

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Akron, Ohio  
Tuesday, April 25, 2017  
Minutes of the Session Meeting

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

The regular meeting of the Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church was called to order by Moderator and Pastor Jon Hauerwas at approximately 7:04 p.m.

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

Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019
-Mary Johnson	+Ellen Daugherty	+Harriet Chapman
*Kyle Vuchak	+Nancy Keogh	+James Gray
+Todd Willis	+Sue Wallin	+Ed Labbe
(vacant)	+Gert Wilms	+Alec Works

Also present:

Pastor Jon Hauerwas, Moderator, guest Shelley Koutnik, Church Treasurer.

### **Opening**

Pastor Jon opened the meeting with prayer at 7:04 pm.

### **Quorum**

The presence of a quorum was confirmed and declared.

### **Clerk's Report**

Alec reviewed the Consent Agenda. He noted that a letter of thanks for Westminster's support had been received from Drs. Leslie and Cynthia Morgan, Mission Co-Workers. Westminster's web page has been updated to include Session minutes from August 2016 through February 2017. Committee minutes for 2017 have also been added.

### **Adoption of Agenda and Consent Agenda**

A **motion prevailed** to adopt and approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda as presented. This included the following motions:

**2017-043 MOTION prevailed** to approve the minutes of the regular Session meeting of March 28, 2017.

**2017-044 MOTION prevailed** to approve the minutes of the special e-meeting of April 18, 2017 to approve the baptism of Pierce and Jensen Ehrler, sons of Tracy McLean Ehrler, during worship on April 30, 2017.

**2017-045 MOTION prevailed** to receive the following report of all weddings, funerals, baptisms, and Communion that have taken place since Session's March, 2017 meeting:

1. Weddings: none
2. Funerals: James Phares, on March 29, 2017 (service in Canal Fulton); William Strough, on April 10, 2017 (Billow's Funeral Home)  
[Note: The service for Bernadine MacEwen was presided over by a pastor friend at the funeral home.]
3. Baptisms: William Gray, son of James and Mallory Gray, on April 2, 2017 (during the 10:30 service)
4. Communion: April 13, 2017 (7:00 p.m., Maundy Thursday service); April 16, 2017 (10:30 a.m., Easter Sunday)

**2017-046 MOTION prevailed** to receive the report of the average worship attendance for:  
March 2017: 168.

**2017-047 MOTION prevailed** to approve the membership statistical report for the month of March 2017:

Total Membership as of 3/1/17	406
Additions: None	0
Deletions: Tom and Audra Jurmanovich [transferred]; Beth Sherwood [transferred]	3
Deaths (names below) Emily Bateson, 3/5/17 Evelyn Martindale, 3/8/17 James Phares, 3/25/17	3
Total Membership as of 3/31/17	400

**2017-048 MOTION prevailed** to approve the removal of the following persons from the Membership Rolls of Westminster Presbyterian Church: Tom and Audra Jurmanovich (transferred to First Presbyterian Church, Bentonville, Arkansas); Beth Sherwood (transferred to The Bath Church, Akron, Ohio on 12/4/16; notification received 4/17/17); James Phares (died 3/25/17); William Strough (died 4/3/17); and Bernadine MacEwen (died 4/15/17).

From Properties Committee:

**2017-049 MOTION prevailed** to approve taking no more than \$600 from the Capital Improvement Fund (the portion shared with the Celtic Garden) to replace necessary materials in the process of repairing the water fountain.

**2017-050 MOTION prevailed** to approve the rental of the sanctuary for a recital by Hugo Christenson-Diehl on April 29th. There will be a charge for custodial services.

**2017-051 MOTION prevailed** to approve the use of the sanctuary for a recording session by Firestone High School Choral Department on April 25th. There will be no charge, since the students participate in 5@5.

### **Committee Reports and Actions**

Finance Committee (Quarterly financial reports were attached to the draft agenda sent to Session members)

Moderator Todd Willis and Treasurer Shelley Koutnik reviewed the reports. Revenues have been up from projections.

Worship Committee (the proposed revised Wedding Policy was attached)

Pastor Jon and Co-Moderators Nancy Keogh and Sue Wallin led a discussion of the proposed revised Wedding Policy. Most of the changes relate to seeking to enable the church not to incur any additional costs, while respecting the couple's desire to control costs. The Policy also proposes an

order of worship consistent with the Reformed tradition. It was agreed that any requests to officiate at the weddings of nonmembers who are also not the children of members will be brought to Session for review and vote.

The following changes to the Wedding Policy were proposed: (1) if neither partner is a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, then Westminster's Session must also approve the ceremony; and (2) the Wedding Policy should be dated April 26, 2017.

**2017-052 MOTION prevailed** to approve the Wedding Policy as revised: (1) if neither partner is a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, then Westminster's Session must also approve the ceremony; and (2) the Wedding Policy should be dated April 26, 2017.

Properties Committee (April minutes were attached)  
Motions were covered in the Consent Agenda.

Discipleship Committee (No motions nor minutes; next meeting is in May)

Outreach Committee (No motions nor minutes; next meeting is in May)

Membership Committee (no minutes nor motions)

Moderator James Gray reported that they are looking at vendors for the new church pictorial directory. They are still targeting August or this fall for picture taking. James and Pastor Jon reviewed proposed member and visitor categories for the church (ACS) software. The following motion from the committee was approved:

**2017-053 MOTION prevailed** to simplify the computer software categorization of member status definitions as presented.

Germaine Wilson, Director of Communications, has offered to help upgrade the church web site. Some technical guidance is desired. The congregation will be asked for volunteers or suggestions.

Nominating Committee

Moderator Harriet Chapman reported that they plan to meet this Sunday or Monday. Once nominees have accepted the offered position, Session will approve the date of a congregational meeting at which time the congregation will vote on accepting the nominees.

Personnel Committee

Pastor Jon provided a brief update. The committee is continuing work on job descriptions and evaluations. Pastor Jon will follow up on a move from last year to recognize custodian Jeremiah Ward for his 20 years of service.

Task Forces (Safe Church)

No reports.

### **Pastor's Report and Remarks**

- Pastor Jon reported that 3 persons have expressed interest in joining the church on May 7.
- The pastor has been asked to officiate at 2 wedding services later this year; 1 will be off site.
- The next Regular Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. The liaison to Westminster from Eastminster Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, the Reverend Mark Ruppert, is scheduled to attend.

**New Business**

A question was asked as to whether minutes from Deacon's meetings could be shared with Session. Pastor Jon offered to follow up.

The Session Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 p.m.

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Alec Works, Clerk of Session

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Pastor Jon Hauerwas, Moderator