



Connecting Hearts, Renewing Lives

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
140 Gathering Place Lane | Iowa City, IA 52246
www.saintandrew-ic.org | office@saintandrew-ic.org

Session Meeting

March 12, 2026 | 7 pm

Moderator: Pastor Carl Anderson

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

Moderator: Pastor Carl Anderson

UnExcused Members: Munir Tanas

Devotions & Opening Prayer: Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm by Pastor Carl Anderson who asked attendees how they are doing in their experience with God at this time. Some chaos, disconnection, and waiting, praying for the troubles in the world and seeking peaceful resolution, praying for positive outcomes and viewpoints, distracted, seeking truth, focused on oneself and family and grateful to God, connected through music of the season and to one another in our church family. Holding on in the midst of chaos it is good to articulate feelings and ok to lead others while we have our own struggles, all while we recognize God is with us.

Scripture offered and a prayer for the Holy Spirit's pursuit of us, for peace when overwhelmed for clarity and intention as church leaders and for the love of God.

Amend/Approve Agenda

Motion-to approve the agenda for this meeting.

MSC

Approval of Session Minutes:

- **February Session Meeting**

Motion-to approve the minutes of the February session meeting.

MSC

- **March 8, 2026 Congregational Meeting**

Motion-to approve the minutes of the March 8th congregational meeting.

MSC

Consent Agenda

Motion-to approve the consent agenda.

MSC

- **Team Reports:**
 - **Worship Team Notes**
 - **Worship Attendance and Online Statistics**
 - **Hospitality & Connection**

Leadership Team Reports

- **Transitional Pastor:** Pastor Carl Anderson discussed the following issue
 - Pastor Colette Soult's Continuing Role, seeking it to be a session-endorsed position for continuing her pastoral care ministry. The Personnel Team is also supportive of her continuing temporarily. Leadership and visioning will be new lead pastor Jordan Warntjes's focus, so her role would seem important to continue. Her position is budgeted for the entire year. There appears to be a felt need by many in the congregation for her to continue. Pastor Carl's final day of employment will be April 30th.

Motion-to affirm that Session desires the Rev. Colette Soult's to remain in her position as Pastoral Care Associate for the time being, and to send out a message to the congregation in an upcoming congregational email.

MSC

- **Ministry Directors:**
 - **Staff Notes**
 - **Music Ministry**
 - **Music Ministry Report**
 - **Communications & Media Ministry**
 - **Lent Messenger**
 - **Learning Academy Update**
 - **Date Selected for Intergenerational Retreat**

Clerk's Report:

- **Communion Stats:**
 - On Sunday March 1, Pastor Carl Anderson oversaw communion to 221 in-person, with 29 devices logged in concurrently, for an estimated real time congregation of 294.
 - On Thursday March 5, Pastor Carl Anderson oversaw communion to 40 people during the At the Table worship service.
- **Baptism, New Members, and Roll Changes:**
 - Electronic Motion: To accept 9 new members by reaffirmation of faith & transfer:**
 - **Duane and Alisa Staskal, by reaffirmation of faith**
 - **John and Sarah Linder, all by reaffirmation of faith,**
 - **Cindy King by transfer from Keokuk Presbyterian Church**

- **Joe, Carrie, Ian and Behla Schmidt by transfer from East Union Mennonite Church in Kalona**

Approved March 5, 2026 by 11 yes votes and 0 nay votes.

MSC

- **Presbytery:** St. Andrew is hosting the next Stated Presbytery Meeting on April 18, 2026, 10 am..

Action & Discussion Items From Teams:

- **Pastor Nominating Committee**-recommends the team be dissolved at the June Congregational Meeting or upon Pastor Jordan's completion of his installation.
 - **CLC Call Report**
- **Task Force for Celebrating Rob Martin's Ministry**-Elder Mary Ruhlow reported for the task force.
 - Working with former Pastor Rob Martin, the task force has scheduled a celebration of his ministry for Sunday worship on May 3, a Communion Sunday. Music will be provided by a combination of Music Ministry and Student Ministry, and the liturgy and hymns have been written by Pastor Rob.

Motion: to invite the Rev. W. Robert Martin III, to participate in a worship service on May 3 that includes a celebration of his nearly four years as St. Andrew's lead pastor. To invite Pastor Rob's mentor, the Rev. Peter Boehlke, to offer the message during that service. And to invite both of them to work with Pastor Colette Soult to offer communion that day. MSC

Motion: to send a letter, on behalf of Session, to the Presbytery of East Iowa's Commission on Ministry and Vitality to explain the intended purpose behind this special service. MSC

- **Mission, Outreach, and Service**-Elder Becky Benson reported for the team, along with Elder Don Burch. Payments by our own MOS team are authorized and approved for specific months in an annual document and MOS would like similar information from the Presbytery as to amounts they spend for various mission programs. The suggestion is to look at the agendas sent by the Presbytery prior to their regular meetings as this information may be contained therein..
- **March 2026 Minutes**
- **Finance**-Elder & Treasurer Emily Neddermeyer reported the memorial gift from Don Heineking is being received to apply to the building mortgage as stipulated. The unpaid loan balance as of 3/2/26 is therefore \$723,852. Income is so far outpacing expenses. We still owe ourselves from borrowing out of one of our funds approximately \$13,000 for overrun costs on the front entrance improvement project. Terms of call for the new pastor are within the 2026 budget.
 - **Monthly Packet**
 - **Finance Team Minutes**

- **Personnel**-Elder Austin Kannegieter reported for the team that they will have an interview with congregation member Wendy Lindberg about serving in a temporary role to fill Thomas Hartley's Children & Family Ministry position once he vacates this summer. There is still a mid-year pause on hiring an instrumental music director. The Personnel Policy Manual will be ready for distribution in March.
 - **Report for March**

- **Building and Grounds**-Elder Josh Schilling reported they review their budget each month and are approximately 50% through their budget for the year as of March. The pond has been dredged and will need some stabilization. The dredging fund will need to be replenished for use again in another 7-10 years. A clean-up day is being planned, possibly May 2nd. The sidewalk into the Hub may need to be turned into an ADA accessible access-will secure bids to see if feasible this year. Incident Report form available at front desk for any injuries so insurer can be notified in case of potential liability claims. The shower project desired by student ministry downstairs would cost approximately \$60,000, but there is not money in the current budget for this; there might be grants available which the student ministry director could pursue for this project once a true cost is known. A policy on use of these future shower facilities to protect children and adults would be needed. Prioritizing the giving to the capital campaign would be another direction to go as excess funds collected for this would go toward building improvements such as showers.

Old Business

- Bylaws update-needed a revised copy on the website and available to all, and this has now been done. Changes were approved by the congregation in Nov 2024. Thanks to Elder Scott Fisher for investigating this.

New Business

- Question from a congregant about seeking pastor emeritus status for Rob Martin-table it until May or after Pastor Jordan Warntjes has settled into his role as lead pastor. It is probably too soon for such a discussion but can be kept on the session radar for the future..

Rocket Docket:

- **Reminders of upcoming events**
 - **Senior Moments | March 17**
 - **Food Market | March 25**
 - **Lenten Film Discussion | March 26**
 - **Iowa City Handbell Festival | March 28**
 - **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
- Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil | April 4
- Easter Sunday | April 5 | Worship Services, 7, 9, and 11 a.m. | Potluck Brunch, 8-11 a.m.
- Session | April 16
- Presbytery Meeting | April 18
- Handbell Concert | April 18
- Senior Moments | April 21
- Food Market | April 22
- Pastor Carl's Final Sunday | April 26
- Guatemala Lunch Fundraiser | April 26
- Celebration of Pastor Rob Martin's Ministry | May 3
- Welcome Sunday for Pastor Jordan Warntjes | May 10

Prayer- meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm with recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: April 16, 2026 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**Patricia Benson
Clerk of session**

**Rev Carl Anderson
Moderator**