

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Akron, Ohio
Tuesday, October 24, 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 7:00 p.m.

Elders (+ present, * excused, - absent)

Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019
+Michael Dunbar	+Ellen Daugherty	+Harriet Chapman
+Roger Nelson	-Nancy Keogh	+James Gray
+Kyle Vuchak	+Sue Wallin	+Ed Labbe
+Todd Willis	+Gert Wilms	+Alec Works, Clerk of Session

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.

Adoption of Agenda and Consent Agenda

A **motion prevailed** to adopt and approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda as amended (See Personnel Committee report below).

Clerk's Report

Correspondence received included a letter from Ellen Daugherty regarding the handling of leftover food from church events. She noted that even small amounts are appreciated. She added that, in addition to herself and Phil Fry, Pat and Sharlene Santelli have expressed a willingness to deliver leftover food to agencies which would use it to help those in need.

The Clerk noted that the Treasurer has submitted the Employer Agreement on 2018 Benefits to Presbytery as required.

The Consent Agenda as approved included the following motions:

2017-122 MOTION prevailed to approve the minutes of the regular Session meeting of September 26, 2017.

2017-123 MOTION prevailed to approve the minutes of the Special Session meeting of October 8, 2017 (to receive new members).

2017-124 MOTION prevailed to receive the following report of all weddings, funerals, baptisms, and Communion that have taken place since Session's August 1, 2017 meeting:

1. Weddings: none
2. Funerals: Dr. William Brideweser (memorial service 9/30/17)
3. Baptisms: Pierce and Jensen Ehrler, sons of Doug and Tracy McLean Ehrler, on 4/30/17 (not previously reported)
4. Communion: October 1, 2017 (10:30 a.m.)

2017-125 MOTION prevailed to receive the report of the average worship attendance for September: 153.

2017-126 MOTION prevailed to approve the membership statistical report for the month of September 2017:

Total Membership as of 9/1/17	400
Additions: None	0
Deletions: none	0
Deaths (names below) Dr. William Brideweser (died 9/26/17)	-1
Total Membership as of 9/30/17	399

2017-127 MOTION prevailed to remove Dr. William Brideweser from the Membership Roll of Westminster Presbyterian Church (deceased).

From the Treasurer:

2017-128 MOTION prevailed to approve asking members of the congregation to consider remembering Westminster Presbyterian Church in their estate planning. A notice will be placed in the next edition of The Script.

From Presbyterian Women

2017-129 MOTION prevailed to allow Presbyterian Women to sponsor a Moment for Mission on Sunday, November 12, 2017 for a Thank Offering collection on Sunday, November 19, 2017.

Committee Reports and Actions

Finance Committee (September financial reports were attached; no minutes nor motions)
Moderator Todd Willis presented the third quarter financial report. Revenues are ahead; expenses are down. Through September 30, revenues exceed expenses by just over \$30,000. We have not had to use the Rowley Fund to meet expenses to date. Outreach is considering options for the Christmas in June funds (the program was discontinued by the Salvation Army). All committees are urged to use restricted funds assigned to them.

Personnel Committee (oral report)

There was a discussion about how to proceed with honoring Daytime Custodian Jeremiah Ward for his 20+ years of service. Since there have been 2 previous motions on this matter (2017-087 and 2016-090), Moderator Kyle Vuchak offered to amend the previous motions to read as follows: To honor Daytime Custodian Jeremiah Ward for his 20+ years of faithful service by recognizing him and presenting him with a plaque during the worship service on November 12, 2107. In lieu of the \$100 gift noted in motion 2017-087, the congregation will be invited to make a free will gift to Jeremiah.
2017-130 MOTION prevailed to amend motions 2017-087 and 2016-090 to read as follows: To honor Daytime Custodian Jeremiah Ward for his 20+ years of faithful service by recognizing him and presenting him with a plaque during the worship service on November 12, 2107. In lieu of the \$100 gift noted in motion 2017-087, the congregation will be invited to make a free will gift to Jeremiah.

Kyle had nothing to report regarding the 2018 Terms of Call for the pastor. The congregation will most likely be asked to approve the terms at the Annual Meeting in March 2018.

Worship Committee (August minutes were attached; no motions)

Co-Moderator Sue Wallin reported that the committee will discuss the proposed new Funeral Policy at its next meeting and present it to Session in November. They also expect to present their proposal for a new candelabra at that time.

Membership Committee (oral report)

Moderator James Gray reported that work on the church pictorial directory is proceeding well. Proofs are beginning to be sent to families. The committee expects to have a draft finished by Thanksgiving, with hopes of having the completed directory available by early 2018.

Work will next focus on is the new church web page, new logo, welcome packets, and updating the church history (which has not been updated since 1995).

Nominating Committee (oral report)

Moderator Harriet Chapman presented the slate of candidates for new officers (terms beginning January 2018). A motion was made and seconded to call for a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 12, 2017, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service, to vote on the slate of officers as presented.

2017-131 MOTION prevailed to call for a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 12, 2017, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service, to vote on the slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee.

Properties Committee (October minutes were attached)

Ellen Daugherty had one motion from the committee: To approve entering a contract with Naragon to provide snow plowing and salting services to the parking lot and driveway this winter season. Payment will be per service provided, with a total anticipated cost of \$7,500.

2017-132 MOTION prevailed to approve entering a contract with Naragon to provide snow plowing and salting services to the parking lots and driveway this winter season. Payment will be per service provided, with a total anticipated cost of \$7,500.

Outreach Committee (No minutes nor motions)

Moderator Gert Wilms reported that the committee will be meeting on November 7; the agenda will include considering options for the use of funds in the Christmas in July account.

Discipleship Committee (October minutes were forwarded, no motions)

Moderator Ed Labbe reported that the committee is considering hosting a speaker on the opioid epidemic on February 25, 2018 after the morning worship service. They have \$538 available in a designated fund (account R29007) to cover costs, potentially including a luncheon.

Board of Deacons (no report)

Task Forces (Safe Church - no report; see below for Memorial Policy)

Discussion items (none)

Pastor's Report and Remarks

- Pastor Jon reported that the Funeral and Memorial Policy Task Force has completed a draft document. It should be available for review by Session during the next meeting.
- Dr. Leslie Mollin preached in Pastor Jon's scheduled absence on October 15, 2017. She has a Master's of Divinity from Pacific School of Religion and a doctorate from Chicago Theological

Seminary. She has served as the Associate Pastor of the Medina United Church of Christ, and as an interim pastor at other UCC churches in our area.

- Dr. Sandy Selby, who has preached at Westminster many times now, is available to help lead worship at Westminster on November 19 and 26. A biographic background will be provided.

New / Other Business

- Pastor Jon led a discussion about the need and process for selecting a Music Director / Organist Search Committee to find a replacement for Jim Mismas, who has announced his plan to retire at the end of May 2018. Potentially, two persons might be selected, one to serve as Choral Director and one as Organist. This committee would function like a nominating committee, appointed by and reporting to Session. To facilitate moving the process along, Session members may submit names of candidates in addition to those already discussed to Clerk Alec Works by Monday, November 6, 2017. He will set up and distribute an electronic survey form, so Session members may vote anonymously on 4 candidates to serve with Pastor Jon. Voting should be completed by the end of Friday, November 10, so results can be distributed on Sunday, November 12.
- The next Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. The regular December meeting was scheduled for 12/26/17. Rather than move it to 12/05, we decided to have a combined meeting on 11/28.
- Pastor Jon's study leave for November 15, 16, 19 (Sunday), 20, and 21 and vacation for November 26 (Sunday) have already been approved by Session (August 1, 2017).
- A commissioner is needed for the next Presbytery meeting, scheduled for December 5, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Canfield Presbyterian Church. Alec Works offered to attend.

Following a motion to adjourn, the Session Meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Alec Works, Clerk of Session

Pastor Jon Hauerwas, Moderator