

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Akron, Ohio  
Tuesday, September 28, 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 Melver		

Also present:

Rev. Derek Starr Redwine, Pastor  
Carl Anderson, Director of Student Ministries  
Kate Clark, Clerk of Session

**Opening**

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

**Clerk's Report**

Consent Agenda:

2010-60 Motion prevailed to approve the minutes of the Regular Session Meeting held on Tuesday, August 24, 2010 as amended (Kris Pritchard's absence was excused).

2010-61 Motion to approve the baptism of David Alexander Mays, son of member Sarah Traw Mays, and Payton Elizabeth Moyer, daughter of members Dallas and Jessica (Traw) Moyer, on Sunday, October 10, 2010.

2010-62 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:
2. Funerals: none.
3. Baptisms: Abigail Lynn Holcomb, granddaughter of members John and Marcia Holcomb on Sunday, September 19, 2010.
4. Communions:

2010-63 Motion prevailed to approve the Membership Statistical Report

			Total Membership as of 7-31-2010 . . . . .	527
AUGUST	New Members	0		
	Reinstatements	0		
	Inactive		1	
	Deletions		4	
	Letters		0	
	Deaths		0	
			Total Membership as of 8-31-2010 . . . . .	522

2010-64 Motion to grant DELETION for:

Mrs. Christopher Sohaey (Amy Pool)  
519 Stratford Court, Unit G, Del Mar, CA 92014  
(She has joined another church.)

2010-65 Motion to grant INACTIVE STATUS for: (as a result of summer elder phone calls)

Mr. Matthew J. Edwards  
2172 Glengary Road, Akron, OH 44333

Mr. & Mrs. James M. Geary (Chandra Dusz)  
655 Archwood Road, Wadsworth, OH 44281

Mrs. Brian R. Shellito (Susan Weaver)  
919 Hereford Drive, Akron, OH 44303

Mrs. Thomas Wainwright (Lisa Mazzaferro)  
4574 Heather Hills Road, Akron, OH 44333

Dr. & Mrs. Terry J. Wagner (Erika Nelson)  
1121 Mansion Drive, Barberton, OH 44203

#### **Discussion: Visioning Work**

Small groups met to envision what we'd like to see happening at Westminster in next three to five to better live out our core values: **COME ENCOUNTER GROW SERVE**

**Come:** People want to come and be here, no need to worry about numbers because people are coming, staying, and getting involved.

**Encounter:** Everyone knows more people personally, by name (and not just face), taking meals three times a week to families with new babies or families with a mom/dad with surgery, taking loaves of bread to newcomers, people participating because they've found something to engage them, regular sharing of food and fellowship (more lunches and progressive dinners, help people be more intentional about the kinds of ways they can reach out to individuals and families.

**Grow:** We have a greater presence in the community, a growing membership not just to increase the rolls, but active members contributing to a growing talent base and financial base.

**Serve:** Members are actively involved in outreach (doing, not just paying); more local outreach. If someone has an idea for mission, we give them the funds/resources to carry it out. There is a monthly service opportunity (not just seasonal like Christmas baskets), for instance, families take on a resident of Rockynol. Kids in the church are a serving force, like working at the monthly Walk-In dinners at First Presbyterian or the kids' choir singing at Rockynol. Every member is involved in serving in some way.

Pastor Derek noted this is a tension that churches faces to get and grow membership: Do we keep doing what we do well or do you do new ministries/activities to draw more people in?

Further discussion of activities and opportunities currently available that are working in ways we've envisioned.

#### **Nominating Committee Update**

Stacy Franzmann reported on the progress of lining up the slates of Deacon and Elder nominees. The committee will meet Sunday, October 3, to identify individuals to be on the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

## **Financial Update**

Rich Lucas reported that the current financial status is optimistic. Basically, income is greater than spending because we've been conservative. We are on target for pledges. Pastor Derek noted that tentative golf outing numbers are in and it looks like the contributions will be the best year so far. 160 diners enjoyed the dinner.

## **Discussion: Stewardship – *Growing Together*** (Article: *Scarcity and God's Abundance* by Dan Hotchkiss)

How do we talk about Stewardship in a time of scarcity? How will we fund the Associate Pastor position? People may be questioning: "Why would the church not do with less, if I have to do with less?"

Part of the answer is that not everyone is going through a downturn at this time and the business of the church goes on. If a church member can give, then they can, if not, they can't. If we have been responsible in our spending so far, then we can be trusted to continue doing so. We've cut expenses and the budget for the past few years. In the next year we'll spend more for a specific purpose: the new Associate Pastor position and search. If we can be bold now, and poised for when things do get better, we can be a place of hope. We're going to grow in a time of downturns, which is a hopeful sign, a hopeful message. We have lost some big givers from our congregation in the past year so the rest of us need to step up. We don't need to hammer home the message that there is a need: this is a generous church and people will give where they can. In down times people who've been blessed tend to give more.

This is one of the ways we can get to where we want to be in five years: by growing together (numbers, service, ministries). We need to do it together. Raising additional funds for the Associate Pastor position is like a building campaign, except the building is happening other places than the physical plant (though that is important, too.)

**Stewardship Theme for 2010: *Growing Together*.** Goal is to explain to the congregation what difference an Associate Pastor of Discipleship would make. The Associate Pastor role will be about building relationships. In a time of scarcity we are shifting funds to support ENCOUNTER/GROW in the belief that this will increase our ability to SERVE, which will inspire people to COME. Session agreed to call (for all who are able) to increase pledges 10% to cover the cost of an Associate Pastor. Endowment asked by Finance and Personnel to consider feasibility of an additional pledge or interest free loan. Want to work the position into the budget over three years; will begin with the support of the Mary Downing gift for student ministries. We'll make this happen. We'll ask boldly. We'll work creatively.

## **Student Ministries Update**

Carl Anderson, Director of Student Ministries, reported on Student ministries as the program year begins for Middle School and High School students, especially with the changes to Sunday schedule. Middle school students are engaged and active; numbers are great, and some are bringing their family into church activities.

Encouraging Senior High students to participate regularly in programs intended for them is still a challenge, especially once they can drive. He is seeking input from members of Session, the Discipleship committee and others to read the needs of this situation, trying to figure out if it is a communication issue, a scheduling issue, or something else. If the Middle School students are currently so engaged and participating, how can we keep them and their families involved as they age into High School. The future potential of the current cohort of Middle School students is good; the challenge is for the current cohort of High School students and their families.

Ideas: Get the parents involved in church service and activities; if the parents are here, the kids will be here. Need to build relationships with the family, not just the kids. The more people in a family that have responsibilities, the more of the family will be coming to church. A critical mass that will be self-perpetuating.

## **Pastor's Report**

- Elders attending Presbytery meetings this program year: Dan Shaughnessy and Pat Santelli.
- Sound system update: The system is not working well. Woodsy's Sound was consulted to study the situation. Recommended new system. The bid came back for a system at around \$20,000. Need figure out where this goes on our list of priorities.
- At next month's Session Meeting we'll have two committees from Presbytery making presentations. Member Ryan Adams is interested in the ministry of Word and Sacrament so will become an Inquirer and we will be his

sponsoring church. He has been working with Student Ministries and attends the Wednesday morning Bible studies. The Committee for the Preparation of Ministry (CPM) will review the process. Then the Committee on Ministry (COM) will review the Associate Pastor search process.

- Budget worksheets will be provided to the committees for the 2011 budget. Committees will be asked to construct budgets reflecting no increase and to identify where 10% could be cut if needed. Due at the end of October.

2010-66 Motion prevailed to approve the Rev. Craig Hunter as guest preacher in Sunday worship on October 17.

#### **Ask the Moderators**

#### **Properties** (current fund balances in parentheses)

2010-67: That Properties be allowed to spend up to \$2,400 for interior signage using the following funds: Accessibility Fund (\$590), Capital Improvement Fund (\$627), and Barnett Fund (\$1,139).

2010-68: That Properties be allowed to purchase a man-lift to service light bulbs and smoke detectors in the sanctuary and Wright-Herberich Hall at a cost \$500 from the Patterson PCUSA-Properties Fund (\$631)

#### **Worship**

Cindy Weiss brought forward a request that the Session consider further enhancing the purpose of the communion table in sanctuary by putting the altar cross on it that is currently in a glass case in the Library. Motion was brought forward and tabled until next Session meeting to allow for discussion.

#### **Upcoming Session Meetings:**

- 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 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kate Clark, Clerk of Session

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rev. Derek Starr Redwine, Moderator of Session