

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Akron, Ohio
Tuesday, August 24, 2010
Minutes of the Session Meeting

Be adaptive, engaging, generous, inclusive, and relevant. Be faithful. Be Westminster!

The Meeting of Westminster Presbyterian Church was called to order by Moderator, Rev. Derek Starr Redwine, at 7:00 p.m.

Elders (+ present, * excused absent, - absent)

| Class of 2010 | Class of 2011 | Class of 2012 |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| * Phil Keller | + Stacy Franzmann | * Melanie Curlee |
| + Don Rearick | + Char Molinaro | + Rich Lucas |
| + Dan Shaughnessy | - Kris Pritchard | + Pat Santelli |
| + Marian Wahl | + Bruce Stebner | + Cindy Weiss |
| + Cathy Melder | | |

Also present:

Rev. Derek Starr Redwine, Pastor
Kate Clark, Clerk of Session

Opening

Pastor Derek opened the meeting with prayer (joys and concerns).

Clerk's Report

Consent Agenda:

2010-48 Motion prevailed to approve the minutes of the Regular Session Meeting held on Tuesday, June 22, 2010.

2010-49 Motion prevailed to receive the following report of all weddings, funerals, baptisms, and communion that have taken place since session's previous meeting:

1. Weddings:
 - a. Mark Soucek and Rebecca L. Bilek, who were married on July 10, 2010, in the Celtic Garden of Westminster. Mark is a member of our congregation.
 - b. Laura E. Forsbach and Marc E. Bedillion, who were married on July 31, 2010, at Westminster. Laura is a member of our congregation.
2. Funerals: none.
3. Baptisms:
 - a. July 25, 2010, Abigail Kristen Burt, daughter of Stephen and Emily Burt, members of our congregation.
4. Communions:
 - a. Sunday, July 4 and 25 at 8:30 service.
 - b. Sundays, August 1 and 8 at 8:30 service.
 - c. Sunday, August 15, at 10:30 a.m. service as part of Melissa Shaughnessy's ordination service.

2010-50 Motion prevailed to approve the baptism of Abigail Holcomb, granddaughter of members John and Marcia Holcomb on Sunday, September 19, 2010.

2010-51 Motion prevailed to accept the resignation of Lisa Park Boush from Session and to leave her slot vacant for the remaining four months of her term.

2010-52 Motion prevailed to approve hosting the Summit Urban Farming Initiative (Kristy Yates contact), taught by educators from OSU Extension and The Cuyahoga Valley Countryside Conservancy, in Wright-Herberich Hall for one weeknight a week, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., at cost of \$12.50/hour, from February 17 to April 7, 2011. No meeting during Holy Week.

2010-53 Motion prevailed to concur with Discipleship Committee in the approving of the following Sundays, when children would stay in worship for full service (no 3/4's activities and Children's Choir Rehearsal):

- 9/5 - Program year doesn't begin until 9/12 with "Rally Day"
- 10/3 - World Communion Sunday
- 11/7 - All Saints Day - NONE
- 11/21 - Christ the King, Communion
- 12/19 - The Pageant Procession/Communion
- 12/26 - Sunday after Christmas

2010-54 Motion prevailed to approve the following family weekend for Pastor: Saturday, September 4, and Sunday, September 5, 2010.

2010-55 Motion prevailed to approve the Membership Statistical Report

| | | | Total Membership as of |
|-----------|----------------|---|--|
| 5-31-2010 | | | 533 |
| JUNE | New Members | 0 | |
| | Reinstatements | 0 | |
| | Inactive | 4 | |
| | Deletions | 2 | |
| | Letters | 0 | |
| | Deaths | 0 | |
| | | | Total Membership as of 6-30-2010 527 |
| JULY | New Members | 0 | |
| | Reinstatements | 0 | |
| | Inactive | 0 | |
| | Deletions | 0 | |
| | Letters | 0 | |
| | Deaths | 0 | |
| | | | Total Membership as of 7-31-2010 527 |

2010-56 Motion prevailed to grant DELETION for:

Mr. & Mrs. Dan T. Blice (Vicki Hartenstein)
1571 Sunnycres Road, Copley, OH 44321
(They have joined another church.)

Mr. William C. Heck
1175 N. Beachview Drive, Apt 237, Jekyll Island, GA 31527

(Per his request. Moved to Georgia permanently.)

Rev. Melissa Shaughnessy

2403 Brice Road, Akron, OH 44313

(Melissa was ordained to the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament on August 15, 2010, and she is now a member of Pittsburgh Presbytery where she serves.)

2010-57 Motion prevailed to grant INACTIVE STATUS for:

Mrs. Peter C. Briggs (Valerie Grant)

8920 Pinehurst Cove, Duluth, GA 30097

Discussion: Children and Communion – When should children come to the Table?

Since children now will be in worship during communion, more parents are seeking advice for when children should take communion. The Book of Order says that if the child is baptized and understands what the sacrament means, then she or he make take communion. Up to the parents to decide, when the children can understand and appreciate. Children can learn as they participate and become familiar with the liturgy. Some Reformed traditions had children wait to take communion until they've been confirmed, but that leaves children out. Pastor Derek suggests that he say all people who've been baptized may come forward, which may include children. Baptism is entry into the community, however it is not up to us to police who is baptized or not. Maybe offer a blessing for children who parents feel are too young to understand what communion. Pastor Derek will send a letter to parents explaining the situation and making suggestions for how they can think about the situation in order to help decide for their children. General sense was that offering children a blessing is a good alternative; to support and educate parents of children.

Reviewed Summer Worship Survey Results

The main reason given for attending the 8:30 a.m. service was the convenience of the early hour. Pastor Derek thinks ten weeks is about the right length. Session members who attended the service regularly said they liked worshipping outside, the earliness and the intimacy, the conversations after the sermon. The musicians and liturgy worked well. There was an average of 45 people in attendance, who seemed to grow spiritually across the weeks. We'll plan to do this again next summer.

Financial Update

Treasurer Rich Lucas reported that \$11,000 YTD deficit (mix of less contributions and higher than expected expenses), but additional non-pledge contributions lower than estimated.

Pastor's Report

- Derek and Amy Starr Redwine are expecting their third child, who is due on January 29, 2011.
- Phone calls to people on fringe – based on responses so far, we're getting a sense of what is going on with those who haven't attended (or haven't signed the attendance pad – some attend more regularly)
- Nominating Committee: Update – the committee has identified a list of people for elders and deacons, and are beginning to get responses from calls inviting them to serve.
- Presbyterian Leader emailed – some elders get it, some not, but most say they do not read so maybe not worth the \$100 cost. Consensus reached to cancel subscription.
- Teacher recruitment update - good news! All slots filled but one. Five substitutes. Nine new teachers to Christian Education. Nine teachers returning who have taught in Rotation in the past. Seven teachers who have worked in the nursery are also returning.
- Liturgists for September, October, November, December (Cathy Melver, Stacy Franzmann, Don Rearick, Dan Shaughnessy, and Rich Lucas volunteered)

- Needed: Presbytery Commissioners to General Assembly for 2010-2011 – Some important topics will be the focus of the next GA – Ordination Standards, a new Confession (for Book of Confessions), and some new rules (to shorten rules). We need two commissioners who can attend three meetings (Wednesdays, 5-8 p.m., dinner provided) at various sites in the Presbytery. Cindy Weiss is willing, since she'll be there for Committee on Ministry anyway, but recommends there be two others. (Pat Santelli and Dan Shaughnessy are thinking about volunteering)

Purchasing new Christian Education curriculum

2010-58 Motion prevailed to approve the purchase of High School (Making it Real & Relevant) and Junior High (Re:form, PCUSA Confirmation) curriculum from the Anita Young Fund at a cost not to exceed \$500.

Upgrading Church Management Programs

2010-59 Motion prevailed to approve spending \$2,263 from Memorial Funds, pending Finance Committee approval, for the purchase of new church management software.

Positives: Online giving, event registration, bulk email capabilities, streamlined interface, employee database, integrates well with email/web, online storage, data conversion included, online training classes available, immediate reports, constant database available. If we purchase it, the company will convert from current management program (Church Windows is what is currently being used).

Pastor Derek reviewed the costs for the current systems (management and others) and compared/contrasted with management system being considered (Logos).

Ask the Moderators

Outreach

Cathy Melver brought a concern from Outreach about communication with the congregation about Outreach projects. How can we improve communication? For instance, in the event that there is a snow storm we need to communicate with congregation members quickly (phone trees?), so a basic framework to use in emergencies is needed. Also, another idea is coming up with service teams – a group of people to help with an event (like a pancake breakfast); everyone in the congregation would be assigned to a service team and teams would be rotated.

A Communication Task Force (Cindy Weiss and Cathy Melver will organize) is being formed to look into ways to communicate in emergencies (perhaps texting and robocalls), as well as explore other ways to communicate effectively in within the congregation.

Properties

Dan Shaughnessy said a group (Absorbent Minds) wants to set up a Montessori School in the basement of the Education wing. They would follow a typical Akron school year, and would need to make some renovations such as restrooms. Concerns have been expressed about Absorbent Minds as for-profit and how that would impact Westminster's non-profit status. They are exploring creating a non-profit arm of the school. They are seeking a January 1, 2011 decision for go/no go.

The new curbside church signs have been ordered. They take six weeks to be manufactured, then we need to figure out how to ship them here.

Discipleship

Marian Wahl reported that the committee will be setting goals for the Director of Student Ministries, giving more guidance.

Personnel

Don Rearick reported that the committee is investigating how best to fund the new Associate Pastor position. There will be need to generate more funds. This will be focus of upcoming Stewardship campaign. Church leadership has designated the hiring of an associate pastor as the most important priority for the future of the church, now figuring out how to make this work.

Budget

Pastor Derek notes that committees will begin the budgeting process using worksheets in September.

Giving Thanks - Who is doing God's work at WPC?

Session members held up individuals and groups who are doing God's work in our midst.

Upcoming Session Meetings:

Tuesday, September 28, at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, October 26, at 7 p.m.

Sunday, November 14, at 10 a.m. to Receive New Members

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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| <p>_____ Kate Clark, Clerk of Session</p> | <p>_____ Rev. Derek Starr Redwine, Moderator of Session</p> |
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