

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Akron, Ohio

Tuesday, October 25, 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 7:00 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, The Reverend Mark Ruppert, and Lance Mabry, previously elected Substitute Clerk of Session.

Opening

Pastor Jon opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00 pm.

Upon **MOTION (2016-108)** duly made and seconded, the privileges of the floor were extended to Rev. Ruppert as representative from the Committee on Ministry on behalf of Eastminster Presbytery and to Lance Mabry as Substitute Clerk of Session.

Quorum

The presence of a quorum was confirmed and declared.

Reverend Ruppert

He presented and discussed several issues of concern with WPC, including timely communications between committees and Session, and timeliness of minutes.

Adoption of Agenda and Consent Agenda

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

2016-109 MOTION prevailed: To receive the following report of all weddings, funerals, baptisms, Communion, and new members received that have taken place since Session's previous meeting:

1. Weddings: None
2. Funerals: None
3. Baptisms: Evelyn Grace Karney on October 9, 2016.
4. Communion: 10:30 a.m. Sunday, October 2, 2016.
5. New Members: Jeffrey Bornstine and Kimberly Cheng on October 9, 2016.

2016-110 MOTION prevailed: To receive the report of the average worship attendance for August, 2016: 122 and for September, 2016: 153.

2016-111 MOTION prevailed: To approve the membership statistical report for the month of September, 2016:

Total Membership as of 9/1/16	463
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Additions:	0
Deletions:	0
Deaths	0
Total Membership as of 9/30/16	463

2016-112 MOTION prevailed from Pastor Hauerwas: to call a special Session meeting on Sunday, December 4 at 10:00 a.m. in the Pastor’s Study, at the conclusion of the new member’s class, for the purpose of welcoming new member’s into the life of our congregation.

2016-113 MOTION prevailed from Pastor Hauerwas: to remove Alexandra Walker from our church roster at her request. She responded to our membership letter saying that she no longer lives in Akron and does not currently have a church home.

2016-114 MOTION prevailed from Pastor Hauerwas: to authorize Sam Ewing to preach at Westminster on November 20, 2016 and Sandy Selby to preach on January 1, 2017, when Pastor Hauerwas will be away.

Committee Reports and Actions

Finance Committee

Moderator Todd Willis reported on the status of the Stewardship campaign.

Discipleship Committee

Moderator Santelli gave an update on the Committee activities and presented three Motions from the committee.

2016-115 MOTION prevailed to reduce the hours per week worked by Ministry Architects’ Sean Williams to 2 hours/week and use him to provide consulting support rather than active management of the Youth Program, through August, 2017. This will require adding one or two more people from the congregation to the Youth Program Administration Team.

2016-116 MOTION prevailed to give Children’s and Family Ministry permission to solicit funds for more Godly Play materials.

2016-117 MOTION prevailed to give Children’s and Family Ministry permission to solicit gifts from families that will go to the “Christmas Store” of Summit County Children’s Services. These gifts are presented by the children of the church as part of the Christmas Pageant.

Personnel Committee

No report.

Properties Committee

Moderator Ginny Melver discussed the issue of speed bumps in the WPC driveway.

2016-118 MOTION prevailed to have the Annual West Akron Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast / WPC Plant Sale on April 29, 2017. *(Inadvertently omitted from original draft minutes; added per 2/28/17 Session meeting)*

Outreach Committee

Moderator Gert Wilms reported that 90 people attended the DiscipleFest 2016 event at WPC.

Worship Committee

Co-Moderators Nancy Keogh and Sue Wallin reported that Kristy Yates will provide supplies through 2017, and presented a motion to change the December Communion dates for 2016 and 2017.

2016-118 2016-119 MOTION prevailed to amend Communion dates from December 11 to December 4, 2016 and from December 10 to December 3, 2017 to accommodate the children's Christmas Pageant.

Task Force Reports

Safe Church Task Force reported on its work to date.

Pastor's Report and Remarks

- Pastor Hauerwas discussed the matter of allowing Ministry Architects access to WPC's American Church Software.
- He presented the case for changing WPC's Code of Regulations, specifically the provisions setting dates for the Church's Annual Meeting and for the election of church officers, explaining the timing for closing WPC's financial books and for the work of the Nominating Committee, proposing two specific changes to the Code and specifying the process requirements for securing the congregation's approval.

Upon MOTIONS duly made and seconded,

2016-119 2016-120 MOTION prevailed to propose the following amendments to WPC's Code of Regulations:

that Article III - Congregational Meetings, Section 2 be amended to read:

"The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and of the church as a corporation shall be not later than April 6th of each year on a date determined by the Session."

and that Article IX - Elections and Installations, Section 1 be amended to read:

"The election of various officers shall be held during the month of November or December of each year at a meeting of the congregation duly called by the Session for such a purpose. "

2016-120 2016-121 MOTION prevailed to call a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, December 11, 2016 immediately following worship for the purposes of acting on the proposed amendments to the Code of Regulations and the election of officers.

Other Business

(None)

The Session Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. with prayer.

Lance Mabry, Substitute Clerk of Session

Pastor Jon Hauerwas, Moderator