

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Akron, Ohio
Tuesday, June 28, 2011
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 2011	Class of 2012	Class of 2013
* Stacy Franzmann	+ Melanie Curlee	* Bruce Bain
+ Char Molinaro	+ Rich Lucas	+ Larry Hawkins
+ Kris Pritchard	+ Pat Santelli	+ Ginny Melver
+ Bruce Stebner	* Cindy Weiss	+ Barb Shriner

Also present:

Rev. Derek Starr Redwine, Pastor

Kate Clark, Clerk of Session

Louis Curlee, Lindy Lincicome, Marge Rearick, and Jim Shriner, members of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

Opening

Pastor Derek opened the meeting with prayer, joys and concerns.

Clerk's Report

Consent Agenda:

2011-41 Motion prevailed to approve the minutes of the Regular Session Meeting of Tuesday, May 24, 2011.

2011-42 Motion prevailed to receive the following report of all weddings, funerals, baptisms, and communions that have taken place since session's previous meeting:

1. Weddings:
 - a. Karen Shriner and Christopher Baker on Saturday, June 4, 2011.
 - b. Melissa Shaughnessy and Timothy Goodman on Saturday, June 18, 2011.
2. Funerals: Ruth Bond, Saturday, June 4, 2011.
3. Communion: Sunday, June 12, 2011, Pentecost Sunday.
4. Baptisms: None

2011-43 Motion prevailed to approved the baptism of Greyson Hawkins Cousins, born April 16, 2011, grandson of members Jack and Ann Cousins and great-grandson of member Kathryn Shafer, on Sunday, July 31, 2011, at 10:30 a.m.

2011-44 Motion prevailed to approve the Membership Statistical Report.

			Total Membership as of 4-30-2011.	505
MAY	New Members	4		
	Reinstatements	0		
	Inactive	0		
	Deletions	0		
	Letters	0		
	Deaths	1		
	Ruth H. Bond (Mrs. William)			
			Total Membership as of 5-31-2011	508

Report of Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

Jim Shriner reported that the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) is nearing the end of their work and has a candidate to recommend to the Congregation, the Rev. Amy Starr Redwine. He read a letter that will be sent to the congregation and also provided a copy of the letter sent to the candidate reviewing the Terms of Call for the position of Associate Pastor for Discipleship.

The weekend of July 24 will be the candidating weekend. A congregational meeting is called immediately after worship for the purpose of voting on the call to Rev. Amy Starr Redwine. Members of the committee will be available to answer congregation questions in Eberts Chapel Sunday mornings July 10 and July 19 at 9:30 a.m.

Jim Shriner and the other committee members present spoke enthusiastically about how well the committee has worked together, staying focused, always headed in the right direction, and listening carefully to each other. They described reviewing the Personal Information Forms (PIFs) of almost 50 candidates who applied for the position, narrowing that number down to conduct initial phone interviews, then narrowing further for follow-up phone interviews, until they had whittled the number down to three applicants.

Committee members conducted in-person interviews with two of the three final applicants (one had to withdraw because her spouse had accepted another position). In the end, Rev. Amy Starr Redwine was one of the final two applicants, and the committee has unanimously and enthusiastically decided to call her because her qualifications best matched the position description as advertised.

Many at Westminster Presbyterian Church know Amy as the spouse of Pastor Derek Starr Redwine, and mother to Sarah, Quinn and George. She has been serving as part-time solo pastor at Firestone Park Presbyterian for the past three years. Once she decided to apply for the position and it became obvious she was a viable candidate, Pastor Derek withdrew from the APNC process.

In response to questions by Session, the APNC members explained that they carefully and prayerfully considered the implications of having a husband and wife team leading the church. The committee researched similar husband-wife ministry teams across the country and learned that they more often than not have been successful. They note that there is nothing in the Book of Order to preclude spouses serving the same church as pastors and the leadership of Eastminster Presbytery is excited at the possibility of such a ministry team. Should Pastor Derek and Amy leave, two vacancies would be created at WPC, but a benefit would be that the church and new pastors would avoid some of the issues that come with one of a ministry team leaving and a new senior pastor or associate having to come into an established relationships in a church. As part of her terms of call, Amy and Derek have agreed that they would only both be gone at the same time for four Sundays and four weeks a year. They will not be co-pastors. The committee and Pastor Derek were careful to explain that he would remain head of staff as senior Pastor while Rev. Amy would focus on the duties of the Associate Pastor for Discipleship.

The Terms of Call in a letter to Rev. Amy Starr Redwine was reviewed. Most items are fixed based on salary. The salary is at the top end of the range already approved by Session (initially the APNC were seeking candidates directly out of seminary), but Amy has three years of experience as lead pastor as well as many other relevant accomplishments (detailed in the letter to the congregation) and so merits the higher salary.

Should the congregation vote to call Rev. Amy Starr Redwine as Associate Pastor for Discipleship, her first Sunday would be August 20, 2011.

Members of Session voted unanimously in favor of the following motion:

2011-45 Motion prevailed to act on the report of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. The Session calls a congregational meeting for Sunday, July 24, 2011 at 11:30 a.m. There will be no 8:30 a.m. service that Sunday.

Financial Report

Rich Lucas reported that May the budget was \$25,000 in the red, primarily because of some unbudgeted expenses and mission money was paid out ahead of cash flow. \$7,700 in red mirrors last year at this time. The policy is *not* to pay out when the church doesn't have the cash flow, so we need to make sure *not* to do this in the future. The good news is that later this year we will be under spending in terms of the mission money so the books will balance by the end of the year.

Memorial Garden Update

Pastor Derek reviewed the contributions to the Memorial Garden fund. \$20,000 is what is needed to seek bids for construction and so far we have received about \$10,000 from contributions. He proposes that we draw another \$10,000 from session designated funds so the construction can begin this fall. The fee to have ashes placed in the Garden is \$1000 per person. A suggestion was made that a plaque be provided to recognize that 'Money from the Westminster Memorial Fund was used to complete this project'. It was agreed that Pastor Derek would make an additional appeal to the congregation,

2011-46 Motion prevailed to approve transferring up to \$6,000 from the Memorial Fund to the Memorial Garden Fund to help pay for the construction of the Memorial Garden.

Property Committee

Ginny Melder provided background information for the motion for a local mission opportunity that follows. The Infinite Legacy Project (ILP) is a youth dance program that is an offering of Akron After School Program. Suzanne Winland, a member of our choir and artistic director of Pointe West Performances, would like to use the basement of the Christian Education building to offer basic ballet classes to elementary school aged children two or three evenings a week. Currently these classes are offered in a remote location on Copley Road; they would like a more central location and Westminster Church is easy walking distance to bus routes. The classes would be offered two or three nights a week 5:30-7:30 p.m. The basement of the Christian Ed. Building has an outside entrance, ILP uses their own portable equipment, so there would be no need to change the space. They will do cleaning. They have a non-profit 501C certification, and insurance has been approved. Fees are charged for classes but Suzanne Winland writes and gets grants to provide scholarships to kids who need them; some scholarships may be work scholarships so the students will do cleaning under the supervision of ILP staff. WPC will not charge rent, but instead see this as local mission.

2011-47 Motion prevailed to approve the Infinite Legacy Project using our facilities.

Special Worship Service Task Force

2011-48 Motion prevailed to elect Elders Barb Shriner, Bruce Stebner, and Ginny Melder to serve alongside the pastors on Special Worship Service Task Force with the goals of (1) creating a sample “commitment service” that the Session can review and discuss; and (2) reviewing and making recommendations regarding the church’s current wedding policies.

Pastor’s Report

2011-49 Motion prevailed to elect Elders Melanie Curlee and Barb Shriner to serve on the 2011 church-wide nominating committee.

- Report on New Form of Government (NFOG). Book of Order has been extensively revised, to make it more useful.
- Parking Lot Update – Debating with lawyers. Continuing discussion.
- Vacation Schedule:
 - July 16 - 22: Vacation
 - August 6-12: Study Leave
 - Weekend of August 20, 2011 – Pastor Derek will be gone on Family Leave

Upcoming Session Meetings

Tuesday, August 23, 7:00 p.m., regular Session meeting

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Clark, Clerk of Session

Rev. Derek Starr Redwine, Moderator of Session