

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Akron, Ohio

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

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 7:09 p.m.

Elders (+ present, \* excused, - absent)

Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023
+ Nancy Keogh	* Rob Gilbert	+ Ellen Daugherty
+ Phil Fry	+ James Gray	* Shelley Koutnik, Treasurer
- Rebecca Pool	+ Sandy Gruneich	+ Brian Rodabaugh
+ Don Rearick	+ Ginny Melder	+ Alec Works, Clerk of Session

Also present: Pastor Jon Hauerwas, Moderator.

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

**Opening and Declaration of Quorum**

Pastor Jon called the meeting to order and opened the Session meeting with 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 as amended (one motion from Outreach was pulled for discussion).

**Clerk's Report**

Alec Works, Clerk

Alec provided details to the Office Administrator to provide a replacement baptismal certificate for Nicholas Critchfield, as requested.

A recording of the March 27 Officers' Training is available for those who were unable to attend.

We were informed that The Reverend Diann Santschi, a former associate pastor at Westminster, entered eternal life on March 31, 2021 at the age of 86. Most recently, she served Winnetka Presbyterian Church in Illinois as parish associate.

The next meeting of Eastminster Presbytery is scheduled for Tuesday, June 1, 2021 via Zoom. One or two commissioners are needed. A variety of free Zoom workshops are available for Session members; see [www.eastminsterpresbytery.org](http://www.eastminsterpresbytery.org) for details.

The Consent Agenda as approved included the following motions:

**2021-071 MOTION prevailed** to approve the minutes of the regular Session meeting of March 23, 2021.

**2021-072 MOTION prevailed** to receive the following report of all weddings, funerals, baptisms, and Communion that have taken place since Session's March 23, 2021 meeting

1. Weddings: none
2. Funerals: none
3. Baptisms: none

4. Communion: virtual communion February 14 = 298 views, March 14 = 287 views; views unavailable for Ash Wednesday, February 17; Maundy Thursday, 4/1/21, Easter Sunday 4/4/21 - estimated participation to be reported later. [number of Facebook views for those services].

**2021-073 MOTION prevailed** to receive the reports of average worship attendance for February (4 services) = 242 views, and March (4 services) = 283 views. Facebook Live logins generally range from 35 – 50+.

[Notes: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the last in person worship service at Westminster was on March 15, 2020. Westminster began holding virtual (access live service using Facebook Live or recorded using YouTube) as of Sunday, March 22, 2020. While the number of persons participating in a virtual service cannot be accurately measured, the figures above provide some measure of the outreach.

Facebook “views”, “Reach” and “Engagements” are measures of how many views, clicks, comments, “likes” and shares have been recorded by the service provider. Some people may sign off and back on, enter several comments, even view or check in later in the day, increasing the number of “engagements”. However, we also do not know how many people are viewing each screen. These figures do provide some measure of the involvement of not only members of the congregation, but also non-members; it also includes some who live out of state.]

**2021-074 MOTION prevailed** to approve the membership statistical report for the month of March 2021:

Total Membership as of 3/1/21	279
Additions: none	0
Deletions: none	0
Deaths: Edith Lang (Edie) Willoughby (#7386)	1
Total Membership as of 3/31/21	278

No motion is needed for deletions from membership.

**2021-075 MOTION prevailed** to make the Script available online and by mail to our homebound members following the resumption of in-person worship.

From Pastor Hauerwas:

**2021-076 MOTION prevailed** to allow Pastor Hauerwas to officiate at a brief, committal service for Lois Pierce at Rose Hill Burial Park on Saturday, June 26 at 10 a.m. [Notes: Lois (husband, Jim) Pierce passed away in 2020 at the age of 95. The memorial service was already held in Charlotte, where Lois resided since the 1970s. Lois and Jim Pierce were members of Westminster in Akron prior to their move. Louise's grandparents, Laura and Hartley Pierce, were also Westminster members. Louise presently lives in South Carolina. She was baptized and married at Westminster. The Pierce family was good friends with The Rev. Dr. Calhoun and his family.]

From Outreach:

**2021-077 MOTION prevailed** to continue with the First Sunday Food Collection upon returning to in-person worship by placing food and cash donation containers at appropriate labeled entry areas rather than having them collected during the service.

**2021-078 MOTION prevailed** to reserve the 12 foot tent for use at the Pride Festival on August 28, 2021.

From Worship:

**2021-079 MOTION prevailed** to elect Stacy Franzmann as Moderator, Worship Committee.

### **Committee Reports and Actions**

[Note: Some changes in order were made to accommodate a late arrival and some technical difficulties.]

#### **Finance Committee** (No reports nor motions)

Alec Works for Todd Willis

Alec reported that actual revenues through March 31 were \$213,914; the budget was \$144,218. Actual expenses were \$119,584; the budget was \$147,257. The net above budget of \$94,330 reflects significant prepayment of some pledges and lower expenses due to restricted activities.

#### **Properties Committee** (April minutes were attached; no motions)

Ginny Melver

Ginny reported that work the fluorescent lights in WYDACA have been replaced with LEDs and the area is now much brighter. The steeple repair is still expected to begin in June.

#### **Discipleship Committee** (April minutes were attached; no motions)

Sandy Gruneich for Kara Hauerwas

Sandy noted that they hope to hold Vacation Bible School live this summer.

#### **Worship Committee**. (No minutes nor motions)

Pastor Hauerwas

The committee is scheduled to meet this Sunday with its new moderator.

#### **Safety / Security Task Force** (Reports were attached; see motion below)

Don Rearick

Department of Homeland Security guidelines on surface decays were attached, along with the recommendation for resumption of in person worship from the task force. Don noted that the recommendation includes singing and responsive readings by the congregation, with masks worn and social distancing. Ushers will be available to assist with seating and other concerns. Session will be able to modify procedures if and as needed as we see how people react and circumstances and guidance change.

**2021-080 MOTION prevailed** to approve the recommendations for the resumption of in person worship as presented by the Safety and Security Task Force. [Note: Motion 2021-069 approved resuming in person worship services on June 6, 2021. Procedures and guidelines may be modified based upon circumstances and experiences.]

#### **Sound System Task Force**

James Gray

James reported that the contractor is in the process of installing the new sanctuary sound system. He offered to run the system the first Sunday it goes live. The worship Committee will discuss seeking volunteers to run the new system.

#### **Personnel Committee** (Job description was attached; see motion below)

Nancy Keogh for John Childs

The job description is for the Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries, at 25-30 hours per week, salary dependent on experience. The search continues for a Communications Coordinator or an individual to work audiovisual on Sunday mornings. Other transitions were also briefly discussed.

**2021-081 MOTION prevailed** to approve the job description for the Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries.

**Music Director / Organist Search Committee (MDOSC)**

Pastor Hauerwas, Moderator

Based on the survey results, Pastor Jon contacted persons based on the number of rated votes received. The persons listed below agree to serve; the motion below was made, seconded and approved. Pastor Jon noted that the committee is scheduled to meet this Friday. The Worship Committee will discuss Choral Scholars for this fall at their meeting.

**2021-082 MOTION prevailed** to elect Chris Blaha, Margie Brideweser, Roger Nelson and Brian Rodabaugh to serve on the Music Director / Organist Search Committee.

**Outreach Committee** (April minutes were attached; see consent agenda and below for motions)

Ellen Daugherty

Ellen noted that the committee continues to evaluate the best means and uses of resources for providing food to the community. It is unknown for now what affect in person worship and activities may have on contributions, volunteers and other participation. The motion as amended below recognizes that Session may amend programs based on circumstances.

**2021-083 MOTION prevailed** to continue the Third Sunday grocery distribution from the back door between 1-2:30 after in person worship is resumed.

**Membership, Nominating Committee, Deacons, Kitchen Task Force** (No reports)

**Pastor's Report and Remarks** (see New Business)

Pastor Hauerwas

Pastor Jon noted that Phil Fry, Lisa Bansen-Harp and several youth cleaned the Memorial Garden area last weekend.

Based on the resumption of in person worship services, Pastor Jon is working with families to find a suitable date to reschedule receiving new members.

**New / Other Business**

The next regular Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 7 p.m.

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 approximately 7:50 p.m.

---

Alec Works, Clerk of Session

---

Pastor Jon Hauerwas, Moderator