

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Akron, Ohio  
Tuesday, October 26, 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

Kate Clark, Clerk of Session

Rev. Bruce Ballatine, Committee on the Preparation for Ministry (CPM), Eastminster Presbytery

Rev Dan Schomer, General Presbyter, Eastminster Presbytery

Rev. Debby Dockstader, Committee on Ministry (COM), Eastminster Presbytery

### Opening

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

### Clerk's Report

Consent Agenda:

2010-69 Motion prevailed to approve the minutes of the Regular Session Meeting held on Tuesday, September 28, 2010.

2010-70 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: none.
2. Funerals: Betty Perkins, Monday, October 10, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.
3. Baptisms:
  - a. David Alexander Mays, son of David and Sarah Mays
  - b. Payton Elizabeth Moyer, daughter of Dallas and Jessica Moyer
4. Communions: none.

2010-71 Motion prevailed to approve the call of a congregational meeting on Sunday, November 14, 2010, following worship to vote on the slate of nominees as presented by the church wide Nominating Committee for the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, the Endowment Trustees, and the church-wide Nominating Committee.

2010-72 Motion prevailed approve the moving of the December Session meeting to Tuesday, December 7, 2010, where we will receive new elders and deacons and say farewell to our departing class of elders.

2010-73 Motion prevailed to approve the collection of the Presbyterian Women Thank Offering on Sunday, November 21, 2010.

2010-74 Motion prevailed to accept the following vacation dates for Pastor Redwine: Wednesday, November 24 through Sunday, November 28, 2010.

2010- 75 Motion prevailed to approve the Membership Statistical Report

|           |                                    |   |  |     |
|-----------|------------------------------------|---|--|-----|
|           |                                    |   | Total Membership as of 8-31-2010 . . . . . | 522 |
| SEPTEMBER | New Members                        | 0 |  |     |
|           | Reinstatements                     | 0 |  |     |
|           | Inactive                           |   | 7  |     |
|           | Deletions                          |   | 1  |     |
|           | Letters                            |   | 0  |     |
|           | Deaths                             |   | 1  |     |
|           | Margaret E. Bodley (Mrs. Harry D.) |   |  |     |
|           |                                    |   | Total Membership as of 9-30-2010 . . . . . | 513 |

**Presentation by the Rev. Bruce Ballantine, Committee on the Preparation for Ministry (CPM)**

Westminster member Ryan Adams has requested permission from Presbytery to begin the process of becoming an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament, the first phase of which is to become an Inquirer. Rev. Ballantine explained the role and process of being an Inquirer and our congregation’s responsibilities. First, a member of the Committee for the Preparation for Ministry (CPM) meets with session (this meeting with Session today). The next step in the process is for three parties to enter a covenant relationship: the Inquirer (Ryan Adams), congregation (a Liaison with Session), and presbytery. The preparation for becoming ordained begins with the Inquirer’s own prayerful exploration and consideration, moves through seminary education (M. Div.), and passing five ordination Exams. The congregational and presbytery care process is a minimum of two years for the person: Inquirer → Candidate → Ordination. The role of Session is to have a conversation with Ryan (set for November’s Session meeting) guided by a set of questions provided by the CPM. Ryan will meet with Session from time to time to give an update on how his process and discernment about his call to the ministry of Word and Sacrament is going. The congregation can provide prayer and financial support toward his education, in particular, his psychological/vocational assessment that is required by the Presbytery. The congregation is responsible for 1/3 cost + travel/hotel expenses for the testing (Presbytery will pay 1/3, and Ryan as the candidate would pay 1/3). Presbytery pays for Ordination Exams (first time; second time it is the responsibility of the candidate).

The motion for the Session of Westminster Presbyterian to recommend that member Ryan Adams be enrolled as an Inquirer in Eastminster Presbytery is tabled until a future meeting when Ryan can meet with us. We’ll vote on a liaison at that meeting.

Rev. Ballantine left three documents:

- Form for Clerk to fill out.
- Questions to guide discussion.
- 2 copies of the manual for the Care of an Inquirer (one for Moderator and one for the Liaison)

**Meeting with Rev. Dan Schomer, General Presbyter, and Rev. Debby Dockstader, Committee on Ministry**

Rev. Dockstader opened a conversation about our sense of need for an Associate Pastor, beginning by asking the Session to talk about how we have come to this point, how we will fund the position, if the congregation is in support of the position, and how church life will be different with an Associate Pastor.

Various elders described reasons and ways we’ve come to this point:

We discerned a need for additional staff to grow youth ministries. From growing just the youth program, we began talking about growing the whole church, not just in terms of numbers but also in terms of the growing the members. We need additional support for pastoral care; to meet the growing a desire for a second service; services of our ordained pastor need to be supported. Currently, the Student Director is only a half time position. We must take the additional step of hiring an additional full time person, combining Student Ministries with other pastoral duties. We

think we can afford this person for multiple years, three or more. We are exploring reallocation of resources, we have a gift (Mary Downing Fund) to cover portion of costs for up to three years, and an increase of 10% in stewardship this year will help us to cover the rest. The congregation is aware we have made calling an Associate a priority. We've surveyed those involved in the Christian Education program. Also, historically, this church has had an Associate Pastor (sometimes more than one). Availability of a pastor would double. A second person to consult or with whom to have a conversation. More offerings and varied perspectives for Adult and Christian Education.

Next, Rev. Dan Schomer explained the process of how to search for and call an Associate Pastor (passed out a handout based on the Book of Order about this role and the process). Three parties are involved in the process of calling a pastor, a partnership of pastor, congregation, and presbytery. The presbytery's role is to assist the nominating committee and Session in making decisions by providing information and making the contacts needed to complete a search. The role of an Associate Pastor is unique in our Presbyterian system. Importantly, it is different from that former role of Assistant Pastor, who was an assistant to the senior pastor. The Associate Pastor position has its own integrity concerning who this person should be and what the person should do who holds the position. For instance, if the Senior Pastor leaves, the Associate will not usually move into the role of Senior Pastor/Head of Staff and need not leave, too. An Associate Pastor might continue as the Associate Pastor under a new Senior Pastor/Head of Staff, for instance. It is up to the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) to complete the Church Information Form (CIF), which includes the position description. Session will need to approve and may somewhat revise the position as described by the APNC in the CIF.

First steps in the process include the Session meeting with representatives from the Committee on Ministry (tonight's meeting serves this purpose), consulting with the COM about what mission, strategizing, financial support is feasible (with contingency plans) (see conversation with Rev. Dockstader above). At this meeting, the Session needs to ask COM for permission to form the APNC (this was done during tonight's meeting). Next, the Session needs to suggest a conversation between the COM liaison (Rev. Reford Nash) and the APNC (when it is formed and approved by the congregation). Rev. Schomer will consult with the APNC as they develop the Church Information Form (CIF). The APNC will conduct phone interviews, view sermon recordings, possibly bring candidates to the Presbytery to preach in "neutral pulpits" (local pulpits, but not at Westminster). When a short list of possible candidates is reached, both the APNC and Presbytery will check references. Both APNC and the Presbytery need to interview the potential candidate to see both if she or he is a good match for church and also an effective member of Presbytery. Finally, the candidating weekend will involve preaching to the congregation and a vote by the congregation.

Pastor Derek noted that he has prompted the nominating committee to find members for the APNC and convene it during the time frame of December 2010 through April 2011. His plan is to visit some seminaries to recruit potential candidates who are looking for their first call. APNC will also be open to anyone suitable, not just recent graduates.

### **Financial Update**

Treasurer Rich Lucas reviewed the September financial report, calling it "challenging" because in terms of year to date we are behind in contributions (non-pledged), however, this is offset in part by below-budget expenses. Also, based on past years, this deficit is cyclical, and income tends to come in near the end of the year, so he is not worried at this point. Westminster is doing OK.

### **Worship**

Cindy Weiss brought forward a motion and explained the reasoning behind it. The idea being considered is whether putting the altar cross (currently in the Library) on the small communion table in front of the steps in the sanctuary would be appropriate. Elder Bruce Stebner was absent but wrote in favor of the motion saying it would make the altar cross more visible and honor the history of Westminster (the altar cross used to be placed on the communion table at the back of the chancel). A question was raised about whether we need another cross during worship in the Sanctuary since we have the Celtic cross hanging and also the Processional cross that leads in the choir.

The **MOTION** to approve the placing of the altar cross, currently in a glass case in the Library, on the communion table to further enhance the purpose of the table in the sanctuary did not carry.

Session did agree, however, that placing items on communion table that appropriate to the season would be a good idea.

The session supports Music Director's James Mismas' request that we experiment with using chairs instead of pews for the choir (the pews have been removed to make room for a choir concert this weekend). Our red chairs will be placed on the current built-in risers for the next several Sundays; this possible change will be reviewed in January. If this set up works better than using the pews, renovated risers built to code could be considered. Experimenting with this modification proposed by the ad hoc Chancel Reconfiguration committee will not cost anything.

**Properties**

Dan Shaughnessy brought forward the following motion:

**MOTION** to approve the purchase of a new handicap lift at approximately \$20,000 using individual member donations and resources from the Reserve Fund. The motion was tabled.

**Pastor's Report**

- We celebrate with Joe Hrach with the near completion of his ordination process as he will be soon be ordained to a special pastoral position within the Presbytery. Please see his letter in the Session materials for October 2010 on our website.
- Training sessions for new elders and deacons are being scheduled. Current elders may attend. The new officers will be working on writing Statements of Faith, which they will read to the Session at the December 7 meeting.
- Dan Shaughnessy and Pat Santelli will serve as our Commissioners to Eastminster Presbytery.

**Upcoming Session Meetings:**

- Sunday, November 14, at 10 a.m. to Receive New Members
- Tuesday, November 23, Regular Session meeting

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <hr/><br>Kate Clark, Clerk of Session | <hr/><br>Rev. Derek Starr Redwine, Moderator of Session |
|---------------------------------------|---|