

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Akron, Ohio
Monday, November 14, 2022
Minutes of the Special Session Meeting – FINAL
Be adaptive, engaging, generous, inclusive and relevant. Be faithful. Be Westminster!

The special meeting of the Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church was called to order by Moderator Rev. David Aber at 6:33 p.m.

Elders (+ present, * excused, - absent)

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

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 6:33 pm. The presence of a quorum was confirmed and declared.

New Business

In calling the meeting, Pastor David presented two items for discussion. First is a discussion related to two of the Five Developmental Tasks of Interim Ministry - #2) Discovering a new congregational identity, and #3) Preparing for new pastoral leadership and a new future. The second is a review of the revised MIF as submitted by the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC).

Pastor David started by quoting from I Corinthians 14:40, “But all things should be done decently and in order.” In a handout to Session members, he noted that Paul wrote to that congregation regarding outbursts and utterances that were disruptive to the church. Today, technology has enabled newer and more easily spread methods of communication. Recently there have been communications that could be described as not decent and in order, as well as not helping to “excel in building up the church” (I Cor. 14:12). The question raised is how ruling elders should respond, especially in their roles of supporting and encouraging the pastor and the congregation, and creating a positive and energetic community.

To help address future such communications, Session discussed adopting a policy statement. Session will revisit this at its next meeting, but the general consensus was to offer a person(s) the opportunity to air concerns in person with Session. If the person(s) is (are) uncomfortable with this, a smaller group could be considered. Pastor David concluded by noting the need for mutual support between a pastor and Session.

The Clerk had earlier forwarded an updated MIF as presented by the PNC to Session members. There were some concerns expressed. Regarding concern for each other, prayer groups, prayer quilts, honoring birthdays and small groups that meet were mentioned. Is preaching scripturally based? Is it comforting? Should the pastor be a role model? What does “guiding them to live their lives in Christ” mean? In summary, it was agreed that these were points that the PNC could address during their interview with a candidate.

The following motion was made, seconded and approved:

2022-187 MOTION prevailed to approve the Mission information Form (MIF) as presented by the Pastoral Nominating Committee and to forward it the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry for their review and approval.

The Clerk agreed to forward the MIF to the COM, which meets Thursday, November 17.

There was no further business. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved. The meeting was then closed in prayer at 7:50 p.m.

Alec Works, Clerk of Session

Rev. David Aber, Moderator