

Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church
Minutes of the Session Meeting
April 19, 2017
Heidger House, 708 7TH Avenue, Coralville

Elders present: Mark Beerends, Patti Benson, Sarah Brakke, Jeff Charis-Carlson (virtually) Gene Dierking, Kathy Duys, Margaret Heidger, Cindy Kasper, Kelly Lamb, Cecilia Norris, Jenny Pigge, Aaron Shileny, Dan Steele, Cindy Vonderhaar, Jan Waterhouse.

Pastors present: Matt Paul, Kyle Otterbein.

Guests: Marylu Watkins, Jason Schuchert, Matthew Penning and Heather Woodin.

Excused: Elder Bruce Walker

A quorum was established and Matt opened the meeting in prayer at 7:08 p.m.
Ann Ford was identified as clerk pro-tem.

Agenda: Gene Dierking said the agenda seemed too long to him and could be shortened if the Session functioned less as a committee in certain areas. The agenda for tonight was approved as presented.

MSC

Motion to approve the following consent items:

MSC

Kelting Fund Disbursements:

\$1,200 for the mission of Alex and Patricia Ludvick with Mission Aviation Fellowship

\$1,200 to support Samantha Anderson's four-week internship with IMPACTO Ministries in Guatemala

Locally Determined Benevolences:

\$3,000 in support of Dr. Perry and Beth Oakes, Wycliffe Bible Translators

\$2,500 Camp Wyoming

\$3,000 for the Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County summer program scholarships

CLERK'S REPORT:

Approval of the minutes of the March 22 Meeting (corrected two dates from 2018 to 2017)

Approval of the minutes of April 4 Special Session Meeting

MSC

MSC

PASTORS' REPORTS

Pastor Kyle had no report. Matt expressed his thanks to all for the Holy Week and Easter celebrations. Matt noted upcoming events including the May 8 Special Session meeting to review his 360 survey data with Personnel Team. That meeting will be held at the Lepic-Kroeger Realtors office. Matt also asked if there were any volunteers to attend the April 25 Presbytery meeting in Wapello.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

The meeting continued with a reading from 1 Peter 1:3-9 and prayers of thanksgiving.

ROCKET DOCKET

Several upcoming calendar events were mentioned. Reminder to please complete your evaluations for Pastor Matt and return them to Deb Wretman; Gene: Project progress: Apex has added workers to our project, the concrete work is almost finished, siding is going up, and there

are rough ins for electricity. Camp Cardinal Building Team is planning a lunch for the workers, perhaps in June. June 18th has been set for a congregational gathering at the site. Patti: organ committee, reported that Dobson Pipe Organ Builders have given us an Oct 9th date for installation, but if it cannot be done then, their next installation date would be in summer 2018; Dan reported that the City seemed amenable to increasing the condominium density for the NW lot, and added density would allow for a higher sale price to offset the cost of extending Camp Cardinal Road. Kyle: Connection team will work on training for greeting and ushering.

FINANCE/TREASURER'S REPORT

Jason Schuchert reported on the new online Dashboard recording finances, construction, and attendance. We are net positive for the year. Camp Cardinal finish date is now projected for September 15th.

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS TEAM REPORT

Marylou sought feedback on gift recognition. There was a consensus that gift recognition plaques would be appropriate to honor certain gifts, but Session agreed that any such recognition should be done in such a way that honors all gifts equally. The Gifts & Memorials Team will use this feedback to formulate a proposal on recognition of donors to the capital campaign and report back to Session.

As part of the discussion of the list of proposed gifts from the Gifts & Memorials Team, Heather reported on some initial concepts for a play-scape because a family has offered it as a gift in memory of a loved one. It was agreed that she and the team could proceed with planning and present a final design to Session for approval.

Matthew Penning reported that a member offered to purchase a piano from West Music, a 7'8" Yamaha grand piano, formerly used in the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City.

Matthew and Matt noted that the piano has already been purchased and donated to take advantage of additional discounts that were set to expire. Both gift offers were over and above any capital campaign contributions and were specific to those projects.

Motion: To continue the discussion of the gifts policy.

MSC

Discussion continued, particularly about special gifts outside of the project budget, or scope of work. It was reiterated that the Gifts & Memorials Team does not solicit gifts, and that staff members were seeking guidance for when people approach them with offers to contribute toward specific ministry needs.

Motion: To approve the list of proposed gifts from the Gifts and Memorials Team, with the addition of chancel furniture.

MSC

SOLICITATION OF GIFTS

Motion: remove the motion regarding solicitation of gifts from the table.

MSC

Motion: no solicitations be made for gifts outside of currently defined building project (with costs) 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.

MSC

WEDDING POLICY FORUM

The ad hoc team described their proposal for the format of the April 23 forum meeting and a questionnaire/feedback form. Jan went over the process we will use. An all-church e-mail will

be sent to announce the format of the forum and invite people to complete the questionnaire by April 30.

Motion: To approve proposed format of April 23 forum and accompanying questionnaire/feedback form.

MSC

Motion: To commission the ad hoc team to schedule another congregational forum on May 14th, should they deem it necessary on this topic.

MSC

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Cecilia reported that Gayle Kruse had volunteered to serve on the Child Protection Policy Team.

Motion: To appoint Gayle Kruse to the Child Protection Policy Team

MSC

Gayle's appointment to the team will be reported to the congregation at the June meeting to elect officers.

EVALUATION FOLLOW-UP REPORT FROM PASTOR MATT

Pastor Matt reported on the follow-up trust/relationship building conversations he held with members of Session, staff, and Personnel Team between December 1 and March 30. He said he realizes that more time may be required on his part to listen and respect the time people put in, but that the conversations were helpful. He invited elders to share their thoughts if there was anything he was missing from the summary he provided. Elders thanked Matt for the opportunity to comment.

REOPENING THE BACKDOOR FOLLOW-UP

Pastor Kyle sought feedback from the March book discussion of *Reopening the Backdoor*, and on next steps. As many elders had not attended the joint meeting with the deacons in March, Kyle will try to schedule another discussion on a Sunday morning between services.

PROJECT UPDATE

Matt revisited the project update item, saying the next congregational project update be given on June 11th in conjunction with the congregational meeting to elect officers. This was agreed to by consent. Finance and CCBT are asked to present a preliminary plan for the presentation at next Session meeting.

IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE BANNER

Kathy Duys had requested time to reconsider this topic. A banner supporting refugee families was put up at Saint Andrew at Christmas and one member objected and wrote a letter to elders dated March 8th. The objecting member was invited to come and discuss it tonight but did not reply to the invitation. Session discussed the banner and whether a new message should be displayed.

Motion: To find a new welcoming message which supports our purpose statement and to replace the current banner when the new one is ready.

MSC

The meeting was closed in prayer at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Ford
Clerk of Session, pro tem

Matt Paul
Moderator