



St. Andrew | Presbyterian Church

140 Gathering Place Ln. | Iowa City, IA 52246 | www.saintandrew-ic.org | 319/338.7523

To be the body of Christ, living Christ's love, and serving as Christ served.

Session Meeting February 20, 2020 | 7 p.m.

Attending Members: Timothy Benson, Jeff Charis-Carlson, Graham Dameron, Kathy Duys, Myrna Farraj, Eric Goers, Karen Raynor, Margaret Heidger, Becka Simpson, Danie DeBeer, Kyle Otterbein

Excused Members: Beth Anne Pigge, Melissa Fath, Doug Wilde, Toni Van Voorhis, Dave DeGroot, Nathan Schuchert, Emma Gibson. (Quorum is met as is 7 +1 elders)

Scheduled Guests: Cecilia Norris, Denise Schmitz, Kathi Anderson

Devotions & Opening Prayer-Danie DeBeer

- Volunteers for devotions for upcoming Session meetings. Note-Danie will be away in March. Kathy Duys volunteered for March
- Will discuss later becoming a Matthew 25 Congregation. Matthew 25 scripture contains the following:
Parable of the bridesmaids, with the lesson being we should always be ready. Parable of the talents, with the lesson to be faithful stewards of what God gives us. Judgment of the nations comes next, "as you did to the least of these you did to me". The chapter ends with 'the righteous will go on to eternal life'.
Danie followed the scripture devotion with prayer.

Amend/Approve Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

MSC

Approval of Session Minutes:

- [Session Meeting for January 2020](#)

Motion to approve January minutes as corrected.

MSC

- [Annual Congregational Meeting February 2020](#)

Motion to approve Annual Congregational minutes with corrections.
MSC

Consent Agenda (*Any item can be pulled from the consent agenda to be considered separately.*)

- **Team Reports:**
 - [Children's and Family Ministry Team](#)
 - [Deacon February Minutes](#)
 - [Worship Team](#)
 - [Interiors Team](#)
- **New Members**-None at present
- **Baptism**-None at present

Motion- to approve the receipt of reports.

MSC

Leadership Team Reports

- **Interim Senior Pastor-Danie DeBeer**-PNC nominees are being sought by nominating team, a consultant from Presbytery has been assigned.
- **Associate Pastor: Push Pay / St. Andrew App Update-Kyle Otterbein**-hopes session members have attempted to download the St Andrew app. It is a great way for us to tell our story and the many stories we have here. He plans to interview Fabi and Gabe (the new Brazilian interns) and post to the app. There is a plan for adult ed sermon talks and to record these and post them to the app for the benefit of those unable to attend, like Sunday School teachers, or those wanting to study further.

Question: Could requests for use of the building be added? Yes, at later date.

Question: Questions listed on the Sermon Notes questions, could these be added also? Perhaps.

- **Ministry Directors**
 - [Fifth Ward Saints Quarterly Report](#)
Discussion centered on the new coordinator for Fifth Ward Saints, that she is working well with the children enrolled in the program

cooperatively with St Andrew staff and volunteers and this has been the hope all along and it is good to see it happening.

Clerk's Report: [February 2020 Report](#)

Motion-to approve the transfers of Barbara and Glen Isserstedt and Bethany and Richard Marshall Lagani as requested.

MSC

Action & Discussion Items

- **MOS Team**

- [MOS Funding Request](#)

Motion-to fund Habitat for Humanity at \$5000 for the Interfaith Build, and Thrive Scholarships for 2 women in mission ministry at \$1500 (Thrive provides support for women in mission ministries.)-note St. Andrew member Cheryl Johnson assists with this organization.

MSC

Discussion on Operation Backpack request for storage. Doug Wilde met with them and believes he can find space for them. This will not begin until September.

- **Motion: MOS asks the Session to have St. Andrew apply to be classified as [a Matthew 25 congregation.](#)**

Discussion-(Matthew 25 is a mandate to live outside the building). The three aims of a Matthew 25 Congregation are to pledge to work on congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

Motion was tabled for further discussion and to allow session to investigate further and clarify request further with MOS Team.

- [List of mission partners for St. Andrew.](#) (Required by Presbytery) Deacons Fund needs to be added, it assists with basic needs. Under the Social Justice category-add sewing machine classes for immigrants.

- **MOS/Interiors Team Discussion regarding artwork placement**
Discussion was held with guests Cecilia Norris, Kathi Anderson, and Denise Schmitz about the location of a newly commissioned art piece by artist Marcia Wegman. The Wegman painting will be placed in another location than the originally planned one as it would impact the area used by mission for their collection bins. (Interiors team has an understanding that commissioned art pieces will require session approval.)

This discussion points out a need for improved communication among all teams. Maintenance of the building needs to be shared among all, and not be the responsibility of one team over another. Interiors team has its focus on the long-term functionality and beauty of the building.

There appears to be a need for guidance for teams as to what authority they have for decision-making and that more than one team may need to be involved in a given situation. There is a need for much grace as mistakes will occur. Interiors team was encouraged to again host open meetings for congregation members to meet with them to discuss visions and future plans.

Motion that had been presented by MOS regarding placement of the commissioned artwork was rescinded.

- **Finance Team-Eric Goers**

- **[Finance Report](#)**

The bountiful non-pledged giving in Jan, \$16,000, was actually a donor-advised fund gift. The team discussed rolling over some CD's and will review this and bring a report to session at the next meeting. It was asked by an elder if finance can separate out donations via PushPay on their finance reports to session so as to monitor this method's effectiveness. Another question was asked to clarify the budget line used for withdrawal of communication consultant's salary.

- **Capital Campaign Update/Stewardship Team: none**

- **Land Sales Team (*oral report*)-Jeff Charis-Carlson**

The session discussed progress on offers to the church's Outlot A. The land sales team is continuing to consider all offers on the property while working with a potential buyer to improve a lapsed offer.

- **Buildings and Grounds Team**-no representative present tonight
 - **Snow Removal Update**
- **Gifts & Memorials-Graham Dameron**
 - [Gifts and Memorials Report \(with motion\)](#)

Motion-to transfer funds from the line item, garage sale, a total of \$279.06, to the building and grounds team and thus delete this budget line.

MSC

- **Worship & Music Team-Jeff Charis-Carlson**
 - **Lenten Schedule and Holy Week**-Ash Wednesday is next week, February 26th.
 - **March Communion**-elders encouraged to sign up on Sign-Up Genius.

- **Personnel Team-Kathy Duys**

Met with Jeff regarding communications position in the office. The team will have a report next month and may have information for session to look at prior to that meeting. There was a resignation of a 6-year nursery worker and Heather is using this opportunity to look into some reorganization of those positions.

- **Nominating Team/Pastor Nominating Committee-Becka Simpson**
 - [Search page on church website](#)

Team met yesterday and desires the PNC to be a 9-member team. Rationale was explained, among those being that this number allows for potential absence of a few members while allowing a satisfactory remaining number to proceed with business at meetings.

Motion-to establish PNC as a 9-member team.

MSC

Old Business

- Building Partnerships and Hosts for Building Use: in the absence of Building Team members tonight, will table this to the next meeting regarding having building hosts here for groups using the building, they are to be paid \$25/hour, though the hiring of such hosts and other details are not firmly established.

New Business

- **Next Presbytery meeting:** Saturday March 14, Bettendorf Presbyterian Church

3 commissioners can be sent by St Andrew (First Presbyterian in Iowa City and Davenport currently also have 3 commissioners, but only St. Andrew will maintain this status next year):

Jeff Charis-Carlson, Kathy Duys, Myrna Farraj were selected as commissioners.

Kathy Duys shared impressions from the last Presbytery meeting: she was surprised by the lack of participation by the churches in this Presbytery. She suggested St Andrew offer support to other churches to encourage participation. She is pleased there are external consultants coming to offer healing to the Presbytery. Kathy hopes to represent St Andrew at upcoming meetings and to listen to others attending and hear what they are sharing. She encourages St Andrew commissioners to attend, offer encouragement, be a positive influence, and offer support as needed.

Rocket Docket: Additional comments from teams with session representation. Graham Dameron reminded all that the Gifts and Memorials Team has a policy in place for vetting donations to the church. The Spark kitchen team has completed their meal preparation role for this year and be sure to thank them. There were 70 present tonight at Spark. The Lenten potlucks will take place on the next 6 Thursdays.

Next Meeting-March 26 with Kyle Otterbein moderating in Danie DeBeer's absence.

Prayer-Pastor Danie DeBeer led the session in closing with the Lords's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned 9:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Benson, Clerk of Session

Danie DeBeer, Moderator