

Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church Session meeting

Thursday, April 19, 2018 7:00 p.m

Minutes DRAFT

Elders present: Mark Beerends, Patti Benson, Sarah Brakke, Jeff Charis-Carlson, Dave DeGroot arrived late, Myrna Farraj, Ann Ford, Cecilia Norris, Cindy VonderHaar, Jan Waterhouse

Excused elders: Tim Benson, Kathy Duys, Ethan Goers, Margaret Heidger, Bethany Lagani, Bruce Walker

Guests: Paul Heidger, John Benson

Moderator: Danie DeBeer

Pastors: Danie DeBeer, Kyle Otterbein

The meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Danie de Beer opened with prayer and devotions. In the Book of Joshua, after Moses' death, God commands Joshua to enter the Promised Land and replace Moses as the leader, receiving God's commands. Moving to our new church building is similar, and there have been some hurts in the past. But now we have a new opportunity for growth and we are the church leaders. Danie has been contacting some of our former and inactive members to talk about their feelings toward Saint Andrew.

Amend/Approve Agendas: Move to accept the meeting and the MOS Consent agendas. Part 1 of the MOS agenda has been pulled and will be presented by guest Paul Heidger later in the meeting. **MSC**

Minutes approval: Move to approve the draft minutes for the Session Meeting of March 22, 2018. **MSC**

Clerk's Report: Ann reported that 320 received communion on April 8th (estimated 160 for second service). Jeff will be advising Ann to prepare the minutes of the Session meetings. She will post and send out draft minutes within 14 days of the meeting. Ann will forward the monthly electronic issues of *Out and About* from the Presbytery of East Iowa.

Pastor's Reports: Danie de Beer led a discussion of the article and video *The-Abilene-Paradox: The-Management-of-Agreement*, the article posted in Supporting Documents on the Session page. This article by Jerry Harvey describes a group's misguided efforts to agree on an action, even when they privately believe it will lead to failure. We watched a video dramatization of the Abilene incident. (A 4-minute video can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HM-XyALCGXM>) We will be discussing the Abilene Paradox in relation to our transitional work.

Rocket Docket Sarah described spring activities of the children's ministry, including planning for Vacation Bible School and working to provide day camps for underserved children. Myrna reported that she has heard that the approach and entry into our

church could be more church-like. She suggested a wall of photos, maybe with new members, elders and deacons. Cecilia reported for MOS that Rev. Al Desterhaft, a former SAPC pastor, will be visiting Sunday, May 6th. The grow house for the Lettuce Feed Others mission is being built. Patti, for the Organ team, said we may be able to use a local expert to help with the organ, which would save some money. The Worship team is revising their policy for serving communion. Jan said the Personnel team has approved hiring a nursery caregiver. Also she mentioned that our staff has unused vacation days and money available from the continuing education fund. Kyle reported that he is working with some people interested in becoming members. The Hospitality team is refining the role of ushers, trying to create easy access to our ministries for our guests. Janice Baldes and Cindy will bring back Feed My Starving Children this year, packing meals on September 28th and 29th. Chancel Guild has been renamed the Interior Team: they will work on strategy about how to use the walls for decorating.

Team Reports for action:

MOS – Paul Heidger described the overture for use of space within our church facility received from a Congolese Christian Community, presently worshipping Sunday afternoons in the Heartland Community Church, in North Liberty. The group is less than 60 and wants to start May 6th for a 6-month trial period. The Session affirmed the idea of welcoming a congregation to nest in St. Andrew, but several questions were raised in terms of 1) the length of the partnership, 2) the theological beliefs of the congregation, 3) the role of women within the congregation, 4) the noise level within the rest of the building during the worship services, and 5) the expectations of such a partnership on both sides.

MOS Resolution: Following discussion at our MOS meeting, we adopted the following to transmit to Session: “MOS is amenable to the Congolese congregation worshipping at St. Andrew. It is within our philosophy of outreach to and engagement with the diverse members of our community.”

Motion: The Session affirms the spirit of welcoming a Congolese Congregation to "nest" within our congregation and authorizes a group of elders to begin working on details.

MSC with Ann and Dave abstaining

Finance Report (Dashboard) presented by guest John Benson

See Finance documents on the Session page: 180331 Financial Packet for Session and 180419 Updated Dashboard for Session meeting

John Benson explained that how the income and expenses for the operating fund in the first quarter of 2018 show a loss of \$13,493.06, so we are where we expected to be, given the higher expenses for new building and the three-pastor effect. Last year we started more positive, but it is now a totally different situation. Our fourth quarter is usually the strongest. We should look at the budget again in July at the end of second quarter, and look again in May because our full loan payments will start

Land Sales Team: The Land Sales Team, through Jeff, requested clarification from the Session about the extent of its authority. The team decided it would be best to allow the present real estate listing for the triangular lot to expire, and then immediately to re-list the property with Elite First Realty of Iowa City. The elders agreed that the team does have authority for such actions.

Worship Team Jeff offered the following motion:

MOTION: To ensure elder participation during the distribution of communion, the pastors will create a schedule assigning elders to serve communion. If an elder cannot complete the assignment for that month, he or she will be responsible for finding a substitute. The team will also compile a list of all former elders who are eligible to serve communion. (The pastors will create the schedule from now until August, when the new crop of elders will join the session.) **MSC**

Jeff described schedule changes for our week of dedication. Homecoming at the University of Iowa is the weekend before our planned dedication, so we will move our dedication to October 21st instead of October 28th, to coincide with the Homecoming activities. We will need rooms in homes for our guests because the hotels will be full. We will plan a meet up at the Homecoming parade.

Other Action Items

Jeff Charis-Carlson distributed a proposed letter to Rebecca Blair, Stated Clerk of Presbytery of East Iowa, to request the Pastor Emeritus title for Mark Martin.

MOTION "To ask the Presbytery of East Iowa Commission on Ministry for permission to have the Rev. Mark Martin be recognized with the honorific title, Pastor Emeritus of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church." **MSC**

Jan brought up the question of the Elevate invoice for \$6,000 for baptistry design. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Table this invoice question until the end of April. **MSC**

Old Business

Kitchen update: Kyle reported that there is a group reviewing installation of cabinets. He said there is a major gift for the 4 major kitchen appliances.

Sign update: Our sign on Camp Cardinal Boulevard has been changed. Danie reported that we will still need a final solution for a sign on the road.

Listening Post update: Patti reported that very few have attended the Listening Post lately, and it may be time to discontinue it, and have a listening team instead.

Motion to Adjourn at 9:25 p.m. **MSC**

Kyle closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Ford, Clerk of Session

Daniel DeBeer, Moderator

Our Next meeting: Thursday May 17, 2018, at 7 p.m.