



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 Agenda

7 p.m. | May 28, 2026

Moderator: Pastor Jordan Warntjes

Session Members: Becky Benson, Helen Bryce, Don Burch, Aaron Gibson, Chloe Goers, Mary Ruhlow, Virginia Ibrahim-Olin, Austin Kannegieter, Paula McCue, Emily Neddermeyer, Josh Schilling, Judy Swafford, Jon Swearingen, Gregs Thomopulos.

Moderator: Pastor Jordan Warntjes

Excused Members: Scott Fisher, Unexcused: Munir Tanas

Devotions & Opening Prayer: Pastor Jordan opened the meeting at 7:01 pm. Shared scripture from Luke 22 where the disciples asked Jesus who is the greatest among them, saying I am among you as one who serves. Leadership is about serving and serving one another and role modeling. Andrew, the disciple, brought new people to Jesus. Our role is to help St Andrew bring people to Jesus and His way. Jordan's role & session's isn't to push a personal agenda but to lead and serve. Where do you see St Andrew being most like the disciple Andrew, bringing people in? Some examples mentioned were the monthly food market and children's ministry. As a session it can be easy to get caught up in the business side of the church and forget why we are called here. Prayer was offered.

Amend/Approve Agenda

Motion: To approve tonight's agenda, adding a brief report on Commissioned Ruling Elder progress for Ted Potter by Paula McCue, change Claire's baptism date, and receive an update on Pop-Up Ministry area's electrical progress. MSC

Approval of Session Minutes

Motion: To approve the session meeting minutes from April 16, 2026. MSC

Consent Agenda Team Reports:

- Deacons
- Worship Team
- Worship Attendance & Online Statistics
- Interiors Team (new booklet)

Motion: To approve the consent agenda. MSC

Leadership Team Reports

- **Staff Meeting Notes**
- **Pastor:** Moderator Jordan Warntjes reported on procedures to follow if ICE agents were to come to St Andrew. A proposal is being presented for elders to review and it will be placed on the June agenda for further approval. Having the policy with steps to follow on a card or half-sheet of paper for ease of access for anyone in the building.
 - Jordan likes to hold twice-yearly leadership connection gatherings, one probably happening this fall. Met with Pastors Rob Martin and Carl Anderson today. Has attended several team meetings in the past few weeks.
- **Ministry Directors:**
 - **Children's & Family Ministries:** Elder Emily Neddermeyer reported on excitement for the hiring of Wendy Lindberg as interim to fill the part-time role of director of Children & Family Ministries being vacated by Thomas Hartley. The interim role could last for 6-8 months minimum. Personnel is pausing any decision on the future make-up of the director position pending further evaluation of the best fit for our church's needs. VBS volunteers are still needed.
 - **Music**
 - **Communication & Media Ministry**
Draft Messenger June 2026
Team Roster 2025-26

Clerk's Report:

- **Communion Stats:** On May 3, Pastor Rob Martin oversaw communion served to 265 in person, with 34 devices logged in. On May 7, Pastor Jordan Warntjes oversaw communion served to 32 people during At The Table service.
 - The Hospitality and Welcome Team is encouraging elders to sign up for communion on June 7. (Assistance is also welcomed at the Information Kiosk on Sunday mornings after worship throughout the summer.)
- **Baptism, New Members, and Roll Changes:**
 - Request for Baptisms:
 - **Claire Kannegieter**, daughter of Allison and Austin on June 21 and **James John (JJ) Martin**, son of Katie and Steve on July 12.
Motion-to approve these 2 baptisms on the dates specified. MSC
 - Baptism scheduled for *Nyetiemi Miak* for May 31, awaiting scheduling for *Charlie Matasovsky*.
 - Newer members awaiting presentation on Sunday morning at worship include: Cindy King, Nathan Currie, Linda Maurer & her grandson Philip Markfort who missed confirmation on Easter.

- Request to transfer membership to St Andrew from **Elizabeth Rowland**.

Motion: To accept the transfer into St Andrew for Elizabeth Rowland. MSC

- Statistics update:
 - Removed from rolls prior to May 2026 were the following deceased members:
 - Pastor Emeritus Mark W Martin on 1/12/26 (non-member, former staff)
 - Leland (Lee) Witwer 3/15/26 age 85 Member #4512
 - Dean Oakes 3/21/26 age 89 Member #480
 - Jean Cox 3/26/26 age 96 Member #4683
 - Kevin Keith 4/15/26 age 73 Member #5033
- Requests received to remove from active member rolls for **Bruce and Lori Hudson** and **Michael Swafford**.

Motion: To remove these 3 names from the active member roles. MSC

- There was one transfer request out on 1/22/26 from Kay Weiler #4761 after reinstatement on 1/22/26
- Added to rolls prior to May 2026 were:
 - Jeff & Wendy Lindberg (she from a church in Ames, he from Kalona Mennonite) now members #5038, 5039
 - Sue West (from Colorado Springs PCUSA church) member #5037
 - Sarah Outterson-Murphy (from Gloria Dei Lutheran, Iowa City) member #5040
 - Cindy King (from Keokuk Presbyterian) member #5045
 - Joe & Carrie, Ian, and Behla Schmidt (from E Union Mennonite Kalona, IA) now members #5046, 5047, 5048, 5049
 - Linda Mauer-(from Washington Courthouse, Ohio Presbyterian) member #5050
 - Nathan Currie-(from San Antonio, Tx Holy Trinity Presbyterian) member #5051
- Confirmands added to rolls as of 1/22/26 approval and April presentation at worship were:
 - Julia Tilley Member #5052
 - Henry Tilley #5053
 - Phillip Markfort #5054
 - Viggo Brakke #5055
 - Nyaluit Miak #5056
 - Emily Vos #5057
 - Jack Linder #5058
 - Zack Penn #5059

Current membership prior to tonight's session meeting was 597. As of tonight the active membership rolls total 595.

- **Presbytery**

- **May 31** Open House at Camp Bear Creek.
- **Verbal report from Elder Helen Bryce** on April Presbytery Meeting held at St Andrew, which she and Scott Fisher attended as commissioners. There were several members in attendance including Elder Jon Swearingen, the worship service was meaningful and a lovely lunch was provided. A vote was held to close First Presbyterian in Mediapolis.
- **Helen explained the devotional from Presbytery, as noted in this message from the Out and About newsletter** (which may have been stimulated somewhat by our own MOS team's conversations with Presbytery last fall):
- *The PEIA Financial Sustainability Task Force* invites the Session of each congregation in East Iowa to help discern how God might be calling our presbytery to fulfill its shared mission together through **Unified Mission Pledges**. They created a **devotion** (available here: <https://peia.org/wp-content/uploads/Unified-Mission-Pledge-Devotion.pdf>) and a **survey** (<https://forms.gle/JPRFirka3kpBdgg68>) intended for use at a session meeting for prayerful collaboration. They would like to receive a single survey response per congregation by July 1st, 2026. Please [contact us](#) if you would like a physical hard copy of the devotion and survey.
- *Staff Note: In the 2026 Budget approved by Session, St. Andrew allocated \$19,374 to Unified Missions through the Presbytery of East Iowa – almost \$10,000 less than the Unified Mission given to the Presbytery in 2025. In January, we informally notified the Presbytery's treasurer, Larry Petrick, of the change in this year's mission giving.*

Action & Discussion Items:

- **Mission, Outreach, and Service:** Elder Becky Benson reported for the team on discussions with presbytery last year as to where they put donations and that our church wanted more opportunity to have input on where monies are spent.
- **Finance:** Elder Emily Neddermeyer reported on current income/expenses.
 - At 33% into the current budget year income is at 40% and expenses is at 33% of the annual budget estimate. We are monitoring expenses closely, especially operational costs.
 - An additional \$100,000 was paid on our building loan, so the loan balance is now \$563,149.
 - The Kelting Trust is still being reviewed & the hope is to bring options to session in June and vote in July on disbursement of these funds.
 - Emergency fundraising for an individual was proposed by Act Justly; these donations would not be tax deductible in the manner they were requested, a clear process is needed. Team plans to review/reorganize existing funds and how funds are used. Regarding the Deacon Fund, are we including the deacons when there are financial needs for emergencies that occur with congregants or community members? Having a fundraising policy would be helpful going forward.
 - If using an amount from the deacon fund for a person in need, a bill should be presented that can be paid directly or a voucher directed to a specific payee. A policy is needed for 1) designated funds, 2) microfundraising within the church, & 3) the deacon fund.

- Pastor Jordan will reach out to the family in need from Act Justly's communication to see if there are specific bills they need assistance with paying.
- **Building and Grounds**-Elder Josh Schilling reported on the upgrade to the electricity for the Pop-Up Ministry room, currently it will be about 12 weeks until the contractor can perform the work. The team is starting to run low on funds & expects to use all that was budgeted for this year.

**Motion: To recommend the proposal for MLC to complete the following: Fabricate and install all new countertops and substrate materials for the sum of \$6,270.
MSC**

- **Nominating Team**

**Motion: For Session to call a Congregational Meeting for after worship on Sunday, June 14, 2026, for the purpose of electing church officers and dissolving (with thanks) the Pastor Nominating Committee.
MSC**

- **Pastor Nominating Committee**

Motion: That Session set the installation service for Pastor Jordan Warntjes for 2 p.m. Sunday July 12, 2026, and authorize church staff to work with the Presbytery of East Iowa to coordinate what needs to be done for the service. MSC

- **Act Justly:** For statements like the one being presented in the motion it would help to add a call to action/reflection. Session determined this statement should be distributed via the mini messenger, announced via Pastor Jordan's weekly video, & added to the announcement slide at Sunday worship service comment was made that there will always be people who disagree with opinions and perspectives, yet this should not prohibit session from making a statement as leaders of the church.

- **Proposed Statement by Act Justly and Team of Session Members of Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church: *A Call to Moral Clarity***

We do not condone the oppressive human rights abuses of the Iranian Regime. We do not condone attacks on civilian targets or threats of genocide by our own Administration. We bring attention to the vulnerability of children and other marginalized people, even more so during a war.

We support diplomacy and humanitarian efforts as a means to show Christ's love and justice, and as the way toward a more just and peaceful region. The loss of life, destruction to infrastructure and services, and the environment is counterproductive to functional society.

While we appreciate the service of our military members and pray for their safety, our leaders must be held accountable to follow international law, and in all efforts to reduce regional tension.

We call upon the political establishment in Washington D.C., specifically our Congress, to show the courage necessary to end the use of American weapons and people for the war in Iran, and the use of American weapons and financial support for the conflicts in Palestine and Lebanon. Furthermore, we call upon Congress to uphold our laws and Constitution, and to take back the powers given to the Legislative Branch, usurped by the Executive Branch.

We ask Congress to exercise its rights, as spelled out in the Constitution and Amendments, and do whatever is necessary to make that happen, even if such principled courage puts the power, prestige, and political careers of individual politicians at risk. Now is the time for action!

Revised from April 2026 Presbyterian Peace Fellowship's statement *A Call to Moral Clarity*

Motion: To accept the above statement from Act Justly to be published in the mini messenger, Jordan's weekly video announcement, and the Sunday morning worship announcement slide.
MSC

- **Personnel:** Elder Austen Kannegieter reported for the team the desire to advertise for the instrumental music director position that would begin in the fall, for which \$4200 is allocated in the budget. Pastor Jordan plans to meet with the personnel team early in June to discuss future needs in regard to staff.

Old Business

- Elder Paula McCue reporting on Ted Potter's process to become a Commissioned Ruling Elder. They plan to meet once a month for support. The old term for this position is "Lay Minister." He is seeking prayers from the session as he continues his studies.

New Business

- **The Gifts and Memorials Team** needs a new coordinator as Graham Dameron needs to step down after faithful service. He will stay on through July or August until a replacement is secured.
- Elizabeth Bryce, a St Andrew member and the Presbytery of East Iowa's youth delegate, will attend the 227th General Assembly of the PC(USA) scheduled to take place in Milwaukee in June.

Rocket Docket:

- Thanks was extended to Jeff Charis-Carlson for his work on the Interiors Team informational booklet.

Prayer: Led by Pastor Jordan at 9:04 pm closed the meeting.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Patricia Benson
Clerk of Session**

**Rev Jordan Warntjes
Moderator**