



GASHLAND EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2023
MINUTES

<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		Bob Williams
	Excused:.....Dave Wiersma		

Teaching Elders Present: Pastors Ritchey Cable and Michael Morefield

- I. **Opening prayer:** A quorum was determined present; Pastor Morefield called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer at 6:49 p.m.
- II. **Adoption of Agenda:** A motion was made to adopt the agenda as written. A voice vote was held, and the agenda was accepted as written.
- III. **Pastor's Reports:**
 - A. Senior Pastor: Pastor Cable noted he would be available by phone if office related questions arise, which staff may need help in finding the answers. Pastor Cable's email account was discussed, as to how to handle the account considering there may be member related confidential information. He will take up to 30 days to screen the email records and delete the confidential items. After 30 days access will be terminated.
 - B. Associate Pastor: Pastor Morefield noted the new members class, Getting to Know Gashland will begin on Oct. 1. An update on the Missions audit process will be available in October. Sunday morning service announcements were also discussed.
- IV. **Calendar Items:**
 - A. Nominating Process (schedule): The nominating process, to elect deacons and elders was discussed. Two elders, two deacons and four congregational members will be elected at a congregational meeting on 9/24 after the 11:00 Sunday morning service. It was determined elders on the team will be Jim Langford and Tom Crossett, who will contact members for the team. Mark Lancaster contacted the deacons, to request two deacons for the team.
 - B. Ministry Team budgets will due soon.
 - C. Presbytery meeting: To be held in Hannibal MO, on 10/27 & 28 at Big Creek Presbyterian. Two ruling elders may attend. Bob Williams and Don Vande Polder may attend.



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D. Stewardship: Jim Langford gave an update, from Worship team, on the annual stewardship process.

V. **Business Reports and Discussion:**

A. Old Business

1. Nominating Team: See item IV. A.
2. Congregational meeting time: Tabled

B. New Business:

1. Admin updates due to pastor vacancy
 - a) Website update: Pastor Cable's information will be removed from the website.
 - b) Session@gashland.org email update: Pastor Cable will be removed from team email distribution lists. Mark Lancaster will update the email distribution lists.
 - c) Survey responses and comments: Mark Lancaster made a motion to share the survey responses with Pastor Morefield, after the responses are reviewed by session at the November session meeting. Tom Crossett seconded the motion. Motion passed.
 - d) Clarification/communication of Pastor Morefield's role during the pastor search period: Bob Williams made a motion for an announcement on Sunday morning, by an elder, as well as in the Link, to reiterate Pastor Morefield's role during the search process. Don Vande Polder seconded the motion. Motion passed. Bob Williams volunteered to write the message.
 - e) Exit interview: An exit interview with Pastor Cable was discussed and determined to have value for the church leadership going forward. Don Vande Polder and Dallas Reeve volunteered to conduct the interview with Pastor Cable. Date to be determined.
 - f) Approval for Pastor Morefield to sign checks on the church account, during the interim and beyond: Mark Lancaster made a motion to add Pastor Morefield, and the corporation president and vice president for approval to sign checks on the church account. Don Vande Polder seconded the motion. Discussion was held, a voice vote was taken, and the motion passed. Tom Clapham will advise Finance Team.



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2. Search Committee desire to consider Associate Pastor for Sr. Pastor opening. (Pastors Cable and Morefield excused themselves prior to this discussion, which was immediately prior to adjournment.)

Tom Crossett made moved to allow Pastor Morefield to apply for the sr. pastor position at GEPC if he desires to do so. Jim Langford seconded the motion. Discussion was held. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Team Reports: Brief reports were given by elders on or leading ministry teams.

1. Worship team.
2. Outreach Team.
3. Relationships Team.
4. Discipleship Team.
5. Coordinating Team.

D. Clerk's Report

1. Review and approval of the August Session meeting minutes. Accepted as written.
2. Next Session Meeting: October 12, at 6:30 p.m.

E. Consent Reports

1. Deacon's Report: Received
2. Financial Report: Received.

VI. Adjournment and Closing Prayer:

Mike Brink made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mark Lancaster. A voice vote was held, and the motion passed. The meeting was closed with prayer by Don Vande Polder at 9:10 p.m.