Connecting Hearts, Renewing Lives

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
140 Gathering Place Lane | Iowa City, IA 52246
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Session Meeting Minutes
7 p.m. | August 20, 2026
Moderator: Pastor Jordan Warntjes
Session Clerk: Patricia Benson

Session Members: Becky Benson, Austin Kannegieter, Scott Fisher, Emily Neddermeyer (via zoom), Munir Tanas, Helen Bryce, Don Burch, Judy Swafford, Jon Swearingen, Margaret Heidger, John Linder, Josh Schilling, Jessica Steele, Adam Wolf.
Moderator: Pastor Jordan Warntjes
Excused Members: Chloe Goers, Paula McCue

Devotions & Opening Prayer: Pastor Jordan opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. with John 13 scripture as a devotion, wherein Jesus washes the disciples' feet. This scripture is an example of servant leadership. It connects honor and shame in the ancient world. As leaders one often makes unpopular decisions, but are still called to lead people to what is best. Prayer offered for guidance.

Amend/Approve Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

Motion: To approve all items and actions in the consent agenda. **MSC**

Approval of Session Minutes:

- July 2026 Session Meeting Minutes

Team Reports:

- Food Ministry Team
- Interiors Team
- Mission Outreach and Service Team
- Building and Grounds Team
- Finance Team Report and July Packet

Staff Reports:

- Pastor
- Children and Family Ministry
- Music
- Staff Briefing

Clerk's Report:

- **Communion Stats:** Sunday, August 2, 2026 239, served in-person, 46, concurrent devices on-line or **338**, estimated real time. During the Aug. 6 At The Table service, Pastor Jordan served communion to 30 attendees,
- **Baptism, New Members, and Roll Changes:**
  - ***Baptism*** for Wesley Mark Yrigoyen, Megan and Hunter's son, on August 9.
  - ***Transfer requests* for new members to St Andrew:**
    - Michelle Warntjes (New Hope Presbyterian of Castle Rock, CO),
    - Janet Findlater (First United Methodist Church of Marengo, Iowa.),
    - John and Sherri Bergstrom (First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn, Ill),
    - Jim and Deb Tometz from 1st Presbyterian Deerfield, Ill,
    - Cathy Kruse from Grace Community Church of N Liberty.
    - Bill & Sarah Pringle from St Mark's UMC in Iowa City.
- **Presbytery News:** 1) New elders sign up for Out and About newsletter
  2) Upcoming Presbytery meetings
    - Sept 19, Camp Bear Creek, 10 a.m.
    - Nov 14, Ely First Presbyterian, 10 a.m.
    - Feb 4, 2027 (zoom), 6-8 p.m.
    - April 24, 2027 (in person and zoom), 10 a.m.
    - Sept 18, 2027 (in person only), 10 a.m.
    - Nov 18, 2027 (in person and zoom), 1-3 p.m.

Action & Discussion Items:

- **Team Assignments for elders for 26-27:** Elders will consider their gifts & strengths and determine team assignments at the September meeting. The following teams are priority for elder service:
  - *Finance Team*
  - *Personnel*
  - *Worship Team*
  - *Child Protection Policy Team*
  - *GIfts and Memorials Team*
  - *Nominating Team*

- ***Elect Session Clerk & other positions requiring session approval.***

Motion: To elect Patricia Benson as session clerk for the 2026-27 program year. MSC
Motion to elect Helen Bryce, Scott Fisher, and Becky Benson as commissioners and John Linder as an alternate commissioner to Presbytery meetings for 2026-27. MSC

- ***Elect President of the Corporation & Treasurer***

  Motion: To elect Jon Swearingen as president of the corporation for the 2026-27 program year. MSC

  Motion-to elect Emily Neddermeyer as treasurer and Michelle DeGroot as assistant treasurer. MSC

- ***September Session Meeting Date Change***

  Motion: To move September session meeting to 7 p.m Thursday Sept 24. MSC

- ***Finance Team Motion***

  Motion: That Session reallocate inactive designated funds as listed into existing and active designated funds as listed in finance team minutes. MSC

  From packet, potential action items included in the motion:
  - **Pat Wood Memorial** (From Staff Meeting Aug 4th)
    - St. Andrew member Pat Dustin Wood died in 2025, and more than $2,000 in memorial gifts was received in her honor. Her family has expressed interest in using these funds to support new Sunday School initiatives at St. Andrew.
    - There is currently a Sunday School Projects line item with a balance of $126. Staff recommend adding the Pat Dustin Wood Memorial Fund to this line item as a one-time allocation, making the combined funds available to the Children's & Family Ministry Team for future Sunday School projects.
    - **ACTION: Transfer the Pat Wood Memorial Fund to the Christian Education: Sunday School Projects.**
  - Other Programs: Community Outreach
    - Community Outreach has a balance of $2,314.98 and appears to have been used for expenses typically covered by the Deacons Fund.
    - We found no documented purpose or stated guidelines outlining the intended use of this fund.
    - **ACTION: Transfer the Other Programs: Community Outreach Fund to the Deacon's Fund.**
  - Christian Education: Community Outreach
    - Christian Education Community Outreach has a balance of $ 619.00.

        - Not active since 2011.
        - **ACTION: Transfer the Christian Education: Community Outreach to the Christian Education: Children and Family Ministry designated fund.**
    - Fellowship: TRUE Moms
        - TRUE Moms has a balance of $108.35
        - Not active since 2018.
        - **ACTION: Transfer Fellowship: TRUE Moms into Other Programs: Women's Ministry designated fund**
    - MOS: Storm Damage Relief
        - Storm Damage Relief has a balance of $830.00
        - Not active since September 2020
        - **ACTION: Transfer MOS: Storm Damage Relief to the MOS designated fund.**
    - Music: Agape Choir
        - Agape Choir has a balance of $282.89
        - Not active since 2017
        - Austen and Laura would like to transfer these funds to the named **Bell Refurbishment Fund**. This fund will be used to accumulate annual budgeted transfers over the next 10 years, ensuring that money is set aside to cover the future refurbishment of the church bells when it becomes necessary.
        - **ACTION: Transfer the Music: Agape Choir funds to the Bell Refurbishment Fund**
    - Christian Education: Small Group Child Care
        - Small Group Child Care has a balance of $65.00
        - Not active since January 2019
        - **ACTION: Transfer to Children's and family ministry designated fund**

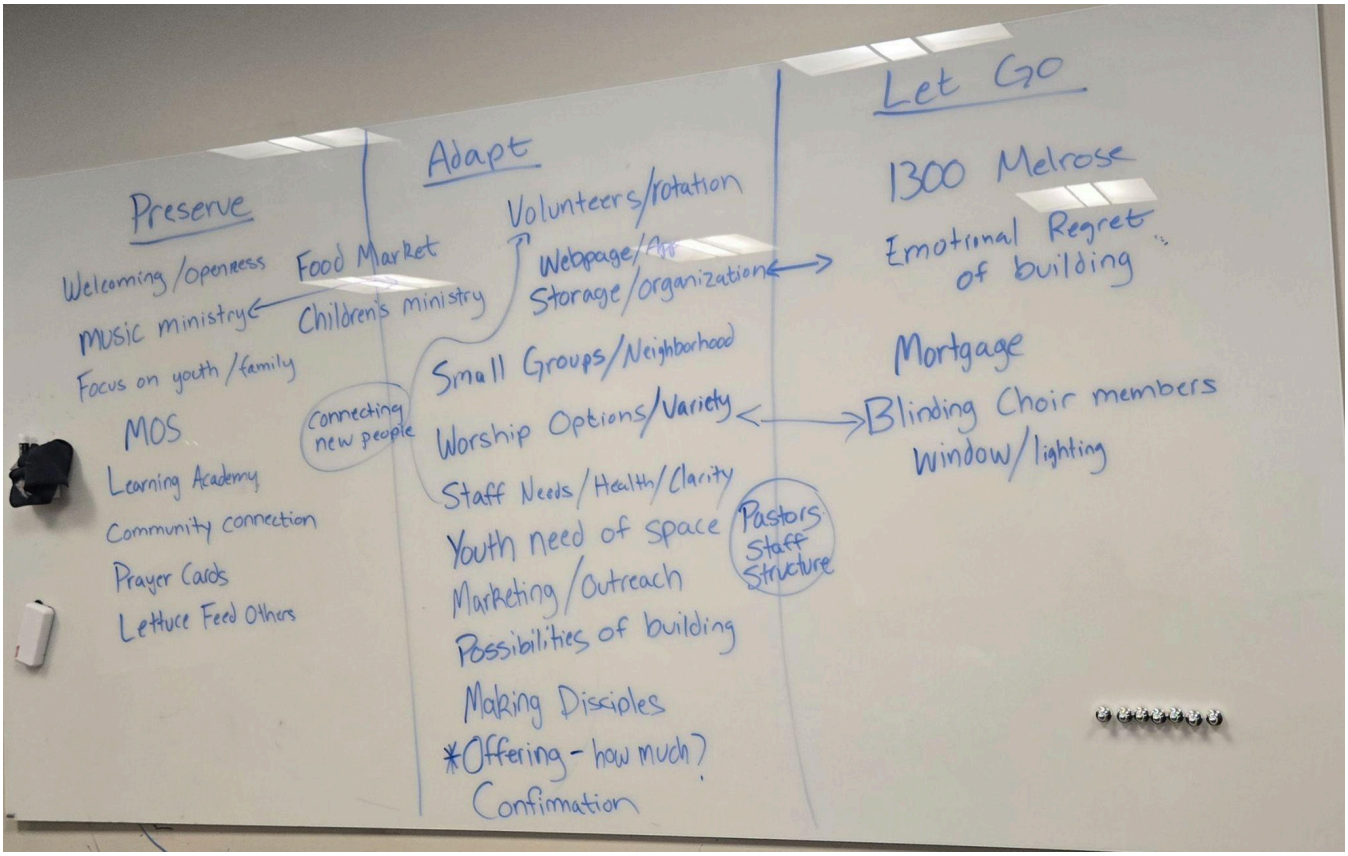
- **<u>Land Sales Team considerations</u>:** Elder Josh Schilling reported on considerations from the team for Session to review; he was invited to attend the team's meeting as a rep from session & to report feedback from session. There is still a piece of property called the South Triangle for sale; only 4 acres out of the 8 total are usable; it is listed at approx $1 million. In general, the team wants to understand how fast we want to sell and if we should consider a different approach to selling the parcel.
  Questions to consider are as follows:

    - Does the team want to change the price (up or down)? -$467K still owed on our building. -Our loan payment balloons at the end of 2027. -Approx 1 year, 8 months would pay off the building if we keep repaying at the current monthly rate. -There would be a little less than $200K left to refinance. -There seems to be no hurry to sell the property at this time. -Excess income from any sale not used to repay loan would go into a building upkeep/maintenance fund.
    - Would the team consider selling a parcel east of the church to allow a pass thru road for Western Homes? -Are there ecological concerns in regard to wetlands, etc?. -Western Homes may be interested in this concept of having another road access. -It would be approx $1 million in cost to put a bridge across the creek.

- Would we accept a contract to sell where Saint Andrew would finance the land to a buyer? -The Finance Team is concerned about this idea and wouldn't recommend it.

Jon Swearingen will become a member of the land sales team as president of the corporation.

Preserve - Adapt - Let Go / Visioning Exercise: See photo of comments from session as visioning exercise was led by Pastor Jordan.



Rocket Docket:

- Reminders of upcoming events
- School Year's Eve | Aug. 23
- Food Market | Aug. 26
- Ministry Fair | Aug. 30
- Here's the Scoop: We Love Our Volunteers | Sept. 1
- 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& Art Exhibit | Sept. 13
- Senior Moments | Sept. 15

- Food Market | Sept. 23
- At the Table | Oct. 1
- Big Table | Oct. 2
- World Communion Sunday | Oct. 4
- Free Lunch | Oct. 7
- Dane Farm Hay Ride | Oct. 10
- Fields of Faith Harvest | Oct. 10
- Evicting the American Dream documentary, Act Justly | 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
- Senior Moments | Nov. 17
- Food Market | Nov. 18

Prayer-8:53 pm closing prayer was given by Pastor Jordan

Next Meeting: September 24, 2026 at 7 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Patricia Benson
Clerk of session

Rev Jordan Warntjes
Moderator