



Rooted in Faith, Growing to Serve

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
140 Gathering Place Lane | Iowa City, IA 52246
www.saintandrew-ic.org

Session Meeting May 15, 2025 | 7 pm

Moderator: Pastor Carl Anderson

Attending Members: Becky Benson, Helen Bryce, Don Burch, Scott Fisher, Aaron Gibson, Eric Goers, Mary Hausler, Virginia Ibrahim-Olin, Austin Kannegieter, Josh Schilling, Jon Swearingen, Gregs Thomopulos, Munir Tanas, and Bruce Walker.

Moderator: Pastor Carl Anderson

Excused Members: Gretchen Van Iddekinge, Emily Neddermeyer

Scheduled Guests: John Benson, Walter Sparks-given voice for their time at the meeting.

Devotions & Opening Prayer: Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm by Pastor Carl Anderson. Devotion time focused on our relationship with God at this time, how are we doing, spiritual temperature? Elders shared thoughts and concerns and joys. If we are a community of faith and experience growth by sharing what God is doing, we need to find time to rely on God and commune with God. Each day we are given is a gift, despite how busy those days may be. We are encouraged to stretch and grow in our faith; there will be tension and we can share with others how we live and grow in these moments. Prayer offered by Carl.

Amend/Approve Agenda

Motion-to approve the agenda as presented.

MSC

Approval of Session Minutes:

- **April Session meeting minutes**

Motion-to approve the April session meeting minutes.

MSC

Consent Agenda

- **Team Reports:**
 - **Worship Team-**Elder Virginia Ibrahim-Olin reported for the team.

Some noted items from the report, encourage session to have Carl connect with other congregations to explore an ecumenical service, ask session to endorse the resurrection of a fellowship team, discuss start time for services on Sunday mornings. Will discuss these items as new business.

■ **Worship Statistics Report**

- **Deacons | May Minutes**

Motion-to receive items on the consent agenda.

MSC

Leadership Team Reports

- **Ministry Directors:**
 - **Staff Meeting Notes (April 29, May 6, and May 13)**
 - **Music Ministries**
 - **Messenger (May 2025)**

Clerk's Report:

- **Communion Stats:** 222, in-person; 31, concurrent devices: **289**, estimated real time congregation. Approximately 24 persons received communion at the Thursday At the Table worship service.
- **Baptism, New Members, and Roll Changes:**
 - Baptism was held April 27th for Sophia Schnicker and May 11th for Ivy Anderson.
- **Correspondence:** one letter requesting transfer of a woman not found in our rolls; clerk will contact the church requesting the transfer as they may have sent this letter to the wrong church in Iowa City.
- **Presbytery:** The Presbytery of East Iowa is holding an education event ("E3: Engage, Equip, and Encourage") from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. this Saturday at First Presbyterian in Cedar Rapids: "We will have a keynote speaker, dynamic worship, and more than a dozen workshops from writing a first sermon, ruling elder communion training, topics on church business and leadership, spirituality, and more! Review the workshop offerings and register if interested. This event is for everyone at your church!"

Action & Discussion Items From Teams:

- **Mission, Outreach, and Service-**Elder Bruce Walker reported for the MOS team. Camp Bear Creek is still seeking funds for a building/remodeling project of \$15k per year over 3 years and ask this be kept in consideration.

Report For May 2025

- **Finance-**Elder Jon Swearingen reported for the team. Still short of funds (\$19k) from the front entry project, where \$40k was inadvertently not included for the design phase of the project

budget. Better controls are needed to deal with future project cost overruns. Discussed next steps for capital campaign, need new leaders for stewardship campaign.

- **Finance Packet**
- **Finance Team Routines and Controls - Revised 1-18-24-** presented by former finance director John Benson & recently hired finance director Walter Sparks, aim is to reduce financial risk to the church via established controls in this policy. Policy will be part of new officer training in the summer.
- **Monthly Report**
- A new stewardship team is needed, and 1-2 elders are needed to support the team as well. Jon Swearingen volunteered to serve, Bruce Walker will continue as a member at large. A message via the monthly Messenger seeking congregation members for the Team and thanking Chris Charis-Donelson and Toni Van Voorhis for their years of service; the session clerk will prepare this message.
- **Building and Grounds** (team met May 14- Elder Josh Schilling reported for the team. A new landscape team is organizing to establish landscaping around the new front entrance canopy (a donation has been made for this), and to replace dead trees on the property. Work day was held outside on April 26th, with 38 volunteers assisting. Minor maintenance was done in the MPR (free of charge by Apex). A clock will be installed on the back wall of the sanctuary soon, a long-standing desire.
 - **Kidwell Door proposal**-plan is to use the 10-year access control option.

Motion-to move forward with the proposal.

MSC

- **Personnel Team**-elder Austin Kannegieter reported no applicants have been received for the building and grounds coordinator position, notices are being posted in numerous job placement sites. Reviews of staff were not conducted last year due to transition with the loss of the 2 pastors.
 - **May 2025 Minutes**
 - **Personnel Requesting of Session:** Presence of at least one Personnel team member for all recruitments (even if a silent, non-voting partner) to have assurance of process (fair pay practices, background checks, etc).
- **Nominating Team**-Elder Helen Bryce reported for the team.
 - Update on the Pastoral Search Process, the team has a number of interested persons and believes they will be able to discern a slate of PNC nominees in the near future. Once the team has a slate, it will be shared with session for their consideration and endorsement.
 - **Motion-to call a special Congregational Meeting for after worship on Sunday June 8 for the election of church officers and, if the Nominating Team has a slate of nominees to put forward, the election of a Pastor Nominating Committee. The meeting will be held via Zoom so congregation members can participate and vote remotely.**

MSC

New Business

- **Future Special Congregational Meetings:**

- Matt Moore is requesting that, for future years, Session consider selecting a date other than the second Sunday in June for a Congregation Meeting. That date is the departure time for Stronghold every year, which involves multiple eligible voting members of the Congregation. (It's the only time Camp Stronghold is available between the end of the ICCSD school year and the start of the summer camp schedule.)
- According to St. Andrew's current by-laws: "The Annual Meeting shall be held in the church building on the second Sunday of February of each year for the purposes stated in the Book of Order, except that election of church officers shall be at a special meeting of the congregation called for that purpose between May 1 and June 15 of each year – usually the second Sunday of June."

- **Worship Team:**

- encourage session to have Carl connect with other congregations to explore an ecumenical service,
- to resurrect a fellowship team; during Lent the potlucks were welcomed by those attending and a fellowship team would be useful to continue to plan events like this. Session will consider the purpose and make up of this team over the next few months.
- discuss start time for service on Sunday morning, should it be 9:25 am or 9:30 am; 9:30 am was the desire.

Rocket Docket:

- **Reminders of upcoming events**

- **Margie Loomer: Celebration of Life | May 16**
- **Give a Seedling | May 18, & 25**
- **Senior Moments Coffee | May 20**
- **Don Heineking: Celebration of Life | May 20**
- **Meetup @ Friday Night Concert | May 23**
- **Food Market | May 28**
- **At the Table | June 5**
- **Pentecost Special Offering | June 8**
- **Congregational Meeting | June 8**
- **Stronghold | June 8-13**
- **Summer Lunch Bunch | June 9-Aug. 15**
- **Wesley Bell Ringers Concert | June 10**
- **Vacation Bible School | June 16-20**
- **Meetup @ the Pride Parade | June 21**

- The Arc Summer Camps | June 23-Aug. 15
- Food Market | June 25
- Meetup @ the Parade | July 4
- Girls Rock! | July 14-18
- Presbyterian Youth Triennium | July 28-31
- NICU Reunion | July 26
- At the Table | Aug. 7
- School Year's Eve | Aug. 25
- Start of Choir & Bells | Sept. 3
- At the Table | Sept. 4
- Ministry Fair | Sept. 7
- All Abilities Art Exhibit | Sept. 7
- Senior Moments | Sept. 16
- Food Market | Sept. 24
- At the Table | Oct. 2
- Compeer Concert | Oct. 3
- Impacto Reunion | Oct. 4
- Pilot Club Breakfast | Oct. 11
- Hayrides @ Dane Farm | Oct. 11
- BASIC Pancake Breakfast | Oct. 19
- Trunk or Treat | Oct. 26
- Minds Matter Resource Fair | Nov. 1
- Homemade from Heart Sale | Nov. 1
- Gifts of the Heart Packing | Nov. 15
- At the Table | November 6
- AGO Organ Recital | November 8
- No Grinch Here Food Drive | November 16 to December 7
- Food Market | November 19
- Alternative Gift Market | November 26
- ETC/BASIC Thanksgiving | November 26
- Hills Bank's Lights of Remembrance | December 1
- At the Table | December 4
- Lessons and Carols | December 11
- Children's Christmas Pageant | December 14
- Orchestra Iowa Brass Concert | December 14
- Cocoa and Carols | December 21
- Christmas Eve | 5, 7, & 11 p.m., December 24
- Bingo & Games | January 2
- At the Table | January 8

- **Sunday School & Learning Academy Resumes | January 11**
- **At the Table | February 5**
- **Women's Retreat | February 6-7**
- **Congregational Meeting | February 8**
- **Chili Cookoff & Souper Bowl Lunch | February 8**
- **Ash Wednesday | February 18**
- Additional comments from teams with session representation.

Prayer-all in attendance recited the Lord's prayer and meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Next Meeting: June 19, 2025 at 7 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Benson
Clerk of session

Rev Carl Anderson
Moderator