



GASHLAND EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2023
MEETING MINUTES

I. Opening prayer:

- A quorum was determined to be present.
- TE Morefield opened the meeting in prayer at 6:30 p.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda:

- Motion by RE Brink, Second by RE Reeve to defer Item IV, 2.B. to a future Session meeting. Motion passes.

III. Pastor's Report:

A. Associate Pastor

- TE Morefield desires to end in prayer for incoming and outgoing members.
- Undershepherding matters
 - Carl and Caitlyn Carney and family placed in RE Wiersma's undershepherding group
 - The Scheneman family was placed in RE Crossett's undershepherding group
- Lake McGinty has asked that his pastoral internship be renewed for another year.
 - Motion by RE Reeve, Second by RE Lancaster to extend Lake McGinty's pastoral internship for another year. Motion passes.
- TE Morefield presented the Ministry Team assignments for 2024
 - Worship – RE Langford
 - Outreach – RE Johnson
 - Discipleship – RE Brink
 - Relationship – RE Funk
 - Coordinating – RE Wiersma
 - Relationship – RE Blakley
 - Outreach – RE Williams
 - Missions – RE Crossett
 - RE Clapham will continue to serve as Clerk of Session
- TE Morefield made a request for an RE to serve as representative to the deacons.
 - RE Crossett volunteers to serve as the deacon liaison for 2024.
- Discussion of membership rolls
 - TE Morefield will send out the new master list to everyone for review before finalization.
 - Undershepherding letters will be sent out to all members in late January.



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- RE Johnson will be taking RE Lancaster's undershepherding group.
- RE Funk and RE Blakley will be assigned new undershepherding group members based on RE Reeve's and RE Vande Polder's undershepherding groups.
- RE Lancaster explained to the new elders the process for annual review of the membership rolls.
- A deacon has requested visibility of non-ordained personnel salaries of our GEPC employees.
 - RE Reeve explained the policy that has been in place for the last decade or more to budget for non-ordained salaries in an aggregated line item.
 - No change to this policy was suggested.

IV. Calendar Items:

A. Annual Operating Budget

1. 2023 Update

- Pledges are catching up, but the congregation is not on track to meet 2023 pledged revenues at this point.
- Motion by RE Crossett, Second by Reeve for RE Funk to serve as the Session's representative to the team that will be looking at the 2024 budget and potentially making edits to it based on 2023 receipts and 2024 projections. Motion passes.

2. 2024 Proposed

- Session will consider the 2024 proposed budget in January after the team looking to make budget revisions has completed its work.

B. 2024 Budget presentation meeting

- Motion by RE Brink, Second by RE Crossett 1/28/2024 congregational meeting to be set. Motion passes.
- Motion by RE Reeve, Second by RE Vande Polder to have the 1/28/2024 congregational meeting after second service. Motion passes.

C. Budget training – Elders/Deacons – by Finance team

- Will be done at the next joint elder/deacon meeting, to be scheduled for February.



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D. New Elders/Undershepherding groups

- Addressed in the Pastor's report

V. **Business Reports and Discussion:**

A. Old Business:

1. Review of Articles of Agreement (Mark Lancaster)

- RE Lancaster distributed the Articles of Agreement to all members of the Session.
- He educated the Session that all elders are trustees of the corporation.
- He pointed out that there are two annual meetings specified in the Articles:
 - Officer election in November
 - Annual congregational meeting in January
- He noted that MO state law requires that corporations that enable virtual attendance must provide virtual attendees to the opportunity to participate and vote.
- After the installation of officers (to take place on 12/31/2023) the Session will need to select the corporation officers within two weeks of this installation; this will need to be on the agenda for the January Session meeting.

2. Status of Beautification team (Mike Brink) and Reporting structure (Tom Crossett)

- The Beautification team has withdrawn their proposed policy.
- The Beautification team will take the next six months off, focusing only on seasonal decorating (for Easter and Advent), and then come back to Session with a proposal for moving forward.
- Motion by Crossett to repaint the wall in the SS room either neutral or crimson (representing the blood of Christ) from the black that it is currently painted, Second by Clapham.
 - Motion by RE Lancaster to amend the above motion to request to the Beautification team that the SS wall in question be repainted in a color other than black, Second by RE Reeve. Amendment passes.
 - Motion then passes.

3. Undershepherding List Updates

- Addressed in the Pastor's report.



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B. New Business

1. Mentoring (Ethan Funk)

- Mentorship has been requested for a young man in the congregation who has lost his father.
- Effort will be made to reach out to the mother and encourage her to get the young man involved with youth activities in Gashland as a means of getting him connected into the congregation.

~~2. Ministry opportunities/elderly congregants, re: survey findings (Mike Brink)~~

- Item struck from agenda as per above.

3. City-wide Scripture Saturation/The Sending Project (MM/MJ)

- The Gideons are partnered with The Sending Project.
- The groups are looking for 100 churches in Kansas City to partner to evangelize and to distribute Bibles.
- No elders have any objections to participating at this point.
- RE Williams requested that Outreach and consider a motion and to come back with a motion, if there is one.
- The Outreach team is encouraged to research and move forward with the opportunity, if desired.

4. Property team – recent emails – Status/morale/concerns (Mike Brink)

- The Property team has no issues. The Property team just requests that other teams follow the policies and processes that are in place.

5. Fellowship Hall walls (Tom Crossett)

- This has been previously addressed in Old Business

6. Session voting procedures (Tom Crossett)

- Item is skipped at the request of RE Crossett.

7. Coordinating team (Tom Crossett)



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- Item is skipped at the request of RE Crossett.

8. Donating policy/receiving funds for specific purposes (Tom Clapham)

- The concern has been expressed by the Finance team that people are donating for specific items; this is limiting accountability and perhaps offsetting funds that would otherwise be donated to the church.
- This issue, along with other relevant policies, should be discussed with all elders and deacons at the upcoming quarterly meeting.

C. Team Reports

1. Worship Team

- Christmas Eve services to be as follows:
 - 10 am service in the worship center, contemporary
 - 4 pm – candlelight in sanctuary
 - 6 pm – candlelight in sanctuary

2. Outreach Team

- No further issues.

3. Relationships Team

- The Relationships team and others went caroling last night. Turnout was low, however. RE Reeve encouraged others to attend next year.

4. Discipleship Team

- The Discipleship emphasis for next year will be Outreach.

5. Coordinating Team

- The Coordinating team has been working to update Ellie McGinty's job description.
- There was discussion of the need to develop a plan to handle technology issues in the future.
- This topic should be added to a future Session agenda – formalizing a technology team or sub-team or a technology plan.



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D. Clerk's Report

1. Review and approval of November Session Meeting Minutes.
 2. Nov. 19, 2023, Congregational Meeting Minutes (attached to Nov. session minutes)
- Motion by RE Crossett, Second by RE Reeve to accept both sets of minutes. Motion passes.
3. Next Session Meeting: Jan. 11, 6:30 p.m.
 4. Presbytery January mtg., Jan. 26 & 27, Central Presbyterian Church
 5. Presbytery April mtg., Apr. 24, The Crossing

E. Consent Reports

1. Deacon's Report:
 - Deacons met, welcomed Mary Lancaster and Laura Cooper.
 - Deacon minutes have not yet been sent out.
 - There was discussion about how the budget is developed.
 - Motion by RE Crossett, Second by RE Lancaster to have an elder-deacon joint meeting in February 2024, the second Tuesday. Motion passes.
2. Financial Report:
 - The Finance team is discussing some financial policy changes that may be presented last year.

F. Search Committee Update

- The Search Committee is working diligently to bring the process to completion.

VI. **Adjournment and Closing Prayer:**

- Motion by RE Reeve Second by RE Vande Polder to adjourn. Motion passes.
- Session closed in prayer for departing and incoming elders.