



Connecting Hearts, Renewing Lives

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
140 Gathering Place Lane | Iowa City, IA 52246
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Session Meeting

February 19, 2026 | 7 p.m.

Moderator: Pastor Carl Anderson

Session Members: Becky Benson (via zoom), Helen Bryce, Don Burch, Scott Fisher, Mary Hausler, Virginia Ibrahim-Olin, Austin Kannegieter, Paula McCue, Emily Neddermeyer, Josh Schilling, Judy Swafford, Jon Swearingen, Gregs Thomopulos (via zoom), and Munir Tanas.

Moderator: Pastor Carl Anderson

Excused Members: Aaron Gbson and Chloe Goers

Guests: Ted Potter, for the Pastor Nominating Committee

Devotions & Opening Prayer

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm. Pastor Carl read Phil 2:12 as tonight's devotion—"Do all things without complaining or bitterness ... shine like stars across the land ... you can be glad and celebrate with me." Prayer offered.

Amend/Approve Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda for tonight's meeting.

MSC

Motion: To give Ted Potter voice at this meeting.

MSC

Approval of Session Minutes

Motion: To approve the January session meeting minutes.

MSC

Motion: To approve the February Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes with one number to correct for budgeted income for 2025 (\$940,000 not \$960,000).

MSC

Electronic Motion: To schedule a congregational meeting for March 8, 2026 following worship for the purpose of electing a new lead pastor. MSC (Approved 2/8/26).

Consent Agenda

Motion: To approve the consent agenda. MSC

- **Team Reports from Act Justly, Personnel, and Worship.**

Leadership Team Reports

- **Transitional Pastor:** Pastor Carl will have his last day as transitional pastor at St Andrew on April 30.
- **Ministry Directors:**
 - **Online Staff Meeting Notes**
 - **Retreat 2027:** A Report on early staff brainstorming plans for an intergenerational, all church offsite, overnight weekend retreat in 2027 at Camp Bear Creek.
 - **Celebration of Ministry for Pastor Rob Martin:** Being scheduled for the 9:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday May 3, with a message delivered by Pastor Rob's friend and mentor, the Rev. Peter Boehlke. Pastor Rob will offer a few words at the end of the service. A reception in the Atrium will follow. May 3 is one week after Pastor Carl's final Sunday and

Clerk's Report:

- **Communion Stats:**
 - On Feb. 1, Pastor Carl Anderson oversaw communion being distributed to 201 people in-person (with 44 concurrent devices logged on, there was an estimated real time congregation of 297).
 - Communion was served at At The Table on Feb 5th by Pastor Carl with 30 people receiving. Communion was not served this year at the Women's Retreat on January 31st.
- **Baptism, New Members, and Roll Changes:** The member roll team plans to meet for an initial review of the rolls on February 24th .
- **Communion on Easter Sunday:** Session has no objection to serving all gluten free bread that Sunday. Discussed some of the plans deacons have begun for serving at 2 services.
- Need to resolve confusing statements in our bylaws regarding quorums:

- **B. Quorum.** *The Pastor, as moderator of the Session, or the moderator appointed by Presbytery, together with one-third of the duly elected Elders, shall constitute a quorum.*
- **L. Setting Quorum:** *During the final quarter of the calendar year, Session will set the quorum levels for its own meetings and Congregational meetings in the following calendar year.*
- **B. Quorum.** *A quorum shall be one tenth of the active membership of the congregation.*

Session set their meeting quorum in Dec 2025 as being a majority of members. Session members will review the By-Laws prior to the next meeting for further discussion on resolution of conflicting statements. The congregation will ultimately need to approve any updates.

- Church Statistical Report 2025 entered into the national portal earlier this week prior to the February 20th deadline.

Action & Discussion Items From Teams:

- **Pastor Nominating Committee**

- **Report:** The Pastor Nominating Committee is excited to share that it has reached an important milestone: our call to our candidate has been accepted, the Session has approved the Terms of Call and those terms fall within the already approved 2026 budget, the Presbytery of East Iowa's Commission on Ministry and Vitality has approved the candidate and the Terms of Call. The candidate will lead worship and preach to the St. Andrew congregation on Sunday, March 8, 2026. Following worship that day, a Congregational Meeting is scheduled to vote on calling the candidate as our next Pastor and Head of Staff. Assuming an affirmative vote on the part of the congregation, the candidate has agreed to an early May 2026 start date. We know this is a significant moment in the life of the church, and we are grateful for the congregation's patience, prayers, and care for one another as we take this next step together. Respectfully submitted, Ted Potter, on behalf of the PNC.

Motion: To move into executive session at 7:09 pm.

MSC

Motion: To exit executive session at 7:42 pm.

MSC

- **Mission, Outreach, and Service**

- **Discussed the monthly Team Report and a Report on St. Andrew's Unified Missions Giving (to Presbytery, Synod, and GA).**

- **Finance:** Elder Emily Neddermeyer noted that some people give their annual stewardship donations early in the year and some wait until later, so current numbers may be artificially

elevated. A closing date is in place for March on the land sale approved by the congregation for a small portion to Western Homes and Presbytery trustees will be approving the sale prior to that date. Austen was informed by the personnel team that the instrumental music director position is on hold due to financial considerations.

- **Building and Grounds: Elder Josh Schilling** reported that the pond was dredged this week. Some seeding will be needed. The team will then approach the city to get \$12,000 returned that they are holding until that dredging was completed. Sidewalk repairs will happen once weather allows. Electricity in the pop-up ministry room will be upgraded soon. Need to begin plans for landscaping around the building to reduce water retention in the near future.

Old Business

- **Building Usage:** Consider obtaining payment or donation by those using the building; for example- one time this winter we had to add snow removal to allow use of the building and the church had to pay an extra snow removal cost of approx \$700. May want to add a deposit of some sort. Plan to discuss further next month.

New Business

- With next month's meeting scheduled for Spring Break, Session typically rescheduled the meeting for either a week before (March 12) or a week after (March 26). Consensus was that only a few elders will be away for a quorum will still be able to meet March 19. Pastor Carl will be unable to attend so a guest moderator will be asked to preside.

Rocket Docket:

- **Reminders of upcoming events**
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 - **Presbytery Leadership Meeting | Feb. 24**
 - **Food Market | Feb. 25**
 - **BASIC Pancake Fundraiser | March 1**
 - **Iowa City Free Lunch | March 4**
 - **Lenten Potluck | March 5**
 - **At the Table | March 5**
 - **Night of 1,000 Dinners | March 6**
 - **Men's Retreat | March 7**
 - **Congregational Meeting to Vote on a New Pastor | March 8**
 - **Strike Up Some Fun @ BowlDogs | March 8**
 - **Senior Moments | March 17**
 - **Food Market | March 25**
 - **Palm Sunday | March 29**
 - **Iowa City Free Lunch | April 1**

- Maundy Thursday | April 2 | Potluck, 6 p.m.; Worship Service, 7 p.m.
- Good Friday | April 3
- Easter Sunday | April 5 | Worship Services, 7, 9, and 11 a.m. | Potluck Brunch, 8-11 a.m.
- St. Andrew Hosts Stated Presbytery Meeting | April 18
- Handbell Concert | April 18
- Senior Moments | April 19
- Food Market | April 22

Prayer: Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm with all attendees reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: March 19, 2026 at 7 pm

Respectfully submitted,

**Patricia Benson
Clerk of session**

**Rev Carl Anderson
Moderator**