



GASHLAND EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS
JANUARY 28, 2024
MEETING MINUTES

I. **Opening:** After a quorum was confirmed, Mike Brink, a ruling elder and president of the corporation, opened the meeting with prayer at 12:20 p.m. and gave a brief description of the meeting agenda.

II. **2023 Ministry remarks:** Pastor Morefield provided brief remarks on ministry for the past year.

III. **Pastor Search Update:**

Aaron Kleinmeyer provided a brief update on the status of the sr. pastor search. He stated a candidate has been identified for recommendation to Session. There are some process items yet to take place before the search team provides the recommendation to the session. The process is following standard EPC procedures. Terms of Call are being considered but cannot be finalized until approved by a congregational vote.

IV. **Financial Report:** Charlie Deis, a member of the Finance team, provided the financial report with an explanation of the budgeting steps and process. A thank you and appreciation was noted for the audit team consisting of Jenny Phelan, Ruby Dunn and Linda Weisenborn.

V. **2024 Operating Budget Presentation:**

Mike Brink, the corporation president, presented the 2024 Operating Budget and discussed the changes and relevant points as compared to last year's budget. The 2024 Operating Budget is published in the 2023 Annual Report.

Questions were received as follows:

A question was raised as to why the "Pledges Received" as shown on the Pledges, Contributions & Commitments (pg. 15 of 2023 Annual Report) matches exactly the 2023 Budgeted Revenue (pg. 16). Mike Brink responded, and a member made a motion to address this issue, as note below.

John Wopata made a motion to include the actual pledges received to be reported in the 2024 Annual report (instead of only the budgeted pledge amount). David Wharton seconded the motion. A voice vote was held, and the motion passed.

Another question raised was regarding the \$119,000 budgeted amount for the Sr. Pastor, noting this is well below what was budgeted for the previous sr. pastor, and is the \$240,000 budgeted for the sr. and associate pastors adequate for 2024. Mike Brink explained the \$240,000 is adequate for 2024 since there will not be a full year of salaries paid for both sr. and associate pastor due to the current sr. pastor search.



GASHLAND EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS
JANUARY 28, 2024
MEETING MINUTES

A question regarding International Missions and the budgeted amount was raised, and how the decisions were made that resulted in reducing this budget item. Pastor Morefield responded, explaining the new mission focus and how a mission audit was completed in 2023 by the Missions team, to make sure mission giving was in line with GEPC priorities, and some adjustments were made. Periodic mission audits are also planned.

Another question was received, regarding ministry budgets and how those are supervised or is overspending simply allowed. It appears 2 of 10 ministry budgets were overspent. A follow-up question was also received, about why ministry team reports are not up to date and posted on the website. Mike Brink responded, acknowledged the issue and noted this is an area where improvements can be made.

Mike Brink noted...

- In March, the Financial Team will be conducting refresher training for all elders and deacons on their role as budget monitors on the teams that they are on.
- At least quarterly, the Financial Team will prepare a YTD budget report for each Team to improve the information they have on monitoring the budget.
- As a result of our annual audit, there are some changes to our credit card process that will add greater transparency to clearly identify the team to which particular expenses belong.
- The Session itself has committed to identifying off-setting cuts for any request we approve for additional funding during the year
- Teams, session, and deacons will regularly have their meetings available in the office.

John Wopata made a motion to include all information presented today, which is not included in the annual report, be included in the meeting minutes, that are on file in the church office. Tom Crossett seconded the motion. A voice vote was held and the motion passed.

VI. 2024 Ministry Presentation: Pastor Morefield provided the ministry theme for 2024 which is “Come and See”, and then gave an overall explanation, including the Discipleship emphasis, to better serve our “neighbors”. He noted a poignant question...”If our church left, would our neighbors miss us?”

VII. Terms of Call:

Due to the proposed changes in the Terms of Call for Pastor Morefield in the 2024 Operating Budget, approval by the congregation is needed. The proposed change in terms of call is a 3% increase. Ethan Funk moved to accept the proposed increase in



GASHLAND EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS
JANUARY 28, 2024
MEETING MINUTES

terms of call for Pastor Morefield. Steve Phelan seconded the motion. A voice vote was held, and the motion passed.

VIII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer:

John Wopata made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dave Smith. A voice vote was held, and the motion passed. Mike Brink closed the meeting with prayer at 1:32 p.m.