

Session Minutes
Gashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church
October 8, 2020

A meeting of the Gashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church Session was held on October 8th at 6:30 PM.

| <u>Elders:</u> | <u>Class of 2020</u> | <u>Class of 2021</u> | <u>Class of 2022</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Peter Marshall | Aaron Kleinmeyer | Chris Taylor |
| | Mark Blakley | Derek Williams | Ron Wilson |
| | Dennis King | Jeff Van Der Weele | Mike Zachary |

Pastor Michael Morefield was also in attendance.

Moderator: Pastor Ritchey Cable called the meeting to order 6:35 PM after confirming a quorum; Elder Taylor agreed to serve as Acting Clerk of Session on behalf of Paul Weatherford.

A. PRAYER: Pastor Michael Morefield opened the meeting with prayer.

B. AGENDA ADOPTION: The agenda was amended to include a discussion on the playground equipment project by Mark Blakley; the amended agenda was approved by unanimous voice consent.

C. PASTOR'S REPORT:

1. Pastor Cable initiated a discussion regarding a homeless individual who has visited the church on numerous occasions including Sunday morning worship, Wednesday evening activities, and during weekday office hours. While we are attempting to be loving and caring for them, the visits consume a fair amount of staff time and have the potential to create "concerning circumstances" with families. There was significant conversation over possible courses of action that would continue to offer love and support, along with assistance in finding a more permanent housing solution; however, they have refused all such offers. The session agreed to 1) informing the individual that they are welcome to continue worshiping with us, but that other forms of "support" are not available and, 2) continuing to attempt to contact another local church with whom the individual had a prior relationship with to determine if there is support they may be able to offer. Elder Williams closed the discussion with prayer for the individual.
2. Pastor Cable reported on the progress of the rebranding initiative. He believes it is time for Elders and Deacons to begin discussing both the proposed logo and the "ministry refresh" that goes with it; specific emphasis should be given to how their work fits into the refresh and how their ministry might be evolving. Elder Zachary asked if a standard write-up could be provided so all teams get the same message; Ritchey responded that he would put something together and share it with the Session for review before sending it to the Deacons (Note – the write-up should include a description of the logo). Elder Marshall asked if Item #4 in the Pastor's Report from the September minutes meant that we would be approving a logo and signage during this meeting. Ritchey stated that we would not; while they may have been the intention last month, he is currently only asking that we begin showing it and beginning discussions as described above. A vote was taken on this plan – to begin rolling out the refresh plan and logo as discussed above – it was approved.
3. Pastor Cable shared that he had returned a week early from his sabbatical in 2019 because the film he had planned on making wasn't able to be completed. He now has funding in place and would like to take that week, along with vacation time and continuing education time, in March to complete the filming. This would require that he be away from the pulpit for three consecutive

weeks; however, it does not conflict with Easter/Lenten services and Michael is available (and willing!) to preach those weekends. The Session enthusiastically approved.

4. Pastor Morefield outlined a concept for updating the Undershepherding Prayer Ministry, which involves publishing the list so individuals are clear as to who their Undershepherd is and can submit prayer requests directly to them. The list will need to be reviewed/updated prior to the Congregational meeting in January. Session approved the concept as presented.
5. Pastor Morefield noted that only 3 people signed up for community groups during the past campaign; likely due to concerns over the Corona Virus, and he will wait and reach out again in the spring. He also noted that The Place (Wednesday evening replacement for Conversations) is averaging 10-20 people per week.
6. Pastor Morefield informed the Session that a new Gashland podcast is being developed that will initially highlight an opportunity for people to get to know the staff and will be followed by podcasts where members will share their faith stories and testimonies. He expects it to be live on social media in one to two months.

D. BUSINESS REPORTS and DISCUSSION

1. Old Business -

- a. Nominating Team - Elder Marshall reported the names of several individuals that have been nominated to fill Elder/Deacon vacancies. The purpose was to allow Session members to voice any potential concerns about the fitness for duty per the Nomination Team's process. No issues or concerns were noted with any of the individuals.
- b. Playground – Elder Blakley provided a presentation on the ongoing project to update the playground area on the southwest side of the building. The Property Team will vote on a proposal next week to request up to \$20K from the Memorial Fund to pay for acquiring and installing commercial playground equipment in the space; if passed the proposal will come to Session next month. Elder King requested that the Team notify him of their approved plan so he can look into potential implications to our insurance.

2. New Business

- a. There was no new business.

3. Team Reports

- a. Worship Team – Elder Van Der Weele provided a brief summary of their September meeting after handing out copies of the minutes to the Session. Highlights include notice that all previously approved equipment has been purchased and should be in place by the first/second week of November and a notice that Reformation Sunday will be commemorated on October 25th.
- b. Outreach Team – Pastor Morefield reminded everyone that the Great Pumpkin drive-in movie night will be on October 23rd.
- c. Relationship Team – Elder Blakely reminded everyone that the Fire & Ice congregational social will take place on October 30th.
- d. Discipleship Team – No report; Elder Taylor referred the Session to the team's minutes.
- d. Coordinating Team – Elder King reported that the weeknight facility position is open, and the team hopes to have it filled within the next couple of weeks.

4. Clerk's Report

- a. Minutes from the September 2020 Session Meeting were reviewed and approved following an amendment to change the first two sentences of Item #4 of the Pastor's Report to read "Pastor Cable reported on the progress of the rebranding initiative. A new logo prototype will be available for review and presented for approval at the next Session meeting." These changes correct a typographical error in the first sentence and more accurately reflect the intention of what was to be delivered for Session review in October.
- b. The next Session meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. in person and on ZOOM.
- c. A congregational meeting will be held on November 15, 2020 following second service for the purpose of voting on new Elders and Deacons; in-person and virtual options will be provided.

E. **CONSENT REPORTS**

1. The Deacon Meeting Minutes for October were received by Session.
2. The Finance Team Report has not yet been received; however, Pastor Cable reported from his draft copy that the financial position of the church is still sound and giving to date is still very good.

F. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was moved for adjournment by Elder King, second by Elder Blakley, with unanimous voice consent. Pastor Cable closed the meeting at 8:50 PM with prayer.

Christopher Taylor
Acting Clerk of Session

Pastor Ritchey Cable
Moderator