



GASHLAND EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING
JULY 13, 2023
AGENDA

<u>Ruling Elders Present:</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>
	Mark Lancaster	Tom Crossett	Mike Brink
	Dallas Reeve	Jim Langford	Tom Clapham
	Don Vande Polder	Dave Wiersma	Bob Williams

Teaching Elders Present: Pastors Morefield & Cable

- I. **Opening prayer:** After a quorum was confirmed, Pastor Morefield opened the meeting with prayer at 6:30 p.m.
- II. **Adoption of Agenda:** The agenda was adopted as written, with the addition of new business item #6, Prayer team for transition period.
- III. **Pastor's Reports:**
 - A. Senior Pastor: Advised how Pastorserve has been helpful and that there are two meetings remaining and scheduled after Sept. 3rd. Dallas Reeve made a motion to provide 12 sessions with a Pastorserve mentor for Michael Morefield, for a cost of \$1800. Seconded by Mark Lancaster. Motion passed unanimously. Pastor Cable led a time of prayer for Cassie Ausland, whose husband recently passed unexpectedly.
 - B. Associate Pastor: Pastor Morefield provided a review of plans for the fall, regarding a preaching schedule and all other areas and responsibilities he will be covering and picking up in the absence of a sr. pastor.
- IV. **Calendar Items:**
 - A. Nominating process- noted that the process should begin soon.
- V. **Business Reports and Discussion:**
 - A. Old Business:
 1. General Assembly Recap:

A summary recap was provided by those who attended.
 2. Pastor Search Committee – 8:09, Moderator Pro Tem (MPT) role was assumed by Tom Clapham and Clerk Pro Tem (CPT) by Mike Brink.
 - a) Proposed slate finalization



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- All potential slate nominees discussed at the last called Session meeting have been spoken to and are willing to serve.
 - On Friday, each elder will communicate to those nominated by the congregation to serve – but not chosen for the slate – and thank them for their willingness to serve. The Session divided up responsibility for these notifications.
 - The proposed slate will be communicated to the congregation by Friday close of business.
 - **Motion** made by MPT RE Tom Clapham to present the slate comprised of Bob Williams, Dave Smith, Aaron Kleinmeyer, Holly Marshall, Madison Stewart, Heather Lorenzetti, and Tom Ell for approval at the congregational meeting on Sunday July 16th. Clapham. Second by RE Don Vande Polder. **Motion passes.**
- b) Preparatory work by the Session
- a. If selected for the congregation to be on the SC, Bob Williams will take leadership on as Session liaison on the Search Committee.
- c) Credibility of search process
- a. Some comments from a congregant were received by a Session member concerning the integrity of the Search Committee process.
 - b. That Session member explained the process and believes that the issues was addressed.
- d) Plans for briefing the Search Committee once established
- a. The Session will work with the Search Committee to provide it with the information it needs to begin the process as soon as possible after the formalization of the Search Committee.
 - b. Information that the Search Committee will need before formally advertising for the role include a Vision/Mission Statement, compensation plan, and job description. The Session is primarily responsible for these documents.
- e) Congregational Meeting 7/16
- RE Don Vande Polder volunteered to serve as Moderator for the upcoming congregational meeting. **Motion** made by RE Dave Wiersma for RE Don Vande Polder to serve as Moderator for the 7/16



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congregational meeting. Seconded by RE Tom Crossett. **Motion passes.**

- Session discussed the agenda for the Congregational meeting and how the voting process would work.

B. New Business:

1. Leadership visioning session with deacons and church ministry leaders
 - a. Mark will look for existing Vision/Mission documentation and propose updates, if needed.
 - b. Session will further consider the proposed Vision/Mission to support the senior pastor search.
2. TE Cable last day reception
 - a. TE Ritchey Cable's last Sunday as senior pastor of GEPC will be 9/3.
 - b. There will be a reception to follow. The Relationships Team has the lead on coming up with the program.
 - c. Other ministry teams may be asked to provide assistance in planning and executing that day's events.
3. Church Health Moderator – Gary Fuller/Presbytery of the Great Plains 402-681-5967
 - a. RE Dave Wiersma introduced Gary Fuller as our denominational point of contact through the search process.
 - b. Gary Fuller can assist by serving as interim Session moderator, if needed.
 - c. RE Wiersma will contact him soon and give him an update on the Session's process to date.
4. Pastor Serve – Previously discussed.
5. Transition – Sept. 3 – Previously discussed – see Item B.2. above.
6. Prayer team for the transition period
 - a. The Session agrees that prayer for the transition period and Search Committee is essential. Formal efforts to do so will begin immediately after the congregational meeting on Sunday.
 - b. RE's Tom Crossett and Mark Lancaster will lead this effort.

C. Team Reports



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1. Worship Team: Reported on stewardship discussion and a communication issue with Beautification and Property Team.
2. Outreach Team: Reported on general direction.
3. Relationships Team: Reported on tentative plans for a reception for Pastor Cable.
4. Discipleship Team: No Report.
5. Coordinating Team: Reported on the team is in the process of rebalancing resources between the 8:30 and 11:00 Sunday morning worship services, and is in the search process for the early service worship leader/choir director position.

D. Clerk's Report

1. Review and approval of June Session Meeting Minutes, 6/29 and 7/10 minutes meetings. **Motion** by RE Dallas Reeve to accept the minutes. Seconded by Mark Lancaster. **Motion passes.**
2. Next Session Meeting: August 10, 6:30 p.m.

E. Consent Reports

1. Deacon's Report
2. Financial Report

VI. **Adjournment and Closing Prayer**

Motion to adjourn made by RE Bob Williams. Seconded by Dallas Reeve. **Motion passes.**

RE Tom Crossett closed in prayer.