

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Akron, Ohio
Tuesday, August 31, 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 7:02 p.m. [Note: The meeting was rescheduled from August 24 due to Pastor Hauerwas' vacation that week.]

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.

Opening and Declaration of Quorum

Pastor Jon called the meeting to order and opened the Session meeting with prayer at 7:02 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 presented.

Clerk's Report

Alec Works, Clerk

Alec received a letter from the staff of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, asking us to consider financially supporting Sharon Kandel, Regional Liaison for the Horn of South Africa, South Sudan. The information was forwarded to the Outreach Committee.

The next meeting of Eastminster Presbytery is scheduled for Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Alec offered to participate if available. The following motion was made and seconded: **2021-125 MOTION prevailed** to elect Alec Works as commissioner to the September 7 meeting of Eastminster Presbytery.

The Consent Agenda as approved included the following motions:

2021-126 MOTION prevailed to approve the minutes of the regular Session meeting of July 27, 2021.

2021-127 MOTION prevailed to approve the minutes of the Session e-meeting of August 23, 2021.

2021-128 MOTION prevailed to receive the following report of all weddings, funerals, baptisms, and Communion that have taken place since Session's July 27, 2021 meeting

1. Weddings: none
2. Funerals: none
3. Baptisms: Vaughn Edward Vuchak, son of Kyle and Kathryn Vuchak, on August 8, 2021
4. Communion: 8/8/21 – 108. There were also 58 viewings of the 8/8 service on YouTube.

Report of average worship attendance for July (4 in person worship services) = 73. Available viewings on YouTube = 78. [Note: In person worship resumed on June 6, 2021. Live broadcast and recorded services are being made available through YouTube.]

2021-129 MOTION prevailed to approve the membership statistical report for the month of July 2021:

Total Membership as of 7/1/21	276
Additions: none	0
Deletions: none	0
Deaths: none	0
Total Membership as of 7/31/21	276

2021-130 MOTION prevailed to delete Robert Paden Prentice II (#7413, died July 29, 2021) from active membership. [Note: Private funeral services for the family were held on August 5, 2021.]

From Worship:

2021-131 MOTION prevailed to approve the following dates for Communion for 2022: For the 10:30 a.m. service: January 9, February 13, March 13, April 14 (Maundy Thursday), April 17 (Easter), May 8 (Mother's Day), June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 2 (World Communion Sunday), November 13 and December 11; for the 8:30 a.m. Summer service: June 12, June 26, July 10, July 24, August 14 and August 28.

From Personnel:

2021-132 MOTION prevailed to approve hiring Dave Ciucevich, Jr. as a Choral Scholar at \$60 per Service (Sunday), effective with the pay period beginning August 26.

Committee Reports and Actions

[Alec was excused for the Personnel and Discipleship Committee portions of the meeting. Actions taken were provided by Pastor Hauerwas when Alec returned.]

Personnel Committee (Report and Benefit Group Offerings were attached; see consent agenda and below for motions)) Shelley Koutnik for John Childs

2021-133 MOTION prevailed to approve the 2022 Benefit Groups and Offerings as presented.

Discipleship Committee (August minutes were attached) Sandy Gruneich for Kara Hauerwas
See Deacons' report for Rally Day plans.

Finance Committee (July reports were attached; no motions) Shelley Koutnik for Todd Willis
Actual revenues through July 31 were \$375,597; budget was \$308,784. Actual expenses were \$269,404; budget was \$335,416. Net above budget is \$132,896. [See Analysis of Budget and Expenses report for details.]

Committee budgets were due August 15. Planning has been going on for the Stewardship Campaign.

Worship Committee (August minutes were attached; see consent agenda and below for motions)
Nancy Keogh for Stacy Franzmann

2021-134 MOTION prevailed to have a Jazz Vespers service on Sunday, December 19 at 4:00 p.m., with Theron Brown and his ensemble providing the music. Up to \$2500 from the current Jazz Vespers Fund will be used to cover the cost of the musicians, advertising and any incidentals that may arise. [Note: There is currently \$6,300 available in the fund for Jazz Vespers.]

Pastor Hauerwas reported that he had informed the Worship Committee of discussions he has held with The Reverend Tom Ulrich, pastor of the New Covenant Community Church. These discussions have included the possibility of offering a service of reconciliation or healing to help members of the respective congregations. Possibilities considered have included meeting after church services on a Sunday, perhaps centering around a peace pole. Following discussion, the following two motions were made, seconded and approved:

2021-135 MOTION prevailed to purchase and install a new peace pole to replace the one currently in the front yard of the church, with the Worship Committee providing the funds. [Note: The current pole is in poor condition. The cost for each of four new plaques should be around \$25 each; a standard wood post would also be purchased.]

2021-136 MOTION prevailed to plan to hold a joint service with the congregation of New Covenant Community Church, subject to the concurrence of their Session, after a regular Sunday morning worship service. The service would be held at Westminster to dedicate the new peace pole, and also due primarily to available parking and the use of New Covenant's building for another service at noon. A tentative date of October 17 is targeted.

Properties Committee (August minutes were attached; no motions) Ginny Melver
An agreement with the Girl Scout Troop was reached, approving their meeting at the church beginning in September.

Ginny reported that WYDACA has signed the new contract.

Outreach Committee (August minutes were attached; no motions) Ellen Daugherty
Phil Fry was thanked for his work for the Pride Festival.

Membership Committee (No minutes nor motions) Pastor Hauerwas for James Gray
Pastor Jon reported that he is trying to schedule a new members class with those who have expressed an interest in joining.

Nominating Committee (No minutes nor motions) Becky Pool
Becky and Jim Shriner plan to meet with Pastor Hauerwas soon to discuss their progress.

Safety / Security Task Force Don Rearick
Don reported that positivity rates and cases are up. However, current practices appear to be reasonable for establishing reasonable precautionary measures. The primary areas of concern appear to be protocols for the choir and getting enough ushers.

Following some discussion, the following motion was made, seconded and approved:

2021-137 MOTION prevailed to include or refer to the latest statement(s) from the Center for Disease Control in the bulletin. [Note: CDC updates as of July 27, 2021 included a recommendation that fully vaccinated people wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission; also, that people participate in many of the activities that they did before the pandemic.]

Deacons

Pastor Hauerwas

At their August meeting, the deacons discussed plans for a picnic following the worship service on Rally Day, September 12, 2021. Details were included in the Session agenda. From discussions, other recommendations included dismissing people by tables to get their food, having ice available, not needing a sound system for music, and keeping patio doors cracked open and using other rooms besides wright-Herberich Hall as needed in the event of rain. The following motion was made, seconded and approved:

2021-138 MOTION prevailed to approve holding a picnic following the worship service on Rally Day, September 12, 2021, with the Deacons providing bagged lunches.

Sound System Task Force, Kitchen Task Force

(No reports)

It was noted that the sound disturbances during the worship service on August 8 were caused by a faulty amplifier, which has since been fixed. A new camera also had to be replaced in July. Per discussions, it was noted that equipment failures are unpredictable; recent improvements have been made; at some point a new sound system is advisable, but current cost estimates range from \$50-75,000 and up.

Pastor's Report and Remarks, New / Other Business

Pastor Hauerwas

Pastor Hauerwas submitted a request for time off; a motion was made, seconded and approved:

2021-139 MOTION prevailed to approve vacation time off for Pastor Hauerwas for September 30 through October 5 (5 days). The Reverend Cathy Ulrich has agreed to preach on October 3 and preside over the sacrament.

The next regular Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 28 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 8:18 p.m.

Alec Works, Clerk of Session

Pastor Jon Hauerwas, Moderator