

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Akron, Ohio
Tuesday, September 27, 2016
Minutes of the Session Meeting - FINAL

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 7:03 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 Lance Mabry.

Upon Motion duly made and seconded, Lance Mabry was elected Substitute Clerk of Session.

Opening

Pastor Jon opened the meeting with prayer.

Quorum

The presence of a quorum was confirmed and declared.

Clerk's Report No report. Pastor Jon did share that Eastminster Presbytery is searching for a new General Presbyter/Stated Clerk (formerly separate positions, now combined).

Adoption of Agenda and Consent Agenda

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

2016-094 MOTION prevailed: To receive the following report of all weddings, funerals, baptisms, and Communion that have taken place since Session's previous meeting:

1. Weddings: None
2. Funerals: None
3. Baptisms: Paul Crabtree and Georgia Vuchak on September 18, 2016.
4. Communion: 10:30 a.m. Sunday, September 11, 2016.

2016-095 MOTION prevailed: To receive the report of the average worship attendance for August, 2016: 122 and for September, 2016: 153.

2016-096 MOTION prevailed: To approve the membership statistical report for the month of August, 2016:

Total Membership as of 8/1/16	464
Additions:	0
Deletions:	0
Deaths (names below) Jim Spindler (deceased August 22, 2016)	-1

Total Membership as of 8/31/16

463

2016-097 MOTION prevailed from Pastor Hauerwas: to call a special Session meeting on October 9 at 10:00am 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.

Committee Reports and Actions

Finance Committee

Moderator Todd Willis gave the history of the copier lease and presented the following Motion:

2016-097 2016-098 MOTION prevailed to authorize the Treasurer to negotiate and execute a new copier lease.

Finance then presented the following Motion:

2016-098 2016-099 MOTION prevailed to authorize Tom Koutnik and his selected assistant(s) to research and evaluate the current Rowley Wells Fargo Fundamental Choice ("managed account") portfolio and to buy, sell and/or retain securities as deemed appropriate. The intended result is the termination of the "managed account" and reinvestment to implement the Session-approved "Rowley Investment Worksheet" as passed on July 18, 2016 (Motion 2016-079).

Discipleship Committee

Sharlene Santelli gave an update on the Committee activities and presented two Motions, both duly seconded.

2016-099 2016-100 MOTION prevailed to require new background checks on staff and volunteers every 5 years.

2016-100 2016-101 MOTION prevailed to continue the consulting services of Ministry Architects for one month.

Personnel Committee

Kyle Vuchak previewed the future of WPC's staffing.

Properties Committee

Moderator Ginny Melver presented Properties' Motion from the Agenda.

2016-101 2016-102 MOTION prevailed to approve changes to the West Side Vocal Academy Agreement for a new term to expire August 30, 2017.

Outreach Committee

Moderator Gert Wilms presented Outreach's two Motions from the Agenda.

2016-102 2016-103 MOTION prevailed to authorize three Special Offerings of the PC(USA) in 2017. These are: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, and Peacemaking

2016-103 2016-104 MOTION prevailed to approve the following congregational "asks": December Christmas Baskets (2016) Christmas tree of hats and scarves (2016), Hope Totes (2017) and Summer Christmas Baskets (2017).

Worship Committee

Co-Moderator Sue Wallin reported the Committee continues to work on both Sound Technology and the Wedding Policy, and she presented the Committee's Motions to set Communion dates for 2017 and the proposed schedule for Moments for Mission to be given in 2017.

~~2016-104~~ **2016-105 MOTION prevailed** to set the following dates for Communion [by Intinction except as noted] in 2017: January 8, February 12, March 12, April 13, April 16, May 14 (Seated), June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 1 (Seated), November 12, and December 3.

~~2016-105~~ **2016-106 MOTION prevailed** to ~~set the Moments for Mission schedule for 2017~~ approve the Guidelines for Moments for Mission as attached.

Task Force Reports

No reports given.

Pastor's Report and Remarks

[No notes given by the Substitute Clerk.]

Other Business

- No action was taken with regard to three items: WPC Master Calendar project, Standards of Ethical Conduct and the need for a Clerk Pro Tem during Cindy's upcoming travel.
- New member's class will be held on Saturday, October 1 from 9:00 -10:15 am and Sunday, October 9 from 9:00 - 10:15am. Following the second class, new members will be welcomed in worship during the 10:30am service on October 9.
- Next Regular Session Meeting: Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 7:00 PM. The Reverend Mark Ruppert from Eastminster's Commission on Ministry will be present.
- A Special Session Meeting is called to receive New Members: Sunday, October 9, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Pastor's Study.

The Session Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m. with prayer.

Lance Mabry, Substitute Clerk of Session

Pastor Jon Hauerwas, Moderator

Moments for Ministry

As a result of increasing requests from various WPC ministry groups to have time in worship to publicize an important program or event, the following proposal is being made for Worship and Session approval:

1. That in the Sunday worship bulletin, there will be a heading entitled: "Moment for Ministry." If such a moment has not been scheduled for a particular Sunday, there will be none on that day.
2. Any committee or church organization is entitled to request time to publicize a special program or event by contacting the pastor to put it on the schedule.
 - a. Only one such presentation will be allowed on any given Sunday.
 - b. The Moment for Ministry should take place at both worship services (if applicable). Those requesting the Moment for Ministry should assign someone to present at each service. The names of those individuals need to be given to the pastor and Director of communications in the office the week before the presentation is made.
 - c. Given the more informal nature of the early worship service, the pastor can offer the Moment for Ministry upon request. The committee or group making the request is responsible for getting that information to the pastor if it wants this information shared with the early worship congregation.
 - d. On those occasions when a Moment for Ministry has been previously scheduled, but another group or organization needs to publicize an event, it will have to be in the form of an announcement in the bulletin and/or verbally made by the pastor as part of the announcements. In such cases, the group or organization is responsible for letting the pastor know exactly what it wants announced.
3. For purposes of presentation, the following guidelines should be followed:
 - a. This presentation should be about a meaningful ministry program of WPC, so it is meant to be more than just an announcement.
 - b. It is understood that any program or event being presented has the approval of the appropriate committee or organization.
 - c. The WPC Moment for Ministry will be in regard to WPC programs and events specifically and not for other activities outside the purview of the WPC congregation. In the case where there might be questions about the appropriateness of promoting an event, the pastor will have final approval.
 - d. The presenter should say a word that informs the congregation about why this is significant and how it can be meaningful in our individual and collective spiritual journey as a church.
 - e. The presentation needs to be pre-written and should not exceed a maximum of half a typewritten page.
 - f. Presenters need to inform the pastor just before worship that they are present and prepared, and then should be situated close to the front of the sanctuary for quick movement from the pew to the lectern.

4. Under normal circumstances, groups and organizations should not request Moments for Ministry more than once a quarter. It is understood, however, that at special time of the year (as with the Stewardship Campaign) there may be special requests for more than one such moment on successive weeks. If the successive dates are open and the pastor is in agreement that this is appropriate, special allowances can be made.

Giving a Moment for Ministry

Thank you for your willingness to participate in the life of WPC in this way. These guidelines are intended to enhance worship by making the “Moment for Ministry” meaningful, interesting and efficient.

1. Introduce yourself by name and what area of the church’s life you represent.
2. It is important to present from a “script”, either in essay or outline form, rather than speak “off the cuff”. In written form, a typewritten, single space half page is the limit.
3. We encourage you to practice your moment by reading it aloud to yourself at least three times before you actually speak in worship.
4. Remember that a short, sweet and to the point presentation is more effective than that which goes on for too long.
5. For the service to which you are assigned, come to Pastor Jon’s office 15 minutes ahead of time to let us know you are present and ready.