

Saint Andrew Presbyterian
Church, Session Meeting
Minutes
21 June 2018 7:00 p.m.

DRAFT

At 6:30 Elders gathered to meet new members, introduced by Kyle Otterbein: Katherine and Tim Patrick, 440 East Jefferson St, North Liberty 52317

Attending pastors: Danie DeBeer, Kyle Otterbein

Attending elders: Patti Benson, Sarah Brakke, Jeff Charis-Carlson, Kathy Duys, Myrna Farraj, Ann Ford

They will be new members through transfer of membership. The questions were posed and answered.

Motion: Accept these new members.

MSC

Session meeting:

Elders present: Sarah Brakke, Patti Benson, Jeff Charis-Carlson, Dave DeGroot, Kathy Duys, Myrna Farraj, Ann Ford, Bethany Lagani, Cecilia Norris

Excused elders: Mark Beerends, Tim Benson, Margaret Heidger, Cindy Vonderhaar, Bruce Walker, Jan Waterhouse

Guests: John Benson

Pastors present: Danie DeBeer, Kyle Otterbein

Moderator: Danie DeBeer

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm

Devotions & Opening Prayer – Danie de Beer. Danie read Mark 3:20-35: Jesus goes home and is with his family when he is pursued by more people who want help and healing. His family first tries to restrain him, thinking he's crazy. The scribes say he is possessed by Beelzebul, by whom he casts out spirits/devils. Jesus tells them a house divided against itself cannot stand, and he heals by the Holy Spirit. His mother and brothers call him to come inside, There is name calling in 3 ways. Jesus says make room for the marginalized and the sick. He asks, "Who is my mother and who are my brothers?" But we fight the need to give away and to open the doors. Those who want to follow Jesus are seen as a threat and they may give up.

Amend/Approve Agenda: Add an e-mail request from Katie Pigge to use the building for a

Friday night meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. This request was referred to the Buildings and Grounds Team.

Motion: Approve MOS consent agenda.

MSC

Minutes approval

- Special Confirmands meeting May 16: approved
- Session meeting May 17, 2018: approved with corrections
- Minutes from Congregational Meeting June 10, 2018. Corrections will be made and the minutes presented for approval at the next congregational meeting.

Motion: Approve minutes for May 16th and May 17th.

MSC

Clerk's Report – Ann Ford reported that 293 received communion on June 3rd. The dashboard includes average attendance, which was 380 per Sunday in May.

Pastor's Reports

Transitional Work: Danie sent out a report on last Sunday's meeting, and there will be another meeting this Sunday about our journey with this new building.

Congregational Care: Kyle has had two requests for baptism, which will be performed at the 11:00 service Sunday, June 24th, for Kinsley Faith Jones, daughter of Casey and Carey Jones, and for Hank Kasper, son of Bryan and Stacie Kasper

Kyle distributed copies of a revised kitchen plan, which will allow us to proceed without a costly commercial range hood. We will have a commercial-residential range. We plan to reroute electricity as shown on the plan, to move fire extinguisher location, to change some cabinetry and add more cabinets to the 5' x 14' island. There will be some gift or memorial money for the kitchen.

Motion: Approve the kitchen according to the plan presented.

MSC

Rocket Docket – Cecilia went to CRC in Bruce's place. CRC is looking for a leader for Gifts for Parents, with a team established. The Center for Justice plans to talk about sanctuary cities and support for immigrants. Dave said there is interest in basketball and volleyball in MPR, his team is getting quotes to outfit the MPR for recreation use, including a new floor on top of the concrete. Our storage policy under consideration, an emergency response plan will designate shelters, and they are working on an intruder plan. An acoustics specialist gave us a new plan. We have a humidity problem, and we had no requirement for such a plan. Blue Stone engineering had worked on this and they will add this, without added expense. There have been questions about giving out keys, especially for the front doors. Sarah: VBS had 72 kids, preschool through 6th grade. 70 volunteers helped and breakfast club was available. There were service projects every day. Patti reported that the organ team has raised \$242,000 and fund raising will continue. Dobson will do final voicing after the acoustics are finalized. Dobson will wait until fall for final voicing. Aaron Gibson made some tuning doors and saved us that money. A recital by Shelley Moorman-Stahlman is planned for the church dedication. Jeff for Adult education told us that we will have a guest writer of *There Once Was a Prophet From Judah*, all in limericks. In July he has planned a study on the Gospel according to JC Superstar and more, and all will be multi-generational.

Team Reports for action

Nominating Team Jeff reported that he started training and examination for the new elders and deacons on June 20th, 6-8 pm, and will continue for July 3rd.

Motion: Sustain the training and examination for new elders and deacons. **MSC**

Finance Report (Dashboard) John Benson reported that we are doing pretty well. YTD loss is due to the \$16,000, 3 months' severance pay for Matt, otherwise our balance would be + \$10,000. Loan extensions have been signed, with a fixed rate for the next nine years of 4 1/8 %. The team is considering the dashboard and may add it to the monthly Messenger. But they will keep other financial detail available.

Worship Team Collette Ciha-Soults will be preaching July 22nd.

Personnel Team Kristin DeGrazia will be leaving her position as Assistant Director of Children's and Youth Music at the end of July. She will teach full time at Nolte Academy. Personnel team will meet and decide what to do with Kristin's position. Elders encouraged Personnel Team to discuss multiple options for this position, including the possibility of making it a volunteer position.

Other Action Items

Ecumenical Towers Board appointee

Marilyn Holland wrote "After serving as St. Andrew representative to this board for 24+ years I believe it is time for me to retire from it. I have talked to Margaret Heidger about the possibility of her replacing me on this Board. I believe her background in social work will be very useful to the Board. I have really enjoyed serving in this capacity. If her service in this capacity is confirmed by the fourth Tuesday this month I would appreciate knowing so I can introduce her to the Board at that time."

Motion: Margaret Heidger will replace Marilyn Holland as our Ecumenical Towers Board Appointee. **MSC**

July 19 Meeting Sarah and Kathy ask that we repeat last year's plan for the July meeting, so our July 19th meeting would include incoming elders for a meal, and then sit in for the Session meeting to get a feel for the meetings prior to their official start date. Session has money to cover the costs of the meal

Motion: Invite incoming elders to dinner before the July 19th Session meeting and the Session meeting, with the food cost from the Session discretionary fund. **MSC**

Gift money: We have had requests from members wanting to donate for certain items, but not to interfere with the capital campaign pledges. It is most important to pay off our loans. But we don't want to discourage people from helping to develop areas of the building, like the MPR. When we accepted the gifts and memorials policy, we were worried about the whole money picture. We may use gift money for the kitchen.

Motion: While Session still prioritizes the capital campaign for the paying the building loans, Session will welcome gifts toward the continuing development of the building. **MSC**

Old Business

Congolese Worshipping Community. This group has found a place to worship closer to where they live in North Liberty. We can probably use our insurance for any other group using building, but will need to explore that.

Listening Post: There have been questions about giving to finish kitchen or MPR.

Motion: Suspend listening posts until after the transitional meetings. **MSC**

Motion: Motion to adjourn. **MSC**

Closing prayer and adjournment at 9:03 p.m.

Next meeting July 19, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Ford, Clerk of Session

Danie DeBeer, Moderator

MOS CONSENT AGENDA

JUNE, 2018

THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS TO SESSION WERE UNANIMOUSLY PASSED AT OUR MEETING OF JUNE 12TH.

1. All
ocation of \$1,000 from LDB funds to the First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Pleasant, IA in support of their relief efforts for food, shelter, and utilities for families affected by the recent ICE arrests and imprisonment of immigrant breadwinners at the Mt. Pleasant cement plant. The Presbytery of East Iowa has made a generous grant in support of bail bonds. The MOS chair has contacted both Presbytery and the pastor of First Presbyterian, Mt. Pleasant, Rev. Trey Hegar, concerning relief efforts and needs. Rev. Hegar suggests that our funds be payable to the church earmarked for support of their food bank/pantry and the emergency fund they have established to provide basic necessities for families while husbands and fathers are incarcerated or unable to work while legal proceedings/appeals are underway.

2. All
ocation of \$1,000 from LDB funds for relief efforts in Guatemala resulting from devastation from recent volcanic eruptions. Our IMPACTO mission area and friends are not directly affected by the eruptions, but IMPACTO is intimately involved with relief efforts, and has put out a call received by St. Andrew for financial assistance to help meet daily needs of victims and to start rehabilitation of housing, sanitation, and water supplies.

We are confident from our close affiliation in mission with IMPACTO in channeling our relief funds through them.

3. Re
newal of St. Andrew's contribution, in the amount of \$2,000, to the salary support of Rev. Kevin Kumer's Intervarsity Christian Fellowship ministry on the University of Iowa campus. Several current St. Andrew members benefited from this ministry and were student leaders during their years in graduate and professional education; the MOS Chair served a recent term as one of the Christian Medical/Dental Fellowship advisors. This is the only campus student outreach in which St. Andrew is currently in direct support, with the conclusion of the United Ministries in Higher Education initiative some years ago.

4. Re
newal of St. Andrew's financial support of the Feed My Starving Children food pack initiative, spearheaded again this year by St. Andrew members, and to be held in our "Pop-up" ministry space this fall. MOS recommends support from designated mission giving in the amount of \$2,190, as has been allocated the past two years. Support at this level will provide food for an orphanage for one year, and will serve as a

stimulus/matching gift to encourage giving by others within St. Andrew and the community.

5.

No

We look forward eagerly to the return visit of PC(USA) career missionaries, Drs. Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta, to St. Andrew on Sunday, July 8th, when they will share their mission of reconciliation in Indonesia with our congregation during Adult Ed, and at both services with Dr. Bernie preaching. They will be hosted several days in advance of the weekend by members of the congregation; opportunities are envisioned for their sharing informally with interested members of St. Andrew and First Church, as well as with Board members of the Consultation for Religious Communities. Costs of their visit with us are envisioned as modest, to include the usual honorarium for pulpit supply, a special gift in support of their itineration, and mileage reimbursement to their next location in their summer-long itineration across the U.S. of sharing and fund-raising for their mission. MOS will bring these expenses as they are determined to Session for approval at the July meeting. We also anticipate requesting renewal later this year of St. Andrew's financial support of their mission through the PC(USA) Mission Agency,

Respectfully submitted for the MOS Team,
Paul Heidger, Chair