

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Akron, Ohio
Tuesday, June 28, 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 7:01 p.m.

Elders (+ present, * excused, - absent)

Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
+ Rob Gilbert	+ Ellen Daugherty	+ Dan Gorring
+ Sandy Gruneich	+ Dottie Erb	* Becky Pool
+ Ginny Melver	+ Brian Rodabaugh	+ Dave Stobbs
+ Don Rearick	+ Alec Works, Clerk of Session	+ Rosemary Wright

Also present: Rev. David Aber, Moderator.

Opening, Declaration of Quorum, Welcomes and Goodbyes

Pastor David called the meeting to order and opened the Session meeting with a devotional reading from the Book of Order (F-1.03.01, The Church is the Body of Christ) and prayer at 7:01 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.

The Consent Agenda as approved included the following motions:

2022-096 MOTION prevailed to approve the minutes of the regular Session meeting of April 26, 2022.

2022-097 MOTION prevailed to approve the minutes of the regular Session meeting of May 24, 2022.

2022-098 MOTION prevailed to receive the following report of all weddings, funerals, baptisms, and Communion that have taken place since Session’s May 24 meeting:

1. Weddings: Anne Emerson and Michael Adams were married on May 28, 2022 at Westminster, with Pastor David Aber officiating.
2. Funerals: none
3. Baptisms: none
4. Communion: 6/12/22 = 21 (8:30 a.m. service), 57 (10:30 a.m. service); there were also 46 viewings of the service on YouTube.

Reports of average worship attendance for May (5 in person worship services) = 95. Average viewings on YouTube for May = 56. [Notes: There was no count for the May 15 afternoon Jazz Vespers service; estimate = ~50. Live broadcast and recorded services are being made available through YouTube.]

2022-099 MOTION prevailed to approve the membership statistical report for the month of May 2022:

Total Membership as of 5/1/22	274
Additions: none	0
Deletions: none	0
Deaths: none	0
Total Membership as of 5/31/22	274

No motion is needed to remove members.

2022-100 MOTION prevailed to reinstate Sharon Easterling to active membership, per her request.

2022-101 MOTION prevailed to elect Stacy Franzman as Moderator, Worship Committee, and Don Rearick as Moderator, Personnel Committee, continuing through the remainder of 2022.

From Outreach:

2022-102 MOTION prevailed to participate in the Akron Pride program on August 27, 2022 by walking in the parade or participating in some other ways to be announced. If there is no participation we will cancel.

2022-103 MOTION prevailed to change the name of the “Giving Tree” at Christmas to the “Thanksgiving Tree” with a Moment for Ministry on November 6, 2022 and the collection on November 13, 2022.

2022-104 MOTION prevailed to move the table currently inside the front sanctuary door that holds the offering tray and orders of service to the top of the stairs (leading to Wright-Herberich Hall) for two weeks (November 13 and 20) so that the Thanksgiving Tree can be placed inside the sanctuary where it can be seen.

2022-105 MOTION prevailed to participate in the Akron Cash Back program in November / December 2022.

Transition Discussions

Pastor David

A document entitled “The Life Cycle of a Church” was provided and discussed. The chart and explanations describe phases of a church as Birth, Infancy, Adolescence (on left side of circle), Prime (at top of circle), Maturity, Aristocracy, Bureaucracy and Death (on right side of circle). Items highlighted in blue note worrisome aspects, especially in earlier phases of growth and development. The desire is to move back to the earlier phases before reaching the end phases. Yellow highlights note steps that may help to recapture the early energy of a church.

Emily Swanson, Owner of Holy Cow! Consulting, is scheduled to present the results of our survey on Wednesday, July 6, from 6 to 9 p.m. A representative from Eastminster Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry (COM) is expected as well. Pastor David said that he will not attend, but will check with Dave Bodnar about adjusting his work hours and also check on recording the session. Wright-Herberich Hall will be used, unless the larger space of the sanctuary is needed.

In Becky Pool's absence, on behalf of the Nominating Committee Pastor David presented the proposed names for the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC). As part of the discussion, it was noted that this is a representative group. The following motion was approved:

2022-106 MOTION prevailed to establish the slate for the Pastoral Nominating Committee as follows: Dave Allison, Stephanie Blaha, Sharon Easterling, Dan Gorring, Walter Hayes, Andi Jopperi and Bill Melver.

The following motion was also made and approved:

2022-107 MOTION prevailed to call for a congregational meeting on Sunday, July 10, 2022, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service, for the sole purpose of electing a Pastoral Nominating Committee.

The COM will contact the PNC chair to schedule their training.

Pastor David reported that both he and Alec have spoken with member James Cole regarding his serving as Treasurer. The following motions were made and approved:

2022-108 MOTION prevailed to elect James Cole as Treasurer, serving through the end of 2022 or until replaced, pending his formal acceptance of the position. [Clerk's note: officers for the next calendar year are normally elected in January.]

2022-109 MOTION prevailed to approve a revised Corporate Resolution, with James Cole as the new Treasurer. [Clerk's note: Other officers listed are Alec Works, Clerk of Session, and Marcia Holcomb, Assistant Treasurer.]

The following motions were made regarding Pastor David's requests for time off. Rev. Sandy Selby has indicated she would preach those two Sundays.

2022-110 MOTION prevailed to approve time off for Pastor David Sunday, July 17 and Sunday, August 28, with associated weekdays to be determined.

2022-111 MOTION prevailed to approve Rev. Sandy Selby to preach on Sunday, July 17 and Sunday, August 28, 2022.

Clerk's Report

Alec Works, Clerk

An email was received from Sharon Easterling asking to have her status changed from inactive to active. A list of those who made contributions to the Endowment Fund in honor of Roger or Martha Nelson was sent to Mark Nelson and Jane Nelson Hutchison, per their request.

Report from June 7 meeting of Eastminster Presbytery

Ginny Melver, Dave Stobbs

The first in-person meeting in some time (since covid outbreaks) was held at Northminster Presbyterian Church. Three pastors were honored as they prepare for retirement. Bryce Wiebe was welcomed as the newest member of presbytery staff serving in the position of Associate for Vital Congregations. One teaching and one ruling elder were commissioned to attend the 225th General Assembly later in June.

Committee Reports and Actions

Personnel Committee (See motions below)

Don Rearick

The committee met on Sunday, June 26. The following motion was presented to extend the interim pastor relationship with Rev. David Aber:

2022-112 MOTION prevailed to renew the interim pastor covenant between Westminster Presbyterian Church and Rev. David Aber for the period of August 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023, the terms of which remain the same as the existing covenant with the exception of salary, which will be adjusted to \$27,500 for the agreed upon period.

The Clerk of Session will forward the Terms of Call to the COM for their approval.

As noted during the May 24 meeting, Claudine Schooley's last day as Office Administrator will be June 30. It is felt that the church can be better served by extending this position to full time. This would help ensure office coverage on Fridays. It is also felt that the church should expand its presence on social media. A motion was presented to approve a new job description, acknowledging that there could be some negotiability based on candidates interviewed.

2022-113 MOTION prevailed to approve the job description for Office Administrator as presented.

Pastor David that there have been discussions with candidates to fill this position on an interim basis. Session will be informed when a candidate has been selected and then vote via e-meeting.

Discipleship presented to Personnel a draft job description for a Youth Director to fill the current Christian Education vacancy. Ideally, a full-time Director of Children and Family services would be hired before September. At a minimum, Discipleship would like at least a part-time person in place by August 1 or September 1. A motion was made to proceed to recruit someone to fill the job description as presented, listing it as part-time or full-time, with salary and benefits negotiable.

There was a motion to table the motion, but no second. The following motion was then approved: **2022-114 MOTION prevailed** to approve the job description for Youth Director, listing it as part-time or full-time, with salary and benefits negotiable.

Finance Committee (No minutes nor motions)

Alec Works for Todd Willis

Alec reported that Meaghan Diaz began serving as Interim Accountant on June 2, working 2 partial days and 1 full day per week. Preliminary (unaudited) data through June 21 shows actual revenues of \$238,833; budget \$234,947; actual expenses of \$172,082; budget \$263,439. Contributions have been slightly above budget. Expenses were significantly below budget for Personnel. The net is a surplus of \$66,751; the budget showed a projected deficit of \$28,492. Progress is being made on updating financial records.

Properties Committee (June minutes were attached; see motion below)

Ginny Melver

Ginny reported that she keeps in contact with Frost Architectural Preservation, Inc. regarding progress on the steeple repairs. Another leak on the flat roof was recently detected. The price noted in the agenda for the following motion was amended to address a limestone slab

2022-115 MOTION prevailed to approve paying Rock Solid Company of Hartville an amount not to exceed \$5500 to install / repair the front steps, with the money coming from the Corbin Fund.

Discipleship Committee (June minutes were attached, no motions)

Sandy Gruneich and Dottie Erb for Cathy Melver

See Personnel report regarding Youth Director.

Outreach Committee (Committee met June 26; see consent agenda for motions)

Ellen Daugherty

Ellen reported that Undie Sunday was a huge success. Volunteers are needed if community meals are to be offered, as well as participation in the Pride Festival. The Giving Tree date was moved up so items can be delivered earlier.

Safety and Security Task Force

Don Rearick

Don reported that reported covid cases continue to drop for Summit County.

Worship, Membership, Deacons (No reports)

Old / New / Other Business

A joint worship service for area Presbyterian churches is planned for Sunday, August 28 at 10:30 a.m., outdoors at the Northminster Presbyterian Church. A decision was made to still hold the two regular services at Westminster. We would still want some representation at Northminster. In the event of inclement weather, the service will be held at Westminster. In that case, Rev. Sandy Selby would not be preaching at Westminster.

Pastor David noted that several smaller churches want to collaborate on an Adaptive and Innovative Ministry Program. This will be a one year program starting in October, with two leaders provided by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The following motion was made, seconded and approved:

2022-116 MOTION prevailed to support the Adaptive and Innovative Ministry Program.

A discussion of celebrating the 75th anniversary of the groundbreaking for Westminster Presbyterian Church was deferred due to the time.

There was no other new business. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved. The meeting was then closed in prayer at 9:09 p.m.

Alec Works, Clerk of Session

Rev. David Aber, Moderator