

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Akron, Ohio

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Minutes of the Session Meeting - corrected

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 7:00 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 7:00 pm.

Quorum

The presence of a quorum was confirmed and declared.

Clerk's Report

Alec did not have any significant correspondence to report.

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:

2017-028 MOTION prevailed to approve the minutes of the regular Session meeting of February 28, 2017.

2017-029 MOTION prevailed to approve the minutes of the special e-meeting of March 16, 2017 to approve the baptism of William Gray, son of James and Mallory Gray.

2017-030 MOTION prevailed to approve the 2016 Annual Statistical Report for Westminster Presbyterian Church and to forward the information to Eastminster Presbytery.

2017-031 MOTION prevailed to receive the following report of all weddings, funerals, baptisms, and Communion that have taken place since Session's ~~January~~ February, 2017 meeting:

1. Weddings: none
2. Funerals: Evelyn Martindale on March 13, 2017.
[Note: No service was held for Emily Bateson.]
3. Baptisms: none
4. Communion: March 12, 2017 (10:30 a.m.)

2017-032 MOTION prevailed to receive the report of the average worship attendance for:
February 2017: ~~132~~165.

2017-033 MOTION prevailed to approve the membership statistical report for the month of February 2017:

Total Membership as of 2/1/17	407
Additions: None	0
Deletions: None	0
Deaths (names below) Rosemary Spindler, 2/11/17	1
Total Membership as of 2/28/17	406

2017-034 MOTION prevailed to approve the removal of the following persons from the Membership Rolls of Westminster Presbyterian Church: Rosemary Spindler, died February 11, 2017; Emily Bateson, died March 5, 2017; and Evelyn Martindale, died March 8, 2017.

From Properties Committee:

2017-035 MOTION prevailed to approve the use of Wright-Herberich Hall by Diggers and Weeders on November 9, 2017. They will be asked to pay a custodian fee.

2017-036 MOTION prevailed to proceed with Pordoor for the replacement and painting of doors on the north side of the CE building not to exceed \$5500 with funds to come from Fouse Fund.

2017-037 MOTION prevailed to approve consolidating the Capital Improvement Fund and the Capital Improvement Campaign Fund. Both are restricted funds.

Report from March 7, 2017 Presbytery Meeting

Pastor Jon reported that elders who had died during 2016 were remembered. The new General Presbyter, Cathy Ulrich, was recognized. Retiring pastors, including Reverend Joe Hrach, were recognized. Alec noted that these meetings offer an opportunity to vote on certain matters and learn the work of the many committees. Gert Wilms volunteered to be Westminster's commissioner at the next meeting on June 6 in Salem, Ohio.

Committee Reports and Actions

Worship Committee (March Committee minutes were attached)

Pastor Jon led a discussion of the motion from the Worship Committee to hold one worship service during the summer months. Pros and cons of one versus two services were discussed in detail; many of these were noted during the February Session meeting. These included cost considerations, having a sense of unity, impact on visitors, and worship format (including music, location and communion). We do have less staff than when we first added the early service several years ago.

After discussion, a vote was taken as follows:

2017-038 MOTION did not pass that Westminster hold only one worship service during the summer months. The single worship service would be held at 9:30am during the months of June, July, and August. The 10:30am service would resume in September. Communion would be held twice a month by intinction on June 11 and 28, July 9 and 23 and August 13 and 27.

There was full consent that, since there were opinions on both sides, this was not the time or place to potentially introduce any divisiveness. Options to meet many objectives of the original motion through holding two services were discussed.

The following action resulted:

2017-039 MOTION prevailed that Westminster hold two services each Sunday during June, July and August, 2017, one at 8:30 a.m. and one at 10:30 a.m. For the 8:30 a.m. service, it will be held outside on Johnstone patio, weather permitting, inside Wright-Herberich Hall in the event of inclement weather. There will not be a printed bulletin; options such as use of a white board or easel will be considered. Communion will be served each Sunday provided that Pastor Jon or a suitable (ordained) alternate is available. The leading and/or accompaniment of music will depend on who is available; the standard rate of \$75 would be offered. For the 10:30 a.m. service, the regular format will be followed with communion offered once a month as originally scheduled.

Finance Committee (March minutes and financial report were attached)

Moderator Todd Willis and Treasurer Shelley Koutnik noted that a more complete quarterly financial report will be presented at the next meeting.

2017-040 MOTION prevailed to affirm that, in agreement with the recommendations of Westminster's banking institutions and CPA, the church does not hold a church-wide credit card available for use by any volunteer and staff are not permitted to make their church credit cards available to volunteers. [Clerk's comment: A tax exemption form is still available upon request.]

Properties Committee (March minutes were attached)

Ellen Daugherty presented the following motion. She and Shelley Koutnik explained that the motion would enable the garden to revert to its original plan (approved 2/22/2011), with certain later plantings (azaleas and Alberta spruce) removed and relocated if possible.

2017-041 MOTION prevailed to approve the design for the Memorial Garden as presented by the Memorial Garden committee.

Discipleship Committee (March minutes were attached; no motions)

Moderator Ed Labbe reported that Youth Sunday (March 26, 2017) went well. The New Wilmington Missionary Conference in August is being promoted. No Eberts Lecture series is planned for this year, but will be offered in 2018.

Outreach Committee (March minutes were attached; no motions)

Moderator Gert Wilms noted that Outreach events for 2017 were approved late last year. The Salvation Army does not plan to sponsor the Christmas in July program this year.

Pastor Jon reported that a gift has been received for \$5,000 to be given on behalf of the church to the Bangladesh International Mission. The funds will be transferred to Presbytery to go to the mission.

Membership Committee (no minutes nor motions)

Moderator James Gray reported they held their first meeting on March 27, 2017. Alec Works presented a brief overview of some options available through the current vendor, Clover, to upgrade the website. Names of persons with experience in design and willingness to help would be appreciated. The committee would like to produce a new pictorial directory. The last directory was produced around 2007. Potential vendors are being sought. The committee would tentatively like to have photos take this fall. New member classes were discussed; ideally one per quarter would be offered. Summers tend to be slow.

Nominating Committee

Moderator Harriet Chapman reported that they will be meeting soon to fill the open elder and deacon positions.

Personnel Committee

No formal report.

Task Forces (Safe Church)

No reports.

Pastor's Report and Remarks

- Pastor Jon noted that long time member James Phares passed away on Saturday, March 25, 2017. He will be officiating at the services on Wednesday, March 29.
- The next Regular Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

New Business

None

The Session Meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m. with prayer.

Alec Works, Clerk of Session

Pastor Jon Hauerwas, Moderator