

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Akron, Ohio
Wednesday, July 22, 2020
Minutes of Special Session meeting - FINAL

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

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 7:04 p.m. on July 22, 2020. The presence of a quorum was confirmed and declared. The meeting was opened with prayer.

New Business

The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussions from the July 14, 2020 Special Session meeting regarding the resumption of in-person worship and other activities at the church. Per Motion 2020-118, Session had agreed to suspend all in-person on-site activities including in-person worship services through August 31, 2020. This included any group activity involving more than 2 individuals at the same time in a defined space whether inside or outside. The Sunday worship team was excluded from this restriction but limited to 10 individuals. Motion 2020-116 approved offering one Facebook Live Worship Service beginning June 7, 2020 (10:30 a.m.) and continuing until in-person worship services resume, with the service recorded and posted on the church web site for viewing at other times. Motion 2020-145 approved resuming in-person on site activities, indoors or outside for groups of up to ten individuals, with individuals asked to wear a mask when in the church building. In-person worship services would continue to be suspended through August 31.

A motion was proposed to resume in-person services after reported new cases of Covid-19 reached certain criteria. This would allow data to be analyzed and services to resume after what is assumed to be a safer level is reached. By monitoring trends, staff would have some advance notice as to when services might resume.

The problem with setting a fixed date for resumption of in-person services and other activities is that the date could change as circumstances change. Other criteria for resuming services and activities might also be considered. The Vocal Advisory Subcommittee of Worship (authorized on July 1) does not consider in-person group singing to be feasible at this time. Due to increasing cases, additional state-wide measures, including the wearing of face masks, went into effect July 23. Although some members would be comfortable resuming in-person worship and activities, the general consensus was that many would not.

The following motion was then made, seconded, and voted on:

2020-157 MOTION prevailed to resume in-person services on the first Sunday after the seven-day rolling average of new cases reported in the State of Ohio drops below 500 and sustains an overall downward trajectory or plateaus at a level of less than 400 for a period of 45 days.

[See attached spreadsheet for details of proposed calculations. A member of Session offered to maintain the spreadsheet.]

There being no other business scheduled, a motion was received, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was closed by all joining in the Lord's Prayer at 7:32 pm.

The next regular Session meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2020.

Alec Works, Clerk of Session

Pastor Jon Hauerwas, Moderator