

Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church  
Minutes of the Session Meeting  
March 22, 2017  
Heidger House

**Present: Elders:** Mark Beerends, Patti Benson, Sarah Brakke, Jeff Charis-Carlson, Gene Dierking, Cindy Kasper, Cecilia Norris, Jenny Pigge, Aaron Shileny, Dan Steele, Cindy Vondehaar, Bruce Walker and Jan Waterhouse. **Pastors:** Matt Paul and Kyle Otterbein. **Guests:** Heather Woodin, Margaret Heidger (elder-elect)

**Excused: Elders:** Kathy Duys and Kelly Lamb.

A quorum was established at and Matt opened the meeting in prayer at 7:07 p.m.

**Motion to approve the following consent items:**

**MSC**

**MOS Locally Determined Benovolences:**

- \$300 in support of an October 2018 AIM workshop, pending approval of \$225 from the Presbytery of East Iowa, and \$525 from the Omaha Presbytery Foundation
- Up to \$75 for postage costs for distribution of "What the Access and Inclusive Mission Program (AIM) is saying to the Church" produced by Marcia Murphy and AIM
- \$2,190 in support of the June 2018 Iowa City Feed My Starving Children Mobile Food Pack

Approve of an amendment to the New Horizons lease extending it through December 31, 2017, with a clause allowing St. Andrew to terminate the agreement with 30 days' written notice.

**Motion: Approve minutes from the February 12 Annual Congregational Meeting.**

**MSC**

**Motion: Approve minutes from the February 22 Session Meeting.**

**MSC**

**CLERK'S REPORT**

A letter from Pete and Lois Hatch was distributed to all the Session members.

**Motion: Approve baptism request for Nathan John Wolf, son of Adam and Jessica Wolf, born June 21, 2016.**

**MSC**

**PASTOR REPORTS**

Pastor Matt gave a report from the recent mission trip to Guatemala. He will share more of the lessons learned during his sermon on Sunday. He also offered prayer requests for Kaye Eckhardt, who has pancreatic cancer, and ongoing prayers for the Hendrickson family, who are recovering from a car crash.

**PRAYERS OF DISCERNMENT**

Pastor Matt led the members in a period of prayers for discernment for the difficult discussions on the agenda for the night—the focus was on prayers for comfort, peace, wisdom and continued fellowship.

**ROCKET DOCKET**

- Dan Steele, on behalf of the Land Sales Team, announced that some Camp Cardinal property has been sold, with net proceeds coming in at \$682,000. The money already has gone over to Two Rivers Bank with the intent of reducing the church's loan amount.
- Jeff Charis-Carlson reported that the Session is still in need of a clerk. He asked for members to offer some suggestions for people to contact.
- Pastor Matt reported the opening of the new building at the Camp Cardinal property has been pushed back until Sept. 15. The sign on the property has been changed to read "Welcoming you THIS YEAR."

**NEXT CHAPTER UPDATE**

A draft of the Recipe Book has been collected and distributed.

Pastor Matt reviewed the visioning process to date and how the recipe book fits within that framework. We have been considering three main questions: *Who is St. Andrew? What is God calling St. Andrew to become? How are we going to get there (or live into that vision)?* The recipe book represents guidance for the last question. Heather Woodin reported that about 100 people participated and submitted about 75 recipes. Those participants represent about 75 households.

The next step in the process is to have session and ministry teams select recipes to try out. Heather and Sarah Brakke described recipes for nursery care and a group for mothers of pre-schoolers that the Children's Ministry Team is considering. Elders are asked to come to the April 23 cookbook unveiling ready to share ideas their teams are going to work on.

There was discussion about binders for the cookbooks and Session decided by consensus to call on members of the congregation to bring unused folders to the church to be used. Office staff will buy a few folders to ensure that some are available. Pastor Matt will bring an estimate of the cost back to Session to decide whether it should be paid out of the office supply budget or out of Session's discretionary funds.

### **WEDDING POLICY**

Session members discussed multiple small changes to the draft policies of the introductory letter, statement of inclusion and wedding policy developed by the ad hoc group. The group took notes and will bring a new draft back to Session.

**Motion: Move to extend discussion by 13 minutes.**

**Motion: Move to extend discussion by 15 minutes.**

With no substantial changes offered to the proposed policy and accompanying statement, the Session decided to formally confirm that the ad hoc committee was moving in the right direction.

**MSC  
MSC**

**Motion: Session will create a Wedding Policy in accordance with (or in the spirit of) the Book of Order as well as a statement of inclusion to represent St. Andrew's core values, our commitment to welcome and hospitality, our desire to honor our tradition of theological diversity, and our emphasis on being a community united in Christ.**

**The vote was 13-2.**

**MSC**

### **REOPENING THE BACK DOOR**

Pastor Kyle provided a short discussion of the "Reopening the Back Door" book that will be the subject of the joint elders/deacons meeting on Saturday. Kyle suggested that Session members start with Chapter 15 before then turning to the beginning of the book. He also suggested they keep notes for when the process-oriented approach advocated by the author proves to be at odds with practices in place at St. Andrew.

### **PASTOR MATT'S QUARTERLY EVALUATION**

Session discussed the feedback provided by the Personnel Team on Matt's quarterly evaluation. As part of the recommendations, Matt asked elders about whether they would like minutes or reports from all of the ministry teams. There was some discussion about whether this would be helpful or burdensome, though there was apparent consensus that Finance and CCBT reports would be most important. After discussion the elders were asked to share one or two highlights from their team meetings during the rocket docket at the monthly meetings; the monthly dashboard being developed by the Finance Team may provide the key information that Session members are looking for in their minutes; CCBT monthly reports are submitted to the Messenger but will be posted on document site.

### **GIFTS AND MEMORIAL TEAM NOMINATIONS**

**Motion: Accept the nominations to appoint: Deb Fick (chancel guild), Bruce Walker (elder), and Marylu Watkins**

**MSC**

**(capital campaign team) to the Gifts & Memorials Team, as requested at the February meeting.**

DRAFT

**IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE BANNER**

**Motion: To leave up the "Refuges and Immigrant Welcome" banner.**

**MSC**

There was a discussion over when the pastors would need to bring such a decoration to Session's attention. In this case, because of the size of the banner, because it was hung outside the church and because of the political import, Session should have been consulted.

**OTHER ITEMS**

**MOTION: No solicitations be made for gifts outside of currently defined building project except as approved by Session 1) unless there is clear evidence that it is necessary to honor the givers' interest or 2) until building debt service is balanced within the general operating budget.** Tabled

The meeting was closed in prayer at 10:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Charis-Carlson  
Clerk of Session, *pro tem*

Matt Paul  
Moderator

DRAFT