

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Akron, Ohio
Tuesday, May 12, 2020
Minutes of Special Session meeting – FINAL

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

Note: To continue to address any issues or concerns during the current health crisis, Session decided at its regular meeting on March 24, 2020 to meet every Tuesday as needed, either by virtual (Zoom) or e-meeting, as needed for the foreseeable future.

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 videoconferencing: Pastor Jon Hauerwas, Moderator; Alec Works, Clerk of Session.

Opening and Declaration of Quorum

The special meeting of the Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church was called to order by the Moderator, the Reverend Jon Hauerwas at 7:06 p.m. on May 12, 2020. The presence of a quorum was confirmed and declared. The meeting was opened with prayer.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to extend the floor to Alec Works, Clerk of Session, for the remainder of his term. The agenda as distributed earlier that day was approved.

New / Continued Business

As Ginny Melver mentioned last week, Properties wants to make boiler repairs. They contacted 3 vendors and received proposals from 2. The work will result in essentially revamping the entire boiler. The following motion was presented and approved:

2020-115 MOTION prevailed to repair the steam boiler during the summer boiler shut down with work done by Temperature Control Company for no more than \$33,000. Funding will come from the unrestricted Rowley Fund.

Discussions then continued from last week related to the summer worship services. Decisions are needed as to how to proceed with summer worship services as the coronavirus pandemic continues. On May 9, Pastor Hauerwas sent out a list of various pros and cons. These address alternatives such as whether to pre-record a service earlier in the week, or whether to continue to offer one live service Sunday morning, which would be recorded and available later in the week. Discussions included the sound quality of the live service. It was noted that the sound quality was better on May 10.

A motion as proposed in the agenda was presented, seconded, and approved as follows:

2020-116 MOTION prevailed to offer one Facebook Live Worship Service beginning June 7, 2020 (10:30 a.m.) and continuing until in-person worship services resume. The worship service will be recorded and posted on westminsterakron.org for viewing at other times.

Shelley Koutnik reported that she met with a company, Data Core, which is developing a proposal that would add wi-fi capability to the sanctuary, which could improve the sound quality of broadcast services. [Note: wi-fi capability in the sanctuary had already come up as a concern

through the work of the Sound System Task Force.] They would be able to run a wire to the sanctuary which would establish a wireless access point. This access could also be used by the sound team in the balcony. This work would cost around \$1,100. Data Core also reported that for around \$1,500 total they could include replacing the current Cisco wireless system. Doing this would result in not having to pay the current \$500 annual licensing fee to Cisco. The work could be completed in 2 weeks. Shelley suggested approving \$1,700 in costs since some fees may not yet be included. Access to the sanctuary system would be limited to the worship team (i.e., access to user name and password).

The following motion as proposed and amended was seconded and approved as follows:
2020-117 MOTION prevailed to expend up to \$1,700 from Rowley New Church Life Funds to authorize Data Core to upgrade the wireless internet access system in the church. This includes adding wireless internet access to the Sanctuary.

Finally, a motion was presented related to groups wanting to meet at the church; some formally, others informally. The intent is to limit exposure to others on church property, especially to help protect staff members and others who need to physically be at the church. Although focused on planned gatherings, people need to be considerate in all situations, e.g., passing in a hallway. Discussions noted that although some places are loosening restrictions, others are continuing restrictions. Although guidelines from government officials suggest following some basic procedures can reduce chances of being infected (e.g., physical distancing, face masks, disinfecting), the effectiveness depends on everyone following these guidelines. The ages and health of many members of our congregation, as well as active children, should be considered. The duration of any guidelines approved by Session may be modified as any circumstances change. Ideally, when we “open up”, all should feel comfortable participating. The following motion was made, seconded and approved:

2020-118 MOTION prevailed to suspend all in-person on-site activities including in-person worship services through August 31. This will include any group activity involving more than 2 individuals at the same time in a defined space whether indoor or outside. The worship team gathering to present a video worship service is excluded with the limitation that the worship team will not exceed 10 individuals.

[Note: Soloists are limited to the Choral Scholars who have been participating in the worship service with only one choral scholar present for a given service. Typically, only one soloist has participated in summer services. A small group of volunteers will serve as Liturgists during the coming months. This reduces the number of individuals that the worship team comes in contact with.]

There being no other old or new business, a motion was received, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was closed by all joining in the Lord’s Prayer at 7:50 pm.

The next Zoom Session meeting is planned for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2020, if needed.

Alec Works, Clerk of Session

Pastor Jon Hauerwas, Moderator