

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Akron, Ohio

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

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 Rev. David Aber at 7:02 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 Melver	+ Alec Works, Clerk of Session

Also present: Rev. David Aber, Moderator [Interim Pastor].

Opening and Declaration of Quorum

Pastor David called the meeting to order and opened the Session meeting with a reading from the Psalms and 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.

Opening Remarks

Pastor David, Moderator

Pastor David asked each elder to list 3 challenges facing Westminster on note cards. He gave an update on his activities during his first few weeks at Westminster, along with some plans for the future. These plans include celebration activities, scheduling an Officers' Training session, filling the staff accountant position and updating various documents.

Clerk's Report

Alec Works, Clerk

Alec reported that the 2021 Annual Statistical Report as approved by Session on January 25, 2022 was submitted to Eastminster Presbytery on January 26. Annual Terms of Call for Pastor David were submitted on February 10.

Ginny and Alec volunteered to serve as commissioners to the next Presbytery meeting. The following motion was made, seconded and approved:

2022-032 MOTION prevailed to elect Ginny Melver and Alec Works as commissioners to the March 1 meeting of Eastminster Presbytery (3 p.m. via Zoom).

The Consent Agenda as approved included the following motions:

2022-033 MOTION prevailed to approve the minutes of the regular Session meeting of January 25, 2022.

2022-034 MOTION prevailed to receive the following report of all weddings, funerals, baptisms, and Communion that have taken place since Session's January 25, 2022 meeting:

1. Weddings: none
2. Funerals: Roger Hilding Nelson, February 12, 2022 (memorial service led by Revs. David Aber and Sandy Selby)
3. Baptisms: none
4. Communion: 2/13/22 = 65; there were also 38 viewings of the service on YouTube.

Reports of average worship attendance for January (5 in person worship services) = 60. Average viewings on YouTube for January = 83, including 156 on January 2. There was wintry weather some Sundays. [Note: In person worship resumed on June 6, 2021. Live broadcast and recorded services are being made available through YouTube.]

2022-035 MOTION prevailed to approve the membership statistical report for the month of January 2022:

Total Membership as of 1/1/22	283
Additions: none	0
Deletions: none	0
Deaths: Barbara Ann Gates Gehring (#6143); Eleanor M. Humphrey (#7241)	2
Total Membership as of 1/31/22	281

2022-036 MOTION prevailed to remove Roger Hilding Nelson (#3148) from active membership. Roger died on February 2, 2022.

2022-037 MOTION prevailed to remove Frank Joseph Holub, Jr. (#7338) from active membership. Frank died on February 11, 2022. [Note: Services to be held on February 26 at Billow Funeral Home.]

2022-038 MOTION prevailed to correct the minutes of the September 2021 Session meeting as follows: Under the report from the September 7, 2021 meeting of Eastminster Presbytery, honoring of Pastoral service anniversaries, the years for Pastor Jonathan Hauerwas should be 15 not 20.

2022-039 MOTION prevailed to accept the resignation of James Gray as elder, Class of 2022.

2022-040 MOTION prevailed to elect the following as committee moderators for 2022: John Childs, Personnel; Ellen Daugherty, Outreach; Ginny Melver, Properties; Todd Willis, Finance. [Note: Cathy Melver was elected as moderator of Discipleship for 2022 at the October 26, 2021 Session meeting (Motion 2021-155).]

From Personnel:

2022-041 MOTION prevailed to approve a wage increase for Dave Bodnar, custodian, in the amount of \$1 per hour effective with the pay period beginning February 26, 2022.

2022-042 MOTION prevailed to approve hiring a temporary employee for coverage of the Finance Office mid-April through mid-May.

2022-043 MOTION prevailed to approve one week of vacation leave for Pastor David Aber beginning Monday, March 7 through Monday, March 13. [Note: Pastor David will return to the office on Tuesday, March 15.]

Committee Reports and Actions

Personnel Committee (February report was attached; see consent agenda for motions)

Shelley Koutnik for John Childs

Staffing was briefly discussed. Preferably, committee moderators would be active elders. Pulpit supply for March 13 will be approved once confirmed.

Discipleship Committee (No minutes nor motions)

Sandy Gruneich for Cathy Melver

The Youth held a childcare event Saturday 2/12 and the Tweens met for food and games 2/13. A church-wide fellowship activity is being planned for May 1.

Finance Committee (January reports were attached; no motions)

Alec Works for Todd Willis

January 2022 Actual Revenues and Expenses (unaudited):

Revenues \$ 84,648.56

Expenses \$ 12,307.31

Surplus \$ 72,341.25

Revenues were \$33,189.57 above budget largely due to end of year Endowment Fund distributions (\$15,856.11) and prepaid (\$8,492.20) and unpledged (\$8,745.00) contributions. Expenses were \$30,085.53 under budget largely due to Personnel (\$21,337.02) and Properties (\$5,303.38).

It was noted that a second person should be added to authorize the reinvestment of certificates of deposit.

Worship Committee (No report, next meeting is February 27) Nancy Keogh for Stacy Franzmann

Properties Committee (February minutes were attached; no motions)

Ginny Melver

Ginny provided an update on various projects. She will follow up on planned work on the church steeple. She also noted that the Akron Area Collaboration of Eastminster Presbytery has selected August 28 as the tentative date for a joint / unity worship service, with the site to be determined.

Outreach Committee (February minutes were attached; no motions)

Ellen Daugherty

Ellen reported that the committee continues to discuss various program and outreach options.

Safety / Security Task Force

Don Rearick

Don reported that opinions are mixed on continuing the mask mandate for worship services. In January, Session approved requiring worshippers to wear masks through the end of February (Motion 2022-031). The following motion was made, seconded and approved.

2022-044 MOTION prevailed to require worshipers to wear masks until further notice.

Nominating Committee

Becky Pool

Shelley distributed the proposed complete slate of new officers (elders, deacons, endowment directors and church-wide nominating committee). The following motion was made, seconded and approved:

2022-045 MOTION prevailed to call a congregational meeting for Sunday, March 20, after the regular worship service, to elect and install new officers.

Membership Committee, Deacons (No reports)

Following committee reports, the following motion was made, seconded and approved:

2022-046 MOTION prevailed to receive all of the above reports as presented.

Transition Planning / Old / New / Other Business

Options for providing a meal for a May 1 fellowship event were discussed.

Pastor David noted that we are “at the beginning of the next place” in the life of Westminster. If we decide to use the “Holy Cow” Congregation Assessment Tool, Eastminster Presbytery will pay half of the cost. Presbytery has the more important role in the transition process, not the interim pastor.

Pastor David offered to have the church purchase copies of the Book of Order for elders.

The next regular Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 7 p.m.

There was no other new business. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved. The meeting was then closed in prayer at 8:21 p.m.

Alec Works, Clerk of Session

Rev. David Aber, Moderator