



GASHLAND EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING
MARCH 14, 2024
MEETING MINUTES

<u>Ruling Elders Present:</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Crossett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Brink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Blakley
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Langford	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Clapham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ethan Funk
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dave Wiersma	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Johnson

Teaching Elders Present: Pastor Michael Morefield

Guests: Chris Stackpole

- I. **Opening prayer:** Pastor Morefield opened the meeting with prayer at 6:32 p.m.
- II. **Adoption of Agenda:** Jim Langford made a motion to withdraw a motion submitted by Worship team, which should have been submitted through Property team. Mark Blakley seconded, and motion passed. Agenda was approved as revised.
- III. **Review/Approval of Previous Session Meeting Minutes:**
Jan. 11 & Feb. 8 Session Meeting minutes were accepted and approved as written, except for one correction in the February minutes, and the withdrawal of Item 6 under New Business.
- IV. **Pastor's Report:**
 - A. Senior Pastor: Pastor Morefield noted the following items:
 - Provided update/information on Vision and strategy going forward.
 - Prioritizing staffing regarding 1st service worship leader and choir director
 - Discussed what "Looking to the fields" vision may look like for ministry teams
 - Requested permission from session to obtain quotes for updating the website and logo. Mark Blakley so moved, seconded by Tom Crossett. Motion passed.
 - Provided an update regarding Presbytery and issues which they may be studying further.
 - Request for pulpit supply, up to once every six weeks. Dave Wiersma made a motion to approve pulpit supply once per month with an honorarium, until an associate or assistant pastor is in place. Mark Blakley seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- V. **Calendar Items:**
 - A. April Presbytery meeting – Dave Wiersma and Ethan Funk requested/volunteered to attend. Tom Crossett made a motion to commission



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Dave and Tom to attend Presbytery. Mark Blakley seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VI. Business Reports and Discussion:

A. Old Business:

1. Beautification Team – Organizational placement – session follow from Feb. meeting.
Motion by Tom Crossett...”Move Beatification Team to Property Team, as a sub-committee of Property Team...and accountable to Property Team. All Beautification plans and spending are contingent upon Property’s prior approval.” Second by Ethan Funk. Motion passed.
Dave Wiersma noted, Coordinating team found prior documentation that Beautification team is a sub-team of Property.
2. Black painted wall – final decision? Session’s request to Beautification team to paint the black wall a color other than black, still stands as an active request.
3. Update on carpeting of children’s classrooms. Mark Blakley advised that Property team could develop a scope and get bids. Three bids are required. Communication is on-going between Property and Discipleship.
4. Citywide Scripture Saturation: There will be training on “sharing your faith with caring and confidence”, on Saturday morning, April 13. 200 small bibles have been ordered, to be handed out to people shopping at the Rummage sale, which is scheduled for May 2-4.

B. New Business

1. Jan. 11 session meeting minutes. – see following item.
2. Feb. 8 session meeting minutes. Ethan Funk requested session minutes be distributed sooner, such as 7 to 10 days after the meeting. Tom Clapham, as clerk, committed to getting minutes distributed within 10 days after the meeting.
3. Caleb Mason sabbatical request – Only ordained pastors are eligible for a sabbatical per current GEPC policy. Coordinating, including HR, provided a summary of a proposed Leave Policy, for either paid or unpaid leave, for information. No action taken.



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Mark Blakley moved to enter executive session, seconded by Mark Johnson,..Motion approved at 8:43 p.m.

Tom Crossett moved to exit executive session, seconded by Mark Johnson. Motion approved at 9:16 p.m.

Mike Brink made a motion, "Pending final details by Coordinating, to approve a paid leave for Caleb Mason, Youth Director/Missions Director, not to exceed six weeks. Seconded by Bob Williams. Ethan Funk move to make a friendly amendment to the motion, specifying the leave to occur in the Jul-Aug time frame, that would consist of four weeks paid and up to two weeks unpaid or two weeks of vacation time used, not to exceed a total of six weeks. Dave Wiersma seconded the amendment. A voice vote was taken and the amendment was approved. After discussion, a voice vote was taken on the amended motion and the motion passed with 7 yea's, 1 opposed and 1 abstention.

4. Youth Director position as related to role of Coordinating Team. Discussion occurred with item 3. No action taken.
5. N. Oak sign – Add service times? Mark Blakley brought a motion from Relationship Team to secure bids for new signage and to add Sunday morning service times to the N. Oak sign, to be coordinated and scheduled with the rebrand/logo revision schedule.
6. Ministry Center storage closet & wheelchair ramp. Item was withdrawn from agenda.
7. Assistant/Associate Pastor search: Pastor Morefield explained the difference between an Associate and Assistant pastor. An Assistant is not a called position, but rather a staff position that generally has a term of 1-3 years. If it is determined a good fit, the Assistant Pastor is eligible to be called as an Associate Pastor, or if not, the term is completed by separation of the staff member from the church. Tom Crossett made a motion to hire an Assistant Pastor, and include congregational members in the search committee, which would present the recommended candidate to session. Mark Blakley seconded the motion. A voice vote was held and the motion passed. Discussion on the next steps followed, considering session members for the search committee and how to establish a search committee. Ethan Funk and Tom Crossett volunteered to be on the search committee. Pastor Morefield



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stated he would like to part of the search committee also. Three to four congregants are anticipated also for the committee. A called session meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 20, to determine a list for search committed members.

8. Tech Team: Chris Stackpole, representing the Tech Team, gave an update on the current situation of the network and associated wifi equipment. The current equipment was installed in 2012 and is being overloaded due to the increase in the number of devices connecting and the data usage. The current system also has security issues and limitations. Also, in approximately a year out, some currently in use Google devices will no longer be supported. Chris provided three options to consider; 1) to begin rebuilding the core network,...\$2130, 2) the next level of upgrade would cost be \$2980, and 3) replacement of the network infrastructure would be \$9500. No action was taken. Session will consider how to proceed.
9. Lake McGinty – Under Care: Pastor Morefield explained what it means for a pastoral student to come under care of the EPC. Mark Johnson made a motion to accept and recommend Lake McGinty to EPC to come under care of EPC. Tom Crossett seconded, a voice vote was held and the motion passed.

C. Team Reports

1. Worship
 - Update ? : Consideration of request to reinstate “meet & greet” time in Sunday a.m. services. The Meet and Greet time has been approved.
 - The schedule of services was provided for Holy week and Easter Sunday.
2. Outreach – gave a brief report, no major items noted.
3. Relationships – A motion from the team was made, to start the revamp the website prior to rebranding. Motion passed. Another motion from the team was brought forward, to place Conversations on Tithely and/or provide an electronic payment method (such as Venmo). Motion passed.
4. Discipleship – No report.
5. Coordinating – Provided an update sabbatical/leave considerations. A member submitted an inquiry regarding the status of women in ministry leader positions at GEPC. There has been no change regarding women in



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ministry leader roles, and women are not restricted from leadership roles by any policy of GEPC. The credit card reporting policy is being updated for tracking and auditing purposes. A vacation/leave calendar is being set up for the purpose of better tracking this time.

D. Clerk's Report

1. Team motions- Reminder/good practice to provide motions from teams prior to the meeting, to be included on the agenda.
2. Next Session Meeting: April 11, 6:30 p.m.
3. Presbytery April mtg., Apr. 24, The Crossing

E. Consent Reports

1. Deacon's Report: Not received.
2. Financial Report: Not received.

VII. **Adjournment and Closing Prayer:**

Mark Blakley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Tom Crossett. Motion passed.
Pastor Morefield closed the meeting with prayer at 10:26 p.m.