

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Akron, Ohio  
Tuesday, August 23, 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

Rev. Amy Starr Redwine, Associate Pastor of Discipleship

Kate Clark, Clerk of Session

Opening

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

Clerk's Report

Consent Agenda:

2011-50 Motion prevailed to approve the minutes of the regular Session meeting of Tuesday, June 28, 2011, and the special Session meeting to receive new members on Sunday, July 31, 2011.

2011-51 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: Katherine T. Silver and Samuel J. Krakora, Saturday, August 13, 2011.
2. Funerals:
  - a. Anne Stutler, Friday, July 29, 2011
  - b. Robert Johnstone, Thursday, July 28, 2011.
3. Communion: Sunday, July 24, 2011.
4. Baptisms: Greyson Hawkins Cousins, Sunday, July 31, 2011

2011-52 Motion prevailed to approve the baptism of Sawyer Rzeszotarski on Sunday, October 16, 2011.

2011-53 Motion prevailed to allow Presbyterian Women hold a bake sale before and after church on Sunday, December 11, 2022.

2011-54 Motion prevailed to collect the Peacemaking Offering on World Communion Sunday on October 2, 2011.

2011-55 Motion prevailed to collect the Presbyterian Thank Offering on a Sunday in November.

2011-56 Motion prevailed to approve the Membership Statistical Report.

			Total Membership as of 5-31-2011 . . . . .	508
JUNE	New Members	0		
	Reinstatements	0		
	Inactive		0	
	Deletions		0	
	Letters		0	
	Deaths		1	
	Helen K. Trimbath			
			Total Membership as of 6-31-2011 . . . . .	507
JULY	New Members	5		
	Reinstatements	0		
	Inactive		0	
	Deletions		0	
	Letters		0	
	Deaths		2	
	Anne Nelson Stutler (Mrs. Donald), Marjorie Bellow Au (Mrs. Ralph)			
			Total Membership as of 7-31-2011 . . . . .	510

#### Schedule for 2011-2012

Pastor Derek presented some new options for scheduling times and days for committee meetings and Session meetings to address some weaknesses in the current scheduling plan. The elders discussed the pros and cons of the current situation and how some of the other options might work.

2011-57 Motion prevailed that committees will meet (as needed) every other fourth Tuesday of the month at either 6:30 or 7:00 p.m. followed by an abbreviated Session meeting beginning with the September meeting.

Full Session meetings will continue to be held at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesdays of the alternating months.

#### **Worship Report and Recommendations**

Bruce Stebner reported on discussions in focusing on ways to improve the worship space in the sanctuary. Changes of the last year have included a permanent space for the bell choir, new seating for the choir, and bringing the small communion table forward into the sanctuary in front of the steps to represent the centrality of communion in our worship. The committee has been thinking about ways to improve the appearance of small communion table.

Session approved the recommendation of the Worship Committee that we have symbols of communion on the table even on Sundays when we are not celebrating communion, such as a chalice and plate.

The elders discussed whether or not to keep the communion table in front of the steps during weddings and recommended that the Worship Service Task Force think about this issue and consider what might be done.

### **Financial Report**

Rich Lucas reported YTD contributions look good. Under \$5,000 in the red. Expenses are under budget. Contributions are tracking close to plan. Favorable changes to expenses are working well.

### **Property Committee**

Pastor Derek reported on the recent flooding and damage to the basement under the sanctuary which is used by WYDACA. Repairs are needed. This problem was caused by blockages in several of the ceramic pipes. A big root ball in the sewer drain has been keeping ground water from flowing away from the church and into the drains.

2011-58 Motion prevailed to approve Properties spending up to \$4,000 from existing property funds to handle extensive repairs to exterior drainage system.

WYDACA has had three floods this summer and there is damage to walls and furniture.

2011-59 Motion prevailed to invite financial contributions from the congregation and WYDACA supporters to fund repair and renovation once Properties have depleted their budgeted resources.

### **Report from Pastor Amy**

Pastor Amy Starr Redwine has been on the job for a week and a day. She will be discussing details at the next Discipleship Committee meeting but wanted to give an overview to Session.

- For consistency, she would like the church to use the following terms: Associate Pastor of Discipleship for her position; Children's Ministries for infants through sixth graders; and, Student Ministries for 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- Confirmation class (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders) is intended to equip students to make a decision about whether or not to confirm their faith at the end of their eighth grade year. If so, they will write a statement of faith, present it to Session, and then profess their faith in front of the congregation. Currently we have five confirmation teachers who will also be mentors for

individual students. When students miss a class, they will need to set up a meeting to review what was missed with their mentor.

- Once students have completed the Confirmation class and made their vows, they will be encourage to continue their involvement on Sundays by joining the adult education class, sing in or help with choir, or assist with Christian Education.
- We will continue to have a Wednesday evening opportunity for students, although the name will be changed from The Main Event to The Well, reminding students that we come to receive the living water offered by God. Each month we will seek to offer students an evening of fun and fellowship, an evening of mission, and at least one evening of educational, spiritual content. At least once a month we will likely meet off site, possibly at students' homes.
- Amy is still seeking some teachers to join teaching teams for Pre-School, Kindergarten and first and second grades, and fifth and sixth grades. The commitment is likely to be one month at a time. Each class has two two-person teams of teachers.
- Finally, Amy reported on some changes to the curriculum for the preschoolers. She hopes to introduce a curriculum known as the "Bible Story Room," which is an age-appropriate introduction to worship and the Bible. She will present and discuss this further with the Discipleship Committee.

### **Report from Pastor Derek**

- Committee Budget Worksheets: Robin Bennett will be providing the worksheets to committee chairs within the next two weeks. Meet in committee to fill out the worksheet, modify the lines (as long as total budget number for the committee remains the same). There will be a deadline for returning the completed worksheet listed on the worksheet.
- Infinite Legacy Project (ILP): The signs are up. Within the next month, ILP will begin their after school dance program for lower income Akron kids. They have their own exterior entrance to the basement below the Christian Education wing. Coordinator Suzanne Winland will be speaking in worship about this soon.
- Stewardship: Stewardship Task Force will be meeting next week. Stewardship Sunday will be the last Sunday in October. Robin Bennett is close to having the software implemented that will allow pledges to be paid online.
- Parking Lot Update: Conversations are continuing. No action to be taken at this point.

Upcoming Session Meetings: Tuesday, September 27, at 8:00 p.m. following committee meetings. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kate Clark, Clerk of Session

Rev. Derek Starr Redwine, Moderator of Session