

SESSION MEETING
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
Heidger House
708 7th Ave., Coralville
July 19, 2017

Barbeque Supper at 6:15 followed by meeting

Elders present: Cindy Kasper, Bruce Walker, Kathy Duys, Kelly Lamb, Cindy Vonderhaar, Cecilia Norris, Gene Dierking, Margaret Heidger, Patti Benson, Jeff Charis-Carlson, Aaron Shileny, Jenny Pigge

Visitors (Elders elect): Tim Benson, Ethan Goers, Dave DeGroot, Steve Dunham, **Elders absent:**

Pastors present: Matt. Kyle absent

(7:00) Gathering

Introduction of the Reverend Kitch Shatzer, Presbytery of East Iowa, who has worked with SAPC back to the 1980s.

Motion to seat Kitch as corresponding member. **MSC**

Quorum established for meeting

Motion to accept Ann Ford as Clerk Pro Tem **MSC**

Motion to accept Agenda **MSC**

Gene spoke in support of rejoining the Consultation of Religious Communities in Iowa City.

Motion to rejoin CRC **MSC**

Membership Rolls: Patti presented the team report. The list was passed around of members who have been inactive and wish to be removed. Some discussion.

Approval of the following minutes:

June 11 Congregational Meeting

June 21 Session Meeting

June 27 Special Session Meeting (exec session meetings not open; still closed access.) Ann will consult Stated Clerk Rebecca Blair of Presbytery about what becomes more public. (Note: Blair's response was to edit confidential discussion sections to a general statement.)

July 2 Special Session Meeting (exec session minutes will be closed.)

Motion to accept minutes **MSC**

Motion Clerk will consult with stated clerk Rebecca about how to treat minutes from executive sessions. **MSC**

Clerk's Report

Membership changes and resignations:

- Jennifer Noser (#2584) transferred to First United Methodist Church, Iowa City
- Robert Noser (#2585) transferred to First United Methodist Church, Iowa City
- Gretchen Robinson (#2515) transferred to Northside United Methodist Church, Brewster MA
- Bob Robinson (#2516) transferred to Northside United Methodist Church, Brewster MA
- Carrie Martinez (#4691) resigned by e-mail, no transfer
- Uby Martinez (#4692) resigned by e-mail, no transfer

Motion to accept these above changes

MSC

Baptism: Austin Samuel Beerends son of Mark and Sarah, baptized 16 July 2019

Ann received an email from Graham Dameron about 1.) how to recognize gifts and memorials for the new church and 2.) having just one Sunday service for the first weeks in the new church. She forwarded his gift ideas to Heather. She suggests that we refer Graham's suggestion to Worship team to decide about single service.

Motion Refer Graham's question to the Worship team to decide about single service

MSC

Pastors' Reports (see list of Matt's recent activities, sent out before meeting)

Will take August 13th off to return from wedding. Session meeting will move to 3rd Thursday each month. Will train and examine new officers. A few have been trained already.

We Proclaim God's Word (Matt) Genesis 28:10–19a (NRSV) Matt talked about the situation and Jacob's wrong doing, then departure for his uncle's home. He was awakened and said "Surely the Lord is in this place." (28:16) God's unexpected appearances at unexpected times.

Rocket Docket—Kathy is leaving for Pittsburgh soon with 24 youths and 4 adults; will be gone a week. This is Kathy's 6th year to go to Pittsburgh. Met with Heather about playground (see below). Kelly is back from the Guatemala mission, which went well. Cindy V 3rd hospitality open house went well. Gene reported that we will need volunteers to work on the new building. Landscaping and acoustic panels (August 12th), IKEA furniture will need assembly. Organ to be installed in early Oct. Ethan talked about Pittsburgh. Patti back from the Guatemala mission, where she had a wonderful experience and also enjoyed Marina and L'Engle playing music for the children. Photos will be taken of the elders next Sunday for the bulletin board and directory. Dave DeG said Apex is installing windows in the new church.

New Business Playground Update & Design Contract Approval (document sent)

Report on Bruce's conversation with city regarding a park partnership. Playground Team is presenting a design contract for approval. Bruce investigated insurance to cover the playground. Once we are in new building would need to have the insurance adjuster come in for risk assessment and costing. Insurance company is NOT interested in a public playground. Iowa City would not participate in costs, just pay us one-time fee. Not ready to discuss now, but Bruce moved to consider later.

Motion to reconsider the Iowa City offer to pay us to make playground public at a later time

MSC

Kathy reported on a meeting with Heather, talked with designer of playground about equipment. We have the donation now. A final plan will come back to Session later.

Motion: Heather moved that we contract to design for \$1500. **MSC**

Gift and Memorials: Bruce sent his recommendation last week. We will have a book listing donations, decided against wall with names. We have a memorial book, can keep track of the donations in the same way, printed on special paper. Try for an electronic version which would be accessible.

Motion: accept donation to plant the pin oak tree in Jake Jacobson's memory **MSC**

Motion: accept donation to plant a tree in Mark Meyer's memory **MSC**

Personnel Team Report (documents sent)

Update on the Nursery Caregiver search and the Finance Administrator position. Kathy met with Heather and there have been no applications during the 2 weeks advertised, will also advertise at UI and Kirkwood. Heather is concerned because there are no applicants yet.

Motions would be in order to approve the nursery caregiver handbook and job description, and to authorize Personnel Team to work with Children's Ministry to interview candidates and fill positions as necessary.

Motion to approve Personnel Team recommendations as above **MSC**

Deb will remain on personnel team until the Finance Administrator position is filled. Carna and Amy Sparks are making some slight changes in the description, but hours and pay will remain the same, expect some training of the person.

Motion to empower Personnel Team to revise the job description for next Session meeting. **MSC**

Financial Dashboard Next month will show actual borrowing from the approved loans.

Strategic Planning (document sent)

Wes Habley and Myrna Farraj are recommending the process be placed on hold until after the first of the new year. Hospitality team, and ministry team are great opportunities to reach out in new building. Have Wes and Myrna sit down and talk again in September or after we open new building about how and when to do this. Kitch mentioned that it is probably a good piece to have in our portfolio for recruiting a pastor, and it would be helpful to an interim pastor and to the next PNC.

Presbytery would like to have it in place. It is a statement that gives the "DNA" of the church. Ann will talk to Myrna and Wes about proceeding with strategic plan in September.

Motion to delay strategic plan as described **MSC**

Patti presented the Membership rolls report (sent out) which lists names to be removed from membership roll.

Motion to make the membership changes as they were sent out **MSC**

July 30th Congregational Meeting Discussion/Preparation

Matt will invite the Rev. Kitch Shatzer, honorably retired, to moderate the congregational meeting. Kitch will attend our meeting on the 19th to introduce herself and to moderate this portion of the agenda. She is also a member of the Committee on Ministry.

Also, we will entertain a motion to compensate Nathan Williams for moderating the three recent special session meetings and Kitch for the congregational meeting, plus mileage for joining us on the 19th. The moderatorial fee recommended by Presbytery is \$35/meeting, plus mileage at a rate of

53.5 cents/mile. Nathan's mileage is 35 miles each way and Kitch's is 33 miles each way.

Matt said he asked Kyle if he wanted to moderate future session meetings, and he said no. Volunteers from session are welcome.

Motion to compensate Kitch for tonight and the meeting July 30th

MSC

Motion to compensate Nathan Williams for the 4 meetings he moderated, paid from Session Discretion fund (\$149.80)

MSC

Matt suggested that other elders volunteer to moderate session meetings.

About the July 30th congregational meeting:

A 51% majority will decide the question. Jeff sent out an email suggesting listening posts on Sundays for people to ask questions. Jeff has had questions that are hard to answer. Like "Why right now?" There will be informational meetings on July 23rd & 30th. Could supply some information, maybe have some documents to give to people. Motion to establish that? There was a letter from the deacons, some of whom are feeling blindsided. There will be a deacon's meeting on Tuesday night and some elders can attend that meeting, but we cannot give confidential information about personnel matters.

Pastor Matt shared that it has all cost some leadership and personal capital. Some of the problems go back to some old building decisions. People respond based on their personal experience. We cannot always choose our time and place, but God is at work too. The vote will be awkward. Matt will ask that members concur with the decision, but Presbyterians have their own individual consciences. Kitch discussed possible outcomes and how to handle them. *The Book of Order* now shows the only decision for the congregation is the calling of the pastor. Will need a written ballot for the congregation, not raise the hand. Need a 51% vote of the congregation.

Margaret suggested that the date of the congregational meeting be delayed until later in August because many have told her they will be away on July 30th. Maybe we could wait until school starts to have the meeting. Much discussion about changing the date, pro and con.

Motion Margaret moved that we move the congregational meeting to August 27th
(failed)

MSF

Matt asked that someone else make the announcement about the listening post between church services on Sunday. Kelly volunteered to make the announcement. Allow 3 minutes per member for asking questions, using microphones. Jeff doesn't like to be the only person responding to the questions, so invited other elders to help to respond.

Kitch cannot be there for the 23rd meeting, but will be for the 30th. She said she does understand that this is a difficult time for our church. The Presbytery's prayers are with us, and they want to support us.

Old Business/Items on the Back Burner

- Meeting/Agenda Review Did well for this meeting, the agenda was clear, lots of material to review.
- Some possibility of an upcoming land sale and changes in the way our land can be sold, according to the city's decisions.
- Comments from newly elected elders and outgoing elders.
- Thoughts/recommendations for future meetings.

Prayers of the elders around the circle. Passing of the Peace/We Go Out in God's Name

Adjourned 9:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Ford, Clerk pro tem

Pastor Matt Paul, Moderator

DRAFT