

Session meeting, Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church

Thursday, May 17, 2018 7 p.m.

Minutes **DRAFT**

Before the 7 pm meeting, we met at 6:30 to meet these new member candidates: Crispin Ng'oma, Taziona Joyce Msosa, (Crispin and Taz will be married in Malawi in August), Robert Clark, now at Oaknoll, formerly of Winterset.

Motion Accept these 3 into membership **MSC**

Elders present: Mark Beerends, Patti Benson, Sarah Brakke, Jeff Charis-Carlson, Dave DeGroot, Kathy Duys, Ann Ford, Bethany Lagani, Cecilia Norris, Cindy Vonderhaar, Bruce Walker, Jan Waterhouse

Excused elders: Tim Benson, Ethan Goers, Margaret Heidger

Pastors: Danie DeBeer, Kyle Otterbein

Moderator: Danie DeBeer

Guests: Kaitlyn Schmidt-Rundell and Rachel Swack, Members of Girl Scout Troop 8047, Heather Woodin, and John Benson.

Devotions: Danie read Romans 12:9-21, describing the marks of the true Christian and how Paul describes Christian behavior. Danie passed out sheets with 6 questions for each elder to answer in writing.

Motion: Approve the agenda. **MSC**

Little Free Library

The background and description is in the Supporting Documents on the Session page. Heather Woodin presented Kaitlyn Schmidt-Rundell and Rachel Swack, who are members of Girl Scout Troop 8047 to address the meeting. The Little Free Library will need certification for \$40, and the library team might help work for certification.

Motion: Session approves this Little Free Library project. **MSC**

The Housing Fellowship Bruce met with Ms. Maryann Dennis, of The Housing Fellowship, and learned that there may be a potential interest by the City of Iowa City to land bank our parcel near the church for future development. Bruce reported his recommendation that the land sales team follow up. If the city makes a proposal, the Land Sales Team will bring analysis to Session.

Motion: Direct this item to the land sales team. **MSC**

MOS/Consent Agenda – See Supporting Documents on the Session page under Agendas.

Motion Approve MOS agenda

MSC

Update on discussion with Congolese Congregation: Paul checked with other churches who have such arrangements. The reports are positive from those churches, and Gloria Dei is one of the churches. Paul sent around a draft of an agreement. We would reserve the right to schedule SAPC events and let them know when they will need to meet elsewhere. We would likely require compliance with our child protection policy, and we would ask for a modest rent payment. We may need an insurance liability waiver. Bruce asked us to e-mail him with concerns and he will investigate insurance. After 60 days the agreement will be revisited. Bruce will work on the agreement and we can vote by e-mail

Motion: Set the rental fee for the Congolese congregation at \$50 per Sunday, with a \$250 deposit, and task Bruce Walker with sending an updated version of the draft agreement to be approved by email.

MSC

Motion: Approve draft minutes for Meeting April 19, 2018

MSC

Clerk's Report – Ann Ford reported that 352 received Communion May 6th

Correspondence: At the last Session meeting April 19th Jeff Charis-Carlson presented a letter to the Presbytery of East Iowa requesting that they authorize the honorific Pastor Emeritus for Rev. Mark Martin, who was our pastor from 1987 until 2008. Jeff quickly received a response from Larry Petrick, Chair of the Presbytery Committee on Ministry, stating the committee's agreement.

At the 11:00 a.m. service May 13th, Jeff Charis-Carlson described the title and the decision of the Presbytery of East Iowa. Rev. Mark Martin, Pastor Emeritus of Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church, was presented to the congregation, to standing applause.

New members: April 8: John Michael Yanik and Ellen Anne Curtis Yanik (Elders present: Patti Benson, Cecilia, Sarah, Dave and Margaret)

April 22: Andrew Wildes (Elders present: Dave DeGroot, Patti Benson, and Jeff)

April 29: Christopher Pigge was confirmed April 29th, after examination by Kyle, and after appearing before the following elders for questions: Dave DeGroot, Kathy Duys, Patti Benson, Bethany Lagani, and Ann Ford. Chris was in the Spring 20018 confirmand class but wished to delay his confirmation.

May 17: Crispin Ng'oma, Tazona Joyce Msosa, John and Linda Clark, Robert Young
Confirmands from May 16th

Andrea Belding

L'Engle Charis-Carlson

Elec Soultis Ciha

Anna Dreusicke

Emma Dunlap

Clare Loussaert

Sidney Nash

McKenna Simcox

Aaron Smith

Makenna Vonderhaar

Motion: Approve 19 new members, named above.

MSC

Pastor's Reports – Transition Team: Danie de Beer announced that the Transition team will meet May 27th between services. By the end of summer we hope to have a result. Transitional Work will begin June 10th at our Congregational meeting with Mark Martin preaching that day. The team will help to gather members' ideas on various topics and determine the core values of our church. We need a clear picture of who we are and what we are. Several issues have been brought up already: Matt Paul, our new building, the sale of our Melrose property, the cost of the new building, the building's use and purpose, our financial future, the music program, the organ, worship services, our mission and service core values, our mission and goal, and staff leadership for the future. We want to hear what people say.

Rocket Docket

Kyle reported that he expects more new members to join Sunday, May 27th, and he is asking elders to come early, at 8:00 a.m. We will have 22 new members, and 40 others have expressed interest. Sarah: Heather has been preparing for VBS, with 42 children signed up. The personnel team approved hiring Maddy Cook for child care. Patti told us that Shelly Moorman-Stahlman will present an organ recital Oct 20th. Jack Prall is stepping down from fund raising for organ. Jeff is working on a book on the history of the organ. Bruce passed out a report on the CRC emergency response team, which has been working on problems around the immigrant community in Mount Pleasant. Dave reported that after the last meeting the Camp Cardinal building team was disbanded. The outdoor ministry team is working on landscaping, and a small youth group is exploring using the multipurpose room for basketball. The team is seeking an HVAC maintenance contractor. Matthew Penning had an acoustical study done and there are now recommendations for improvements. Jeff is working on moving our public Session information to a more easily discoverable place on the SAPC web page.

Team Reports

Nominating Team: Jeff reported that a nomination ballot is ready and he distributed copies, with a few positions still in question.

MOTION: Appoint a subset of elders to examine and to schedule training for the incoming elders and deacons. **MSC**

MOTION: Call a congregational meeting for 10 a.m. June 10th to elect new church officers, to provide an update of the church's finances and any other items of congregational interest. **MSC**

Finance Team Report (Dashboard): John Benson summarized the first 17 pages of the online packet, saying that our finances look a little better.

Capital Campaign and refinancing of the building: we have collected \$986,000 (71%) of pledges. Our loan payments go to full payments in July. We have a cushion of \$14,000, but \$35,000 of the pledges are not likely not to be paid. Project financing total is \$5,515,000. Our loan terms are 6% for 10 years, which are very good terms. Our

loan payments will be \$29,000 per month. In June 2019 and June 2020 we will need another capital campaign. We will need to retain the liquidity reserve to prevent loan default.

Motion: That Session agree with the financial team recommendation to keep the reserve balance in the building fund (fund 5) until otherwise advised by the financial team. **MSC**

Worship Team: Assignments for communion: The elder assignments for June and July are posted on the Session page under Supporting Documents. We will receive reminders by Sign-Up Genius for first Sundays.

MOTION: Call for a special worship service at 10:00 a.m. Sunday Oct. 21 for the dedication of 140 Gathering Place Lane. An open house for the community will be scheduled for Thursday Oct. 18. **MSC**

Other Action Items

Sarah Brakke reported on the Interiors Team and made the following motion.

MOTION: Session directs the Interiors Team to schedule a “listening post and discussion” between services within the next month to answer questions from the congregation, show whatever plans or ideas they are working on, and listen to suggestions and concerns congregation members may express. **MSC**

Old Business

Kitchen: Kyle reported that there are priority areas to work on first. Nancy Prall, John Roffman, and Dave are working on finding the right equipment at the right price points. Electrical is installed and is good except that all of the slow cooker outlets are on the same circuit, so we need to split them up, eventually.

Baptistry: (*Motion tabled April 19th at Session meeting.*) Jan Waterhouse reported that no action is required and the motion is retracted. There is a question about the intention to pursue building of the baptistry.

Listening Post: Myrna reported concerns she has heard. Some say they are upset about the location of the cross on the chancel and would like to see it moved. Some asked for more church decoration in the atrium. Some think there is too little on the chancel table, for example there should be a Bible. Some have suggested decorating the back of the closets, which are open to the atrium. Dave urged the Interiors Team to hang things and not to worry about making holes in the walls. Some commented that they enjoyed seeing the tomatoes being grown at the end of the atrium, and that “adopt a tomato” is a very cool program. Again, it was suggested that we post photos of deacons, elders and our ministers.

Motion – Post photos of pastors, elders, deacons

MSC

Motion to Adjourn 8:57 p.m.

Closing Prayer by Kyle.

Next meeting: June 19, 2018 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Ford, Clerk of Session

Danie DeBeer, Moderator