



Connecting Hearts, Renewing Lives

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
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Session Meeting Minutes
6:30 p.m. | Orientation & Exam
7:30 p.m. | Meeting
July 16, 2026
Moderator: Pastor Jordan Warntjes

Session Members: Becky Benson, Helen Bryce, Don Burch, Scott Fisher, Aaron Gibson (outgoing elder), Virginia Ibrahim-Olin (outgoing elder), Austin Kannegieter, Paula McCue, Emily Neddermeyer, Josh Schilling, Judy Swafford, Jon Swearingen, and Munir Tanas.

Moderator: Pastor Jordan Warntjes

Excused Members: Chloe Goers, Gregs Thomopulos (outgoing elder), Mary Ruhlow (outgoing elder)

Scheduled Guests: Elders-elect Margaret Heidger, John Linder, Jessica Steele, and Adam Wolf

6:30 p.m. | ORIENTATION & EXAM: Pastor Jordan led a get-to-know-one-another activity and then provided those present with an overview of what it means to be called as an elder, general responsibilities, Presbyterian Church polity, a copy of the Church bylaws, a brief handout on Roberts Rules of Order, and St Andrew's organizational structure, followed by a brief tour of the building.

7:30 p.m. | SESSION MEETING

Devotions & Opening Prayer: Pastor Jordan Warntjes called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm. A devotion was shared by Jordan, with the comment that elders can sign up to share future devotions. He talked about the disciple our church is named for, Andrew, who wanted everyone to meet Jesus, a bleeding heart disciple wanting to include all. He was a relationship builder. The question of how our church is embodying St Andrew was asked with examples of community connections shared and comments such as, we are a church where everyone is a minister, the outside appearance of our building invites community connection via trees, garden, playground, our inclusion policy and statement of racial justice show a welcoming spirit. An opening prayer was offered to bless the meeting.

Amend/Approve Agenda

Motion: To allow guests to have a voice at the meeting. MSC

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented. MSC

Approval of Session Minutes:

Motion: To approve the session minutes from June 18, 2026. MSC

Consent Agenda

- **Team Reports:**
 - **Worship Attendance & Online Stats**

Motion: To receive the report. MSC

Leadership Team Reports

- **Pastor:** Jordan states he is continuing to learn about St. Andrew and appreciated the installation service last Sunday and is pleased to be here. Gratitude was expressed for those elders ending their term of service,
- **Pastoral Care:** Pastor Colette Soultz offered an update on her pastoral care ministry.
- **Ministry Directors:** Reports from the Music Ministry and several reports included in the most recent issue of The Messenger.

Clerk's Report:

- **Communion Stats:**
 - At the Table, 7 p.m. July 2: Pastor Jordan Warntjes oversaw the distribution of communion to 30 people.
 - Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m. July 5: Pastor Jordan Warntjes oversaw the distribution of communion to 187 in-person, with 29 devices logged in, for an estimated real time congregation of 250.
 - concurrent devices: 250, estimated real time congregation.
 - Pastoral Installation, 2 p.m. July 12: Pastor Jordan Warntjes oversaw the distribution of communion to 114 in-person, with 19 devices logged in, for an estimated real time congregation of 155.
- **Baptism, New Members, and Roll Changes:**
 - Baptism was held for Claire Kannegieter June 21, and for JJ Martin July 12
 - Baptism request for Wesley Mark Yrigoyen, son of Megan and Hunter Yrigoyen, on Aug. 9.

Motion: To approve the baptism on August 9th for Wesley Mark Yrigoyen. MSC

- **Correspondence:** Elder Paula McCue requested prayers for Ted Potter as he continues his studies for CRE (Commissioned Ruling Elder). He asked for prayers for intentional class preparation.

Action & Discussion Items From Teams:

- **Mission, Outreach, and Service:** Becky Benson mentioned the upcoming Big Table dinner sponsored by the Iowa Immigrant Welcome Network. If there are extra funds available this year it would be helpful to donate to global concerns in war-torn areas where children or women would benefit
- **Finance:** Jon Swearingen stated the church is at about 50 percent for income and expenses for the year. There are some new givers in the church. Tracking to end the year with a balanced budget
 - Designated funds not used in the past 5 years were compiled by the team and these funds could be reallocated within other funds or for other programs.
 - Kelting Trust Fund matured and session needs to designate where these funds go, preferably the mission fund administered by MOS Team. A 4% annual disbursement is recommended as this is how the other endowments are established.

- The funds are dispersed in the 4th quarter of the year, based on the value as of September 30.

Motion-Finance Team Recommendation: Rename “Session Discretion ii” to “Session Missions Fund” and continue to be administered by the endowment declaration with a 4% annual disbursement to missions (to be administered by the MOS team -not specified to overseas missions). MSC

- **Personnel Team:** Austin Kannegieter discussed hiring nursery caregivers under age 18 who would be assistant caregivers under supervision of an adult, and would receive financial compensation.
 - Recommendation for these youth to have FIRST AID training, CPR training, and would require undergoing the child protection protocol.
 - There was discussion around the CFM staff structure of 3 part-time personnel versus reconsideration of 1 part or full-time staff member; the director is currently an interim hire. Increased volunteerism could be encouraged as well.
 - Pastor Jordan also discussed the former associate pastor position, the pastoral care associate currently serving and willing to continue for a time. The budget does not currently allow for hiring an associate pastor.
 - The potential for hiring the organist as the instrumental music director in addition to her current position and if she is interested; there would be a need to provide benefits for this combined position.

Motion: To approve the \$2,160 additional cost in hiring Julia Van Den Top as instrumental music director as well as organist. MSC

- **Building and Grounds:** Josh Schilling reported for the team.
 - The coffee counter repair will be delayed for a little longer, and the electrical system upgrade for the Pop-Up Ministry area is also still awaiting completion.
 - There will be a work day this fall to remove some mulch areas and plant grass to decrease our grounds maintenance.
 - There have been a lot of bird kills with the new glass covered entry area and some safety measures will need to be considered (stickers, etc).

New Business: Pastor Jordan listed three areas for elders to think about St Andrew in the coming weeks:

- what should we preserve,
- what can we adapt, and
- what can we let go.

Rocket Docket:

- **Reminders of upcoming events**
 - **Next Steps | July 19**
 - **Food Market | July 22**
 - **Guatemala Mission Trip | July 25 - Aug. 1**
 - **Synod School | July 25 - July 31**
 - **Free Lunch | Aug. 5**
 - **At the Table | Aug. 6**
 - **Big Table | Aug. 7**
 - **Girls Rock! | Aug. 10-14**
 - **Fields of Faith Harvest | Aug. 15**

- Senior Moments | Aug. 18
- School Year's Eve | Aug. 23
- Food Market | Aug. 26
- Ministry Fair | Aug. 30
- Free Lunch | Sept. 2
- At the Table | Sept. 3
- Big Table | Sept. 4
- Office Closed (Labor Day) | Sept. 7
- Sunday School Kickoff | Sept. 13
- Celebrating All Abilities Sunday | Sept. 13
- At the Table | Oct. 1
- Big Table | Oct. 2
- World Communion Sunday | Oct. 4
- Free Lunch | Oct. 7
- Fields of Faith Harvest | Oct. 10
- Evicting the American Dream | Oct 11
- Senior Moments | Oct. 20
- Trunk or Treat | Oct. 25
- Food Market | Oct. 28
- All Saints Sunday | Nov. 1
- Free Lunch | Nov. 4
- At the Table | Nov. 5
- Craft Fair & Minds Matter | Nov. 7.

Prayer: 8:43 pm meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Jordan.

Next Meeting: 7 p.m. August 20, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Benson
Clerk of session

Rev Jordan Warntjes
Moderator