

Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church  
Minutes of the Session Meeting  
May 17, 2017  
Phelan, Tucker, Mullen, Walker, Tucker & Gelman Law Offices  
321 E. Market St, Iowa City

**Elders present:** Mark Beerends, Patti Benson, Sarah Brakke, Kathy Duys, Margaret Heidger, Kelly Lamb, Jenny Pigge, Aaron Shileny, Dan Steele, Gene Dierking, Cindy Kasper, Cindy Vonderhaar

Excused: Jeff Charis-Carlson, Cecilia Norris, Bruce Walker, Jan Waterhouse

**Guest:** Peg Hausler

**Pastors present:** Matt Paul, Kyle Otterbein

A quorum was established and Matt opened the meeting in prayer at 7:20 p.m.

Ann Ford was identified as clerk pro-tem

**MSC**

**Motion** to adopt the agenda/MOS consent agenda

**MSC**

**Motion** Approval of the following minutes:

April 19 Session Meeting

**MSC**

May 8 Special Session Meeting: Conditionally accepted: replace section on goals with Deb's goals statement.

**Pastors' Reports**

Kyle: Meeting of pastors with new members, with Kathy D, Cecilia and Margaret attending. To be received into membership on May 21: Steven Sperry, by transfer of church membership from Golden Isles Presbyterian Church, St. Simons Island, GA., joined 5/14/17; Karolyn Wanat, by reaffirmation of faith, joined 5/14/17, and Nancy Ann Barth, joined by Profession of Faith and Baptism, joined 5/21/17

**MSC**

Matt: Nathan Wolf baptized. Matt is requesting vacation time May 28 to be away for graduation and June 25, when we will have a guest preacher, from Pakistan.

**Motion** Allow this vacation time for Matt

**MSC**

The Florence Williams memorial service will be at First Presbyterian Church next week. Matt met with Harry Hoyt of COM and another from Presbytery about evaluation.

**We Proclaim God's Word**

John 14:15-21: scripture on the paraclete and brief discussion about how we feel the presence of the Holy Spirit.

**Motion:** Approve the 4/19/17 Session meeting minutes

**MSC**

**Motion:** Approve 5/8/17 special Session meeting minutes conditionally, with change in section on goals to the section from Deb's doc.

**MSC**

**Rocket docket** Mark Construction proceeding well, Kelly Sunday building tour went well, Patti reported on organ and need for more space for organ and mistake in design in organ loft, may be

able to get organ in earlier than Oct 9<sup>th</sup> if the space is ready. Kathy said Stronghold went well and VBS was great, faith camp this week, Margaret reported on float for July 4<sup>th</sup> Cindy outdoor ministry going well. Kyle training for hospitality team and importance for transition. Marriage class still going. Kyle talking about Deacons also serving communion – need more elders. Matt talking with staff about moving into the new building. 1<sup>st</sup> 2 Sunday “soft” opening, 3<sup>rd</sup> publicized. Sermon texts into Sept will be Abraham, Isaac, Joseph. Moving on. In Oct. series on 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protestant reformation.

The next special session meeting with Harry Hoyt June 27<sup>th</sup> will follow up on Pastor evaluation. The Organ Committee received one donation of \$32,000 and another of \$4,500. There will be a joint service at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian with SAPC musicians and 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian musicians in June. Coming up: Training for ushers and greeters and for home communion by Elders. Gifts and Memorials Committee members report that they want a book showing all gifts for the new building in the office, and they need a plan to acknowledge “significant” gifts, like \$32,000 for organ, though the title will be something else. Building and grounds meeting last week, for organizing, breaking down the duties and setting priorities for the new building. CCBT walked through the building and made some adjustments, adding casework (cabinets), which were left out of the plans, and a Dutch door at the children’s area.

### **Strategic Planning exercise**

Matt distributed a sheet with the strategic planning exercise, plans to fulfill our goals.

**Motion:** Form a strategic planning team to work on steps 1-4 of outline and bring a report to Session at the June Session meeting. Amendment: moderator will appoint team including 3 current session members, 2 staff members and 3-4 at-large members

**MSC**

### **New Business**

- **Financial Dashboard** Analyzing finances and attendance and the building costs and progress. Attendance is up from last year. The finances are tight but adequate for the new building.

**Nominating Team Report/Congregational Meeting** (slate sent) We still have openings for the Nominating Committee and Elders. Bruce presented the report and slate.

**Motion:** To call a congregational meeting on June 11 at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of electing officers and receiving a project update from Finance and CCBT.

**MSC**

- **Agenda Planning Team**

Jenny and Sarah reported on plans to help incoming Elders receive training and orientation. Each new Elder will have a mentor to explain expectations and obligations, how the usual meetings go, and that meetings are open, with minutes posted.

- **Ideas for shortening agendas and meetings.** Use Roberts Rules more strictly to control time. Use teams as much as possible to focus discussion better, prepare motions and speak for or against the motion.
- **Statement of Inclusion/Wedding Policy**

Pastors may prepare a guide to help in teaching youth group about the issue. We will address that later.

**Motion :** To approve the SAPC statement of inclusion and wedding policy. MSC

**Motion**

: Dismiss the wedding policy ad hoc group with thanks. MSC

- **Welcome Banner**

**Motion:** To replace the “Immigrants and Refugees Welcome” banner with one with the message: “In Christ there is no stranger. Welcome!”. MSC

**New Business**

We discussed the Nicholsons’ proposal about using Tonya’s memorial fund of \$11,000+, having looked at a copy of Amy’s e-mail request (sent) before meeting. Discussion clarified the origin of the request. We also discussed the use of Charlie Gay’s memorial money.

**Motion:** Approve the Nicholson’s request to use Tonya’s memorial funds for chancel furniture. MSC

**Playground:**

The city of Iowa City approached us with an offer of \$22,000 over a 20-year period to designate our new playground area as a public area, open dawn to dusk. Bruce Walker will work on details of this, and conditions for our acceptance.

**Motion:** Bruce Walker will pursue this and report back. MSC

Dan Steele (class of 2019) read his letter of resignation from Session, effective May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion:** Accept Dan’s Steele’s resignation MSC

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Ford  
Clerk pro tem

Matt Paul  
Moderator