WHH for the collection of food donations, to be distributed to various organizations as determined by the Outreach Committee. [Note: We recognize that the Coronavirus outbreak is causing economic distress for many of our local families who are now unemployed and underemployed. The demand for food, cleaning supplies and basic household products is increasing rapidly and this is our first response to the increased need.]

2020-072 MOTION prevailed to approve setting aside up to \$1,000, under authorization of the Finance Committee, for the staff to purchase supplies specifically for their safety and security, or as deemed a convenience to the employer while at the church providing essential services. [Note: This is to recognize the dedication of our staff during this difficult period and to provide for their safety, security and comfort under unusual circumstances. These supplies may include such items as nitrile gloves, individually packaged bottled water, personal size tissues, hand sanitizer, etc. The amount is set to allow for the unexpected. It may not be needed. Staff are also encouraged to bring their own water.]

2020-073 MOTION prevailed to announce to the congregation that they may contribute to the purchase of the Easter flowers that will decorate the chancel during the video (or in person) worship services on Palm Sunday and Easter. [Note: We have an existing contract with a flower company. The church will be reimbursed by those purchasing the flowers. The presence of flowers during the most holy season of the church year will provide a hint of normalcy amid an uncertain time.]

The e-meeting was adjourned by Pastor Hauerwas at 9:32 p.m. on March 17.

Alec Works, Acting Clerk of Session
(minutes based on emails forwarded
By Pastor Hauerwas)

Pastor Jon Hauerwas, Moderator