

Session Minutes
Gashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church
March 11, 2021

A meeting of the Gashland EPC Session was held on March 11th at 6:30 PM via ZOOM and in person.

Elders:	<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
	Aaron Kleinmeyer	Tom Clapham	Dallas Reeve
	Derek Williams (Excused)	Ron Wilson	Mark Lancaster
	Jeff Van Der Weele	Mike Zachary	Don Vande Polder

Pastor Michael Morefield was also in attendance.

Moderator: Pastor Ritchey Cable called the meeting to order 6:36 PM after confirming a quorum.

A. PRAYER: Elder Kleinmeyer opened the meeting with prayer.

B. AGENDA ADOPTION: The agenda was approved by unanimous voice consent.

C. PASTOR'S REPORT:

1. Pastor Cable led a discussion of GEPC finances and how the church could strategically utilize the resources God has faithfully provided. Discussion focused on how the church could bless others, support current and future ministries and how to be faithful stewards of these resources.
2. Pastor Cable shared his desire for a retreat in the coming weeks for church leadership to consider ministry plans for the Fall as we anticipate a return to more robust in person worship with a reduction in hoped for COVID restrictions. This issue will be revisited in April.
3. Pastor Cable and Elder Kleinmeyer shared information regarding an urgent financial need for a church member. Many ideas were discussed to help meet this need. Session referred the matter to the Mercy Team for consideration of financial assistance making note to encourage the Team to not have undue concern that the request might be an amount greater than is normally requested. Session was confident that the Mercy Fund would be replenished with additional donations as more people became aware of the need or that the need would be met through direct donations to the individual.
4. Pastor Cable stated his desire to start having a separate meeting of the Elders to focus solely on fellowship. This is something that was done in the past which he believes would be beneficial to start again.

D. BUSINESS REPORTS and DISCUSSION

1. Old Business
 - a. Adjustment to Church Membership Roll – Pastor Morefield tasked Elders with sending him an email with the name and reason for removal of any members from the Church membership roll. Once those names are submitted, he will compile a master list for each Elder to review as an additional check on accuracy. Once that review is complete, Pastor Morefield will initiate removal of those names from the membership roll and make necessary adjustments to each Elder under-shepherd list. The Clerk of Session will document the membership changes in the minutes of the next Session meeting.
2. New Business
 - a. Church Website Development – Tom Clapham raised the issue of the Church website development project. He was concerned about possible missed opportunities with the project without more input from the various ministry teams and ideas of features that they might want to see incorporated into the website. Tom was afforded the opportunity to assist the development team with the project to provide additional oversight and input.
 - b. Session Representation to Deacon Board – Don Vande Polder shared an assessment of the need for more coordinated communication between the various leadership and ministry teams within the church. The Coordinating Team presented the following motion: ***Session shall appoint an Elder to serve as a representative to the Board of Deacons. The role of this position will be to attend monthly Deacon meetings, represent the Session without right to vote on matters before the Deacon Board, facilitate***

communication between the two bodies and present to the Session a monthly summary report of the Deacon Meeting Minutes.

A voice vote was held – Yes – 7 and No 1. Motion passed. Don Vande Polder was appointed as the Session Representative.

3. Team Reports

- a. Worship Team – The Team is considering holding a sunrise Easter service.
- b. Outreach Team – Derek Williams was appointed chairperson for this Team.
- c. Relationship Team – This discussed the Church website and plans for future ministry.
- d. Discipleship Team – No report for this month.
- e. Coordinating Team – The Team continues to review, assess, and refine COVID and security protocols. They have added additional people to the FirstTeam. All staff annual evaluations have been completed. A property loan agreement was completed with The Brim for loan of the old Barry Church Bell.

4. Clerk's Report –

- a. Minutes from the February 2021 Session Meeting were reviewed and approved.
- b. The next Session meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. via ZOOM and in person.
- c. The Session met in special called meeting on March 1, 2021 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM to discuss Property Team concerns surrounding the purchase and installation of playground equipment approved by Session at the December 2020 Session Meeting. Pastor Cable called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM, established the presence of a quorum and invited Pastor Morefield to open the meeting with prayer. A motion from the Property Team was presented as follows: ***The Property Team would ask the Session to install the playground equipment (including safety zones around the equipment) to fit within an area that is no more than 55 feet from the north edge of the gravel area, the 55-foot line being level with the exterior doors of the south lobby, and that a fence or barrier be installed at the 55-foot line.*** Pastor Cable opened the floor for discussion of the motion from the Property Team. After discussion of the issue, review of the current installation plan and the proposed Property Team alternative, Session took the following action on the motion: ***By unanimous voice vote, Session affirms the originally approved design for the playground equipment and authorizes the Coordinating Team to sign the contract to proceed with the project. By unanimous voice vote the Session tasked the Relationship Team to also review and evaluate the design to incorporate a fence or barrier.*** The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM with prayer.
- d. On March 2, 2021 Pastor Cable initiated an email vote by Session to address the issue of archiving records and documents from the lawsuit over our property during the separation process from the PCUSA and Heartland Presbytery approximately ten years ago. Our legal counsel has sought direction on maintenance and retention of said records through Phil Josephson, GEPC Finance Committee Chair. Six Elders responded to the email vote solicitation with all in favor of Phil Josephson receiving the lawsuit documents from the attorney, sorting, organizing, and archiving the important and historical records. Pastor Cable communicated the Session action to Phil Josephson.

E. **CONSENT REPORTS**

1. The Deacons Meeting Minutes for February 2021 have not yet been received by Session.
2. The Finance Team Report for February 2021 was received by Session via email on March 12, 2021.

F. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was moved for adjournment by Dallas Reeve, second by Tom Clapham with unanimous consent. Pastor Cable closed the meeting at 8:59 PM with prayer.

Paul Weatherford
Clerk of Session

Pastor Ritchey Cable
Moderator