



Session Minutes
Gashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church
October 14, 2021

A meeting of the Gashland EPC Session was held on October 14th at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom (video conference) and in person.

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

Pastors Ritchey Cable and Michael Morefield were also in attendance.

Moderator: Pastor Cable called the meeting to order 6:32 p.m. after confirming a quorum. Pastor Cable requested a volunteer to take notes for meeting minutes since the clerk, Paul Weatherford, was not able to attend. Tom Clapham volunteered to record meeting minutes.

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

B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: The agenda was adopted unanimously by motion as written.

C. PASTOR'S REPORT:

1. Pastor Cable reported that a staff member was recently exposed to COVID 19. Contact tracing per CDC guidelines was completed. Subsequently, the exposed staff member did not test positive for the virus.
2. Pastor Morefield reported the following:
 - a. Policies of ministry teams should be sent to Pastor Morefield, who will upload them to the Session Master Dropbox for electronic storage and record purposes.
 - b. Templates for monthly session meeting agendas, including scheduled calendar items, have been uploaded to the Session Master Dropbox.
 - c. Pastor Morefield, at the Presbytery level, is the chairman of Church Development (regarding churches that are no longer a "church plant" but are becoming a mission church of the EPC, meaning they have developed enough/developed adequate size). Pastor Morefield requested two GEPC ruling elders to attend with him the 10:45 a.m. service at Athens KC Church in Parkville, MO, which will be named a mission church. Don Vande Polder volunteered to attend with Pastor Morefield.

D. CALENDAR ITEMS

1. Nominating Process
 - a. Elder and Deacon Selection
 - i. Nominating Selection – receive nominations from congregation, based on guidelines booklet and confirmation by individuals to accept their name being submitted to the nominating team.
 - ii. Process – Oct. 24th is the final day to receive nominations from the congregation. Nominating team will meet soon after Oct. 24th to develop the slate of nominees, and for slate to be vetted by session.



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b. Call Congregational Meeting by end of October – Provide notice of Nov. 14th congregational meeting starting on Sunday, Oct. 31 (two Sundays prior to meeting). Subsequent to this plan, per e-mail communication on Oct. 30, the congregational meeting is planned to be pushed out one week later to Sunday, Nov. 21st due to the nomination process not being completed, and the need for the slate of nominees to be provided to the congregation at least one week prior to the meeting.

i. Link-include notice of congregational meeting.

ii. Bulletin-include notice of congregational meeting.

2. Ministry Teams should have budgets turned in by End of October.

E. **BUSINESS REPORTS and DISCUSSION:**

1. Old Business/follow-up items

a. Undershepherding monthly fellowship meeting. Don Vande Polder hosted the last elder fellowship event. Pastor Cable asked for reflections on elder fellowship events and three responses indicated they are good, worthwhile events with value for fellowship and good discussion in a less formal manner.

b. Undershepherding review. The question was raised, will the undershepherding group lists be posted, either electronically and/or on a bulletin board. Discussion leaned toward posting of the lists to be good idea. No action taken at this time. Some undershepherding ideas and recent communication was shared. Pastor Cable noted that undershepherding is the most important role of the elders. Pastor Cable volunteered to host the next elder fellowship event.

2. New Business

a. Shut-in Communion – Jeff VanderWeele noted that communion has recently been given to Martha Young (who is in hospice), Marie Johnson, Rosey Bateman, Betty Butterfield and April Downey. Others who are planned to be given communion are Richard & Dottie Schmidt, Carl Carver and Fontaine Tebo. Shut-in communion could be done quarterly.

b. Apostles Creed, frequency – Jeff VanderWeele noted that the Apostle's Creed was stated, prior to Pastor Cable's sabbatical, in Sunday morning services every 6 weeks/8 times per year. It was noted 6 weeks is challenging because it does not correspond well a monthly calendar. Jeff VanderWeele suggested using a monthly schedule, on the last Sunday of each month. The worship leaders have been encouraged to incorporate the Apostle's Creed more frequently into the services. Pastor Cable will discuss the frequency/schedule with the worship leaders.

3. Team Reports

a. Worship Team – Latest meeting minutes have been sent to session. The frequency of stating the Apostle's Creed in Sunday morning services was discussed at Worship team meeting. (see New Business)



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- b. Outreach Team – Latest meeting minutes have been sent to session. Outreach Team will be featured in the next edition of the Porch newsletter. Trunk-or-Treat is scheduled for Oct. 30, from 5-7:00 p.m.
- c. Relationship Team – Dallas Reeve reported on the Ramsey money management class. There are plans to open the class to friends and family members and do an online class. Dallas and Mike Zachary (Outreach) had a discussion about offering budgeting help at Hillcrest and/or to families at Gashland and Clardy schools.
- d. Discipleship Team – Latest meeting minutes have been sent to session.
- e. Coordinating Team – Regarding COVID-19 virus, the city mask mandate has been extended into November. At GEPC, masks are still recommended, recognizing some have “mask fatigue” and some are still willing to wear masks. Regarding staff/dealing with COVID, as applicable, they should rely on their doctor’s clearance as when it is acceptable to return to work. There are two places to store church business electronic documents,...Drop Box and Google Drive. Team budgets should be submitted to session.

4. Clerk’s Report

- a. Review and approval of September Session Meeting minutes: A motion to accept the September session meeting minutes, with one correction, that the Ramsey money management program should be noted as sponsored by Men’s Ministry, under Relationships Team, passed unanimously by voice vote.
- b. Next Session Meeting is scheduled for Nov. 11th at 6:30 p.m.
- c. The clerk, Paul Weatherford, advised that he will be ending his term as clerk as of December 31, 2021.

As a new clerk will be needed, Michael Morefield will check the church bylaws and the EPC Book of Order for requirements. During the meeting it was determined the clerk is required to be either a current or past ruling elder. Tom Clapham advised of an available list of ruling elders, starting from 2012, which will be sent to session for consideration for the clerk position.

E. **CONSENT REPORTS:**

- 1. The Deacons Meeting Minutes of August 17, 2021 have been received by session. Deacons have discussed and are planning to re-engage the Time-Talent-Treasure idea, to be led by Charlie Deis.
- 2. The Finance Team Report of September 2021 was received by Session.

F. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was moved for adjournment by Ron Wilson, seconded by Dallas Reeve, and passed with unanimous consent. Pastor Cable closed the meeting with prayer at 8:29 p.m.

Tom Clapham

Pastor Ritchey Cable
Moderator