

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Akron, Ohio

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Minutes of the Session Meeting – FINAL

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

The regular meeting of the Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church was called to order by Moderator and Pastor Jon Hauerwas at 7:04 p.m.

Elders (+ present, * excused, - absent)

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

Also present: Pastor Jon Hauerwas, Moderator; guest Alec Works, Clerk of Session

Note: Due to restrictions on gatherings ordered by the Governor of Ohio to slow the spread of the coronavirus, a virtual meeting was held.

Opening, Declaration of Quorum and Extension of Floor

Pastor Jon called the meeting to order, welcomed the guest, and opened the Session meeting with a devotional and prayer at 7:04 pm. The presence of a quorum was confirmed and declared.

Adoption of Agenda and Consent Agenda

A **motion prevailed** to adopt and approve the Agenda and the Consent Agenda.

Clerk's Report

Alec Works, Clerk of Session

The Consent Agenda as approved included the following motions:

2020-193 MOTION prevailed to approve the minutes of the regular Session meeting of August 25, 2020.

2020-194 MOTION prevailed to receive the following report of all weddings, funerals, baptisms, and Communion that have taken place since Session's August 25, 2020 meeting

1. Weddings: none
2. Funerals: graveside memorial service for Harriet Cutler, August 27, 2020, committal service in Memorial Garden August 30, 2020.
3. Baptisms: none
4. Communion: virtual communion 9/13/20; estimated participation to be reported later.

Average worship attendance for July (4 services) and August (5 services) will be reported later (new Communications Coordinator just started).

Note: A combined graveside service for Gene and Gina Dickerson, officiated by Rev. Jason Bantz, was held on September 21, 2020 at the Miltonville Cemetery in Trenton, OH.

2020-195 MOTION prevailed to adjust the membership statistical report for the month of August 2020, as included below, to reconcile the 8/31/20 membership with the Official Roll Book. An adjustment of +13 is needed. [Note: Errors may occur over time in both the Official Roll Book and the membership statistical report as included in the minutes. With the recent review of active membership, it is now feasible to make a fair adjustment.]

2020-196 MOTION prevailed to approve the membership statistical report for the month of August 2020:

Total Membership as of 8/1/20	288
Additions: no new members. Adjustment of 13 to reconcile this report with the Official Role Book.	13
Deletions: see list below	11
Deaths: Martha D. Nelson (#3149); Robert H. Pierson (#5743), Harriet Y. Cutler (#4089)	3
Total Membership as of 8/31/20	287

August deletions: Louis (#7348) and Melanie (#7439) Curlee, Hannah Curlee (#7371), Isabelle Curlee (#7372), Grace Curlee (#7417), Julie Domenick (#7457), David Kuehls (#7328), James (#6077) and Dorothy (#5078) McQuigg, Sue Phillips (#4517), Kristen Uitenham (#7439).

2020-197 MOTION prevailed to remove William Eugene (Gene) Dickerson (#3510, died August 24, 2020), and Regina (Gina) Dickerson (#3511, died September 15, 2020) from the membership roll.

2020-198 MOTION prevailed to remove Lois Pool (#4075) and Sandra Edwards (#5467) from active membership, by their requests.

From Outreach:

2020-199 MOTION prevailed to approve the Family Resource Centers at Robinson CLC and Helen Arnold CLC as the recipients of the 25% local collection from the October 4 Peacemaking Offering.

2020-200 MOTION prevailed to discontinue the monetary support for the Weller family for the remainder of 2020. [Note: The last communication from the Weller family was received in December 2018. Current information about the work of this missionary family has been requested from PC(USA) to no avail.]

From Membership:

2020-201 MOTION prevailed to unveil pastor portraits to the congregation on October 11th during the 10:30 AM worship. [Note: Doing so on that date will avoid conflict with the peacemaking message on October 4th and the stewardship message on October 18th of October.] Also, the portraits will be displayed in chronological order in the hallways near the Eberts Chapel.

Report from Eastminster Presbytery meeting

Pastor Jon and Ginny Melver participated in the September 1 virtual meeting of Eastminster Presbytery. Highlights were distributed to Session. Pastor Jon noted that a report from the summer meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) was given. Three churches in Eastminster Presbytery were authorized to sell their real estate, as was one camp. Pastor Jon is serving as Moderator of the Goodyear Heights Presbyterian Church as they seek a part-time or shared pastor.

Committee Reports and Actions

Personnel Committee (Report was attached; no motions)

Shelley Koutnik for John Childs

Adam Kalcic has started in his position as Communications Coordinator. As the search for a Youth Coordinator continues, Pastor Jon is serving as the interim Youth Coordinator.

Discipleship Committee (September minutes were attached; no motions)

Pastor Hauerwas for Kara Hauerwas

Fall programs are underway with virtual classes.

Finance Committee (August financial reports, September minutes, and the proposed 2021 budget were attached; see motion below)

Todd Willis

Through August, even with some unanticipated contributions, overall contributions are \$4,200 below budget and total revenues are \$11,000 below budget. Due largely to significantly lower office and administrative, properties and personnel expenses, overall expenses are \$82,900 under budget, resulting in having a surplus of \$65,800. However, concern remains for the rest of the year with contributions expected to continue below budget.

The Stewardship campaign is set to begin with a mailing on September 29 and a formal kick-off on October 18. There is hope for increasing pledges over 2020 despite the drop in contributions since we hope to resume full programming soon.

The proposed budget for 2021 was discussed. There is still much uncertainty as to what will happen with programs, participation and contributions. Committees sought cuts where feasible. The proposed budget projects a deficit of \$45,252. This is more than double the projected deficit last year and approximately 10% more than 2019. This amount also exceeds the amount targeted by Session's 2016 Rowley plan, in which it was decided to reduce budgetary dependence on Rowley by \$10,000 per year. The allowable deficit under this plan for 2021 is \$11,000. It is important to note that our congregation ultimately ran surpluses in each of the past 3 completed years, and is on track to finish this year with a surplus as well. The difficulty in budgeting is deciding how much to rely on unpledged contributions. The following motion was then voted on:

2020-202 MOTION prevailed to approve the 2021 budget for Westminster Presbyterian Church as proposed.

Properties Committee (September minutes were attached; no motions)

Ginny Melver

Ginny reported that the repaving of the church driveway and parking lot has been completed. Other various projects have also recently been finished or underway.

Worship Committee (September minutes were attached; no motions)

Phil Fry

Phil noted that the committee planned for fall services.

Outreach Committee (September minutes were attached; see consent agenda for motions)

Shelley Koutnik and Becky Pool

The committee plans to continue the First Sunday Food Collection and the Third Sunday Dinners at least through the end of the year. Plans are being developed for the Christmas Basket deliveries.

Nominating Committee (No minutes nor motions)

James Gray

James reported that the committee plans to meet soon.

Membership Committee (September minutes were attached; see consent agenda for motion)

Michael Dunbar

Michael reported that the newest pastoral portraits will be unveiled during the October 11 worship service.

Deacons Committee (No minutes nor motions)

Pastor Hauerwas for Donna Goring

Pastor Jon reported that the committee hopes to reach out to members, focusing on those who may not be able or want to leave their homes.

Safety and Security Task Force; Kitchen Task Force

(No reports)

Pastor's Report and Remarks

Pastor Hauerwas

The microphones used in the sanctuary have been repaired and the transmitter replaced. The consultant is reviewing options to improve streaming.

Pastor Jon also noted that his doctoral work continues.

Old Business

A New Members Class was originally scheduled for March 14, 2020. Many potential participants prefer to join as part of an in-person worship service, thus a class appears more likely after more normal activities resume.

New / Other Business

The next regular Session meeting (virtual) is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 7 p.m. It was also decided to hold the following meeting on Tuesday, November 24.

There was no other new business. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved. The meeting was then closed with the Lord's Prayer at 7:48 p.m.

Alec Works, Clerk of Session

Pastor Jon Hauerwas, Moderator