

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Akron, Ohio

Tuesday, August 30, 2016

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 7:05 p.m.

Elders (+ present, * excused, - absent)

Class of 2016	Class of 2017	Class of 2018
+Phil Fry	+Mary Johnson	+Gert Wilms
+Anne Karney	+Harloe Cutler	+Ellen Daugherty
+Ginny Melver	-Kyle Vuchak	+Nancy Keogh
*Sharlene Santelli	+Todd Willis	+Sue Wallin

Also present:

Pastor Jon Hauerwas, Moderator, and Lucinda Weiss, Clerk of Session.

Opening

Pastor Jon opened the meeting with prayer.

Quorum

The presence of a quorum was confirmed and declared.

Clerk's Report Cindy urged participation in DiscipleFest on October 22.

Adoption of Agenda and Consent Agenda

Motion prevailed to adopt and approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda with corrections.

2016-084 MOTION: To approve the minutes from the regular Session meeting on Tuesday, July 18, 2016 as corrected.

2016-085 MOTION: To receive the following report of all weddings, funerals, baptisms, and Communion that have taken place since Session's previous meeting:

1. Weddings: Marnie Wagner (daughter of church members Doug and Peggy Wagner) to Steve Walston on July 23, 2016.
2. Funerals: Jim Spindler died on August 22. His service will be held on Saturday, August 27 at Westminster.
3. Baptisms: Greg, Mason and Chance Logue, on August 7, 2016
4. Communion: 8:30 a.m. Sunday, July 24, 2016; and 10:30 a.m. Sunday, August 14, 2016.

2016-086 MOTION: To receive the report of the average worship attendance for July, 2016: 122.

2016-087 MOTION: To approve the membership statistical report for the month of July, 2016:

Total Membership as of 7/1/16	468
Additions:	0
Deletions: Scott and Stephanie Smith, at their request	-2

Deaths (names below) Ila Pearson (deceased May 28, 2016), Nancy Sue Wyle Jones (deceased June 2, 2016)	-2
Total Membership as of 7/31/16	464

2016-088 MOTION from Discipleship: to use up to \$1000 from the Young Endowment Fund for Youth Programming to purchase furnishings for the youth center.

Committee Reports and Actions

Finance Committee

Moderator Todd Willis discussed the scope and frequency of Finance's reports to Session, and the general feeling is that they have been appropriate and well received. He also presented the following Motion:

2016-089 MOTION prevailed that Session direct the Committees to evaluate the donations they request from the congregation throughout the year and prioritize them, with the goal of reducing the total number through eliminating requests, incorporating requests into their annual budget (rather than asking the congregation for additional donations), possibly placing in rotation so that they do not occur every year, and reducing the frequency and duration of the "asks". This evaluation should be incorporated into their budgeting process for 2017.

Discipleship Committee

Moderator Anne Karney gave an update on the Youth and Tween rooms' renovations.

Personnel Committee

Moderator Phil Fry reported that there are significant Pension and Benefits changes coming from PCUSA's Board of Pensions that will affect our participating staff members. He also reported on a meeting with Treasurer Shelley Koutnik about Personnel's budgeting plans, and highlighted that funds will be set aside for future pastoral searches whenever they are needed. In light of Jeremiah's 20 years of service milestone, on Motion duly made and seconded,

2016-090 MOTION prevailed to recognize Jeremiah's 20 years of service and provide for a free will gift to be collected from the congregation.

Nominating Committee

Moderator Phil Fry reported that there remain only 2 open Elder positions to complete the slate.

Properties Committee

Moderator Ginny Melver presented Properties' Motions from the Agenda and asked that the second one to be deferred for the moment.

2016-091 MOTION prevailed to approve renting the nursery room on Wednesday mornings beginning September 14 to Kindermusik for a fee of \$25 per week. They have completed the Building Use Agreement and Request Form.

Upon Motion duly made and seconded,

2016-092 MOTION prevailed to extend the current West Side Vocal Academy agreement for one month on the current terms.

Ginny also informed Session that the roof work is complete, and that a Walgreen's flu shot clinic will be held after Worship on October 2.

Outreach Committee

Moderator Gert Wilms shared an invitation from Senior Independence for an upcoming event.

Worship Committee

Co-Moderators Sue Wallin and Nancy Keogh reported that Worship met with Shelley about its budget plan with reductions exceeding the requested target. They gave an update on the Friendship Pads, the formation of a Sound System team and the formation of a Wedding subcommittee to begin work this fall on wedding policies.

Task Force Reports

Communication & Technology Ginny reported a large screen TV was installed in the Pastor's Study.

Safe Church The Task Force has not held its first meeting.

Pastor's Report and Remarks

Pastor Jon shared his progress during his study leave, Eastminster's search for a General Presbyter and Stated Clerk, and his service as a mentor to a long-time friend now in seminary. He also remarked on the sharing of Ministry Architects' Full Church Diagnostic (discussion of redoing it with more participation followed). He also raised the question of Session approval for not only monetary gift solicitations, but also other forms of support requests, such as school supplies, bake sales, etc. He will propose a motion and draft policy for discussion at the September meeting.

Other Business

Following a brief discussion of past practice, the following Motion taken off the Consent Agenda was passed.

2016-093 MOTION prevailed to approve the requests for baptisms of Georgia Vuchak, daughter of Kyle and Kathryn Vuchak on September 18; Paul Crabtree, son of Elizabeth and Adam Crabtree on September 18 (Elizabeth was previously a vocal scholar and now considers Westminster her family church); and Evelyn Grace Karney, daughter of Anne and Mike Karney on October 9.

The need for a Clerk Pro Tem for December and January was discussed. Anne Karney volunteered to serve in December, and another session member can probably be persuaded to serve in January.

The next Presbytery meeting will be held September 6, 2016 at Common Ground in North Lima at a time to be announced. Ginny will serve as WPC's commissioner.

The next Regular Session Meeting will be Tuesday, September 27, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

The Session Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. with prayer.

Lucinda Weiss, Clerk of Session

Pastor Jon Hauerwas, Moderator