

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Akron, Ohio

Tuesday, September 27, 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 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
+ Rob Gilbert	+ Ellen Daugherty	+ Dan Gorrington
+ Sandy Gruneich	+ Dottie Erb	+ Becky Pool
* Ginny Melder	+ Brian Rodabaugh	+ Dave Stobbs
+ Don Rearick	+ Alec Works, Clerk of Session	* Rosemary Wright

Also present: Rev. David Aber, Moderator.

Opening and Declaration of Quorum

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

The Consent Agenda as approved included the following motions:

2022-154 MOTION prevailed to approve the minutes of the regular Session meeting of August 30, 2022.

2022-155 MOTION prevailed to formally approve the minutes for the 2/11/21 e-meeting and the 9/26/21 special meeting of Session. These were presented for review and approval at the following regular session meetings, but a formal motion was not included in the minutes.

2022-156 MOTION prevailed to receive all of the reports from the August meetings as presented on August 30, 2022 (motion inadvertently omitted from August 30 minutes.)

2022-157 MOTION prevailed to receive the following report of all weddings, funerals, baptisms, and Communion that have taken place since Session's August 30 meeting:

1. Weddings: none
2. Funerals: internment service for Mary Jane Emerson, former member, was held in the Memorial Garden on September 15, 2022, with Pastor David Aber officiating.
3. Baptisms: none
4. Communion: 8/14/22 = 17 at 8:30 a.m., 52 at 10:30 a.m., 67 viewings on YouTube. 9/11/22 = 88 (10:30 a.m.), 77 viewings on YouTube (16 live).

Reports of average worship attendance for August (3 regular in person worship services) = 20 at the 8:30 a.m. service, 56 at the 10:30 a.m. service. Average viewings on YouTube for August = 73 (12 live. (Data for first 3 Sundays only). A joint worship service for 12 area Presbyterian churches was hosted by Westminster on August 28, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. Attendance was 287 in person with 188 YouTube viewings (Westminster site only). [Note: Live broadcast and recorded services are being made available through YouTube.]

2022-158 MOTION prevailed to approve the membership statistical report for the month of August 2022:

Total Membership as of 8/1/22	274
Additions: none	0
Deletions: none	0
Deaths: Charlotte Elizabeth Walker (#2218)	1
Total Membership as of 8/31/22	273

No motion is needed for removals from active membership.

From Worship:

2022-159 MOTION prevailed to approve a Jazz Vespers service on November 6, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. with Theron Brown and his ensemble. Funding will be provided by the Jazz Vespers monies set aside from the Rowley fund for this service.

2022-160 MOTION prevailed to approve hosting the University of Akron's Choir for a Christmas Concert on December 4, 2022, at a time to be determined. [Note: Time will likely be between 4:30 to 5:30. This would be the first musical event for the 2022-2023 season following the general pattern of the 5 at 5 concert series.]

From Finance:

2022-161 MOTION prevailed to approve the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$1,500 from Church Life Funds for two events planned by the Stewardship team. [Clerk's notes: This includes one event for church leaders to start the campaign and a lunch for all on Consecration Sunday.]

2022-162 MOTION prevailed to approve renewing the postage meter contract. [Notes: The postal service is withdrawing the current type of meter used. The update renews the contract at our current price for 63 months.]

From Outreach:

2022-163 MOTION prevailed to approve a change in the date of Christmas Basket distribution from December 10 to December 17. [Note: This motion revises the date from Motion 2022-020.]

Clerk's Report

Alec Works, Clerk

Session members were reminded to submit a photo (head shot) and brief bio to the church office for inclusion in the Script if they have not already done so. Committees were thanked for their work in submitting minutes and reports, and reminded to include results of e-meetings in regular minutes.

COM's review of 2021 minutes is scheduled for Saturday, October 29, 2022 via Zoom. Other upcoming Presbytery events include DiscipleFest 2022 at Cuyahoga Falls UPC; Evangelism and Immersion (Vitality) conferences; and Weekly Contemporary Christian issues classes (Boardman).

Report from September 6 meeting of Eastminster Presbytery

Ginny Melder, who represented Westminster, was excused. A meeting summary was distributed by Presbytery. On Sunday, September 19, Rev. Stephanie Crossland officiated her last worship service

at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Cuyahoga Falls, after serving as pastor for 14 years.

Committee Reports and Actions

Personnel Committee (No formal meeting; see motion below)

Don Rearick

The following motion was presented and approved:

2022-164 MOTION prevailed to approve hiring Gwynne Rearick as Director of Youth and Family Ministries, effective September 11, 2022. [Clerk's note: The decision by Discipleship and Personnel to hire Gwynne was presented to Session members on September 7; there were no dissents. Specific job duties and contract details were to be finalized. Anticipated terms are \$25 per hour for 20 hours per week, benefits to be determined.]

The candidate informally approved by Session earlier in September for the Office Administrator position has since asked to be withdrawn from consideration. A new search will begin. The following motion was made, seconded and approved:

2022-165 MOTION prevailed to grant Personnel the authority to hire someone to temporarily fill the office administrator / administrative assistant position.

Don reported that they are also working on a Solo Pastor job description.

Finance Committee (August reports and September minutes attached; see consent agenda for motions)

Alec Works for Todd Willis

Unaudited data through August 31: actual revenues \$357,517; budget \$313,376. Actual expenses \$245,875; budget \$363,978. Expenses exclude steeple repair, which is paid from restricted funds. Contributions, including both pledged and unpledged contributions, as well as loose offerings, continue above budget. Expenses were below budget for all areas, especially Personnel. Net is a surplus of \$111,642. As activities and staffing increase through the end of this year, so will expenses.

Only 2 committees have submitted proposed budgets for 2023. All committees should have proposed budgets submitted to the treasurer within the next few weeks. The overall proposed budget should be presented to Session in January.

The consecrating (Stewardship) appeal to support the church under the theme "As I am Blessed" will begin next week. Witnessing Steward Rev. Tim Morrison is scheduled to preach 11/13/22. The following motion was made, seconded and approved:

2022-166 MOTION prevailed to approve paying Rev. Tim Morrison the standard pulpit supply fee for preaching on November 13, 2022.

Nominating (No minutes; see motions below)

Becky Pool

2022-167 MOTION prevailed to nominate Dave Stobbs to replace Walter Hayes on the Pastoral Nominating Committee. [Clerk's note: Walter resigned on August 30, 2022 due to professional and personal reasons.]

2022-168 MOTION prevailed to call for a congregational meeting on Sunday, October 9, 2022, at the end of the 10:30 a.m. worship service, for the sole purpose of electing a replacement for the Pastoral Nominating Committee.

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

Ellen Daugherty for Ginny Melver

2022-169 MOTION prevailed to use Securitec for keyless entry and cellular communications systems, with funds coming from the Fouse Fund and not to exceed \$9,000.

Abby Haake requested use by University of Akron for a concert December 4 plus space for rehearsals prior to the concert. Properties agreed that any extra expenses such as police crossing, additional snow plowing and custodial help be paid by funding that Worship has available in their budget.

Worship Committee (August minutes were attached, see consent agenda for motions)

Brian Rodabaugh for Stacy Franzmann

Various musical offerings are being planned; see consent agenda for related motions.

Discipleship Committee (No minutes; motions were addressed in the August 9 e-meeting)

Dottie Erb, Sandy Gruneich for Cathy Melver

The committee has been discussing programming and activity options with Gwynne Rearick. A fall activity is being discussed.

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

Ellen Daugherty

In consideration of volunteer participation of Third Sunday Dinners, a decision on whether to continue any dinners for WYDACA families was referred back to the committee.

Safety and Security Task Force

Don Rearick

Don reported that since covid is now considered “endemic”, responsibility resides primarily with individuals to determine what precautions they should take.

The number of persons willing to usher has decreased due to additional training in safety and security, as well as the pandemic. Worship and Deacons are asked to consider having individuals sign up to assist with greeting and collecting offerings. These persons could supplement the ushers who have had the safety and security training.

Deacons (September minutes were attached; no motions)

Kevin Melver is the new moderator.

Membership (No report)

Transition Discussions

Pastor David

The Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) has been meeting. Sharon Easterling was elected moderator, with Stephanie Blaha as secretary (co-chairs).

The report from the Mission Statement Task Force was received and discussed. Based on the discussions, Alec offered to invite Cathy Ulrich, General Presbyter, and Richard Lapehn, COM liaison, to meet with Session and the PNC to clarify where we stand.

Alec reported he sent questions received regarding Holy Cow Emily Swanson for her responses. Per Presbytery, Session is responsible for the search for another interim pastor, if needed. The search process should not begin until the interim position is open, or current interim has given 30 days’ notice. The next regular Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

There was no other business discussed. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved. The meeting was then closed in prayer at 8:34 p.m.