



GASHLAND EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SESSION MEETING  
FEBRUARY 8, 2024  
MINUTES

**I. Opening prayer:**

- a. The meeting was opened by TE Morefield in prayer at 6:31 pm.
- b. Present: TE Morefield, RE Langford, RE Crossett, RE Wiersma, RE Williams, RE Blakely, RE Brink
- c. Absent: RE Johnson, RE Funk, RE Clapham

**II. Adoption of Agenda:**

- a. Motion by RE Williams, second by RE Crossett to nominate RE Brink as clerk pro tem. Motion passes.
- b. M/S/P to accept the agenda for the 2/8/2024, as submitted.

**III. Review/Approval of Previous Session Meeting Minutes:**

- a. January session meeting minutes have not yet been provided. They will be submitted for approval at the March session meeting.
- b. M/S/P to accept the congregational meeting of 1/28/2024, as presented.

**IV. Beautification Team response – Response to Session’s request to repaint wall.**

- a. The Session meeting was attended by six members of the Beautification Team (BT).
- b. Spokesperson Ellie McGinty of the BT presented information to Session on:
  - i. Its members’ vision.
  - ii. Its members’ desire to be placed with the Property Team as a group independent from and co-equal with maintenance.
  - iii. The process and reasoning behind the Fellowship Hall’s wall black color selection.
- c. The BT provided a hand-out providing more detail on the above matters.
- d. Discussion of these topics followed.
- e. Session thanked the BT for the work that they do and for coming to present this information and committed to getting back to the BT on the organizational issue.

**V. Pastor’s Report:**

- A. Associate Pastor
  - a. This Sunday the Search Committee will be making the announcement of the Senior Pastor candidate at the beginning of each service. TE



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Morefield requests that there be an elder or former elder to pray at the time following the announcement. TE Morefield will ask Mark Lancaster to pray at first service. RE Brink volunteers to do so at the second service.

- b. Connie Iverson's memorial service will be held in April. Her son has expressed interest in Ed Longabaugh or Andy Cullen to perform the service. Session agrees that only ordained clergy who adhere to the EPC essentials of the faith and the bylaws of Gashland EPC are permitted to perform a service at Gashland EPC. TE Morefield will communicate this back to the family.

**VI. Calendar Items:**

- A. GEPC Annual Report due to EPC end of February – who creates report?
  - a. Kathy will fill out the report.
  - b. It must be formalized and submitted by RE Clapham as clerk.

**VII. Business Reports and Discussion:**

- A. Old Business:
  1. "The Conquer Series" curriculum, - Review comments, Bob Williams
    - a. RE Williams presented a thorough assessment of the Conquer Series curriculum. He raised concerns about its theological basis of the curriculum as representing a view of Scripture and sin that differs in important ways from the Reformed understanding.
    - b. TE Morefield will speak with Lake about these concerns and discuss alternative approaches to addressing this important issue of sexual sin.
  2. Report on two Elders and a member meeting/conversation – Mark Blakely & Tom Crossett
    - a. Matter recounted and has been dealt with appropriately.
- B. New Business
  1. Pastor Search Committee Recommendation and Proposed Terms of Call, and congregational meeting date.
    - a. M/S/P for RE Crossett to serve as Moderator pro tem.



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- b. The Selection Committee will announce the candidate for Senior Pastor this coming Sunday 2/11.
  - c. RE Williams walked the Session through the entire process going forward.
  - d. Discussion on the logistics of the calling of the Special Meeting on 3/3 to consider the Terms of Call (TOC) for RE Michael Morefield.
    - i. The meeting must be announced orally AT LEAST one week before and then again on the Sunday of the meeting (3/3).
    - ii. Advance notice of the meeting shall be posted **prominently** on the church website at least two weeks before the meeting.
    - iii. Advance notice of the meeting must be sent by mail or email to all members.
    - iv. 20% standard for quorum must be met.
    - v. The TOC should be made available to members in advance of the meeting.
    - vi. The vote will be taken by secret ballot.
2. Beautification team as Sub-committee of the Property Team – Oversight reporting - Tom Crossett
- a. RE Crossett proposed a motion to transfer the BT from operating as a subcommittee of the Worship Team to operating as a subcommittee of the Property Team. Motion was seconded by RE Brink. Discussion followed.
    - i. Session is agreed that Beautification is appropriately joined with Property.
    - ii. Session asks that the Coordinating Team verify that action has previously been taken to place the BT within the overall Property Team and to report back.
    - iii. If that is the case, then Session asks Coordinating propose the appropriate configuration as to how Beautification will function within the Property team and report back to session.
  - b. RE Crossett withdraws his motion.
3. Jan. 28 - Meeting of the Members – Follow-up items
- a) Session and the office needs to take action in response to the motion passed at the meeting that the presentation, minutes, and budget from



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the annual meeting be posted on the website. RE Clapham should send approved minutes from the meeting to Ellie. Session requests that Ellie also post the 1/28 budget presentation and budget on the website.

- b) Discussion agenda for joint deacons-elders meeting in March (including financial refresher training). TE Morefield confirmed that this joint Session-Diaconate meeting will be scheduled with Phil Josephson. A message of each team's responsibility for keeping and submitting approved minutes will also be delivered.
  - c) Review procedures for announcing special congregational meetings and determining quorum. This was accomplished.
  - d) Request that articles of incorporation and bylaws be printed off with a copy of both to be available in the church office. RE Brink will ask Kathy to do this.
4. Team Minutes – Process for all ministry teams to submit meeting minutes.
    - a. RE Morefield will talk with office staff to confirm the administrative process for posting minutes on the website and printing out a copy to be kept on file in the office.
  5. EPC Petition
    - a. M/S/P to go into executive session.
    - b. M/S/P to exit executive session.
- C. Team Reports
1. Worship
    - a. Worship Team will consider a request to re-instate the “meet and greet” time during the service.
  2. Outreach
    - a. Rummage sale is the first weekend in May.
    - b. There has been a request from adult SS for the Outreach Team to designate a new recipient for the SS collections.
  3. Relationships
    - a. Relationships will be seeking to really increase participation in congregational events this year.
  4. Discipleship
    - a. Discipleship is seeking ways to increase congregational participation in Sunday School and welcomes ideas.



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5. Coordinating

- a. Coordinating will be submitting a new policy for Session's approval for credit card use.
- b. Monitoring of credit card use by staff will be done by Finance Team.
- c. Coordinating will be instituting a new timekeeping policy that will be instituted for church employees to document time off.
- d. Motion by RE Wiersma to amend the Sabbatical Policy to include non-ordained staff not to exceed six weeks which has been submitted by the Coordinating Team. No second required since this is a motion from the Coordinating Team. Discussion ensues. Motion fails.
- e. RE Blakley will request that Property Team update the quotes for the children's SS room upgrades and submit a revised proposal for capital funding during the March meeting for consideration by Session.

D. Clerk's Report

1. Next Session Meeting: Mar. 14, 6:30 p.m.
2. Presbytery April mtg., Apr. 24, The Crossing

E. Consent Reports

1. Deacon's Report: Approved as submitted.
2. Financial Report: Not submitted.

**VIII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer:**

- a. M/S/P to adjourn.
- b. Session meeting was closed in prayer by RE Morefield at 10:28 pm.