



# ***Rooted in Faith, Growing to Serve***

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church  
140 Gathering Place Lane | Iowa City, IA 52246  
[www.saintandrew-ic.org](http://www.saintandrew-ic.org)

## **Session Meeting Minutes**

**7 p.m. | October 16, 2025**

**Moderator:** Pastor Carl Anderson

**Session Members:** Becky Benson, Don Burch, Scott Fisher, Aaron Gibson, Chloe Goers, Virginia Ibrahim-Olin, Austin Kannegieter, Emily Neddermeyer, Josh Schilling, Judy Swafford, Jon Swearingen, and Munir Tanas.

**Moderator:** Pastor Carl Anderson

**Excused Members:** Gregs Thomopoulos, Paula McCue, Mary Hausler, Helen Bryce

**Devotions & Opening Prayer:** Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm by Pastor Carl Anderson, Devotion question tonight was “Who/what do you Trust”? Scripture shared from 2 Timothy 3:15-4:5. Prayer offered, including for those absent tonight.

### **Amend/Approve Agenda**

**Motion-to approve the agenda.** **MSC**

### **Approval of Session Minutes:**

- **September Session Meeting Minutes**

**Motion-to approve the Sept Session Minutes.** **MSC**

- **Special Session Meeting Minutes, Oct 12, 2025**

**Motion-to approve the special session minutes from Oct 12, 2025.** **MSC**

### **Consent Agenda**

**Motion: To approve the consent agenda.** **MSC**

- **Team Reports:**

Act Justly-Continues to have meet-ups as opportunities come up. We have a monthly newsletter and a monthly meeting.

**Deacons**-monthly report

**Pastor Nominating Committee**

**Worship Team**-October Minutes

- Worship Attendance & Online Statistics

## Leadership Team Reports

- **Transitional Pastor:** Pastor Carl has a question for session to reflect upon—what would they like to see him address during the remainder of his transitional pastor position, inform him in person or via email. Organizational flow is one area Carl is reviewing. Are there concerns the session should be aware of? Discuss volunteerism. Staff positions vs volunteers filling some of these roles.
- **Ministry Directors:**
  - **Staff Meeting Notes**-Sept. 23 to Oct. 14, 2025
  - **Children & Family Ministry**
  - **Music Ministry**
  - **Student Ministry**
    - **Stronghold 2026**
    - **St. Andrew Week of Service 2026**
  - **Communication and Media Ministry**
    - **Thoughts on St. Andrew's Theme/Tagline & Street Banner-**  
Discussion on using Connecting Hearts, Renewing Lives; Session affirmed the use of this phrase as a theme/tagline. In regard to signage, a future thought concerns the cost to redo the sign out front would be \$600. There could be a work-around on signage by hanging a banner on the concrete wall of the building at some point soon & the cost for this could be combined with printing a new sign out front.

## Clerk's Report:

- **Communion Stats:**
  - Pastor Carl Anderson oversaw communion to 37 people during the Oct. 2 At the Table service and 219 people in-person (with 21 devices logged in online) at the Oct. 5 Sunday Worship Service.
- **Baptism, New Members, and Roll Changes:**
  - Request to transfer membership for Jim and Heather Woodin who have recently joined First Christian Church Disciples. (Motion needed)

**Motion-to approve the transfer of Jim and Heather Woodin to First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, with regret.**

- **Correspondence:** Safe Ministry handout
- **Presbytery:**
  - The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of East Iowa is scheduled for 1-3 p.m. Thursday Nov. 20 at First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids.
  - Clerks review of minutes scheduled for St Andrew on November 15, 2025, at 9 a.m.

## Action & Discussion Items From Teams:

- **Mission, Outreach, and Service-Elder Becky Benson** led a discussion regarding distribution of funds from several long-term trust funds/endowments. One fund/endowment has come to the end of its investment life and the distribution of these funds needs to be determined (continue as before in accordance with the intent of the original gift or find a new alternative). Finance and Endowment teams are

tasked with bringing more information to session in November and MOS is also asked to offer suggestions for funding use, and to consider what a Matthew 25 Church looks like in regard to giving, both now and in the future. MOS will also be discussing whether to propose providing requested fund donations to Camp Bear Creek.

- October Minutes

- Finance

- Finance Packet
- October Minutes. Should a process be developed by finance for appointing checking/savings account signers.

**Motion: To approve the following members as signers for the St. Andrew Checking and Savings accounts at Two Rivers Bank & Trust:**

- Adding: Emily Neddermeyer (Treasurer)
- Removing: Tony Roetlin
- Retaining: Dan Fick, Aaron Gibson, Jason Schuchert, Tim Benson, and Michelle DeGroot.

MSC

- Land Sales

- Memo & Rationale

**Motion-that Session modify its October 12 approval to sell small parcel of land under the proposed easement requested by Western Home, as follows:**

- 1. To set sales price at the same per square foot price as Outlot A sold for, namely, \$4 per square foot (with actual square footage to be determined);
- 2. Since the sales price will be modest, Western Home will bear all costs of this transaction including any survey, title work, abstracting, legal, etc.; and
- 3. Request that Western Home fold in purchase of the small adjacent piece that is presently owned by St. Andrew and subject to the water easement.
- 4. Note that any purchase agreement is subject to congregational approval and concurrence by the Presbytery of East Iowa.

MSC

**Motion: That Session authorizes the Land Sales Team to address any further negotiations on the sale of the property and bring a signed purchase agreement back to Session, subject to congregational approval and concurrence by the Presbytery of East Iowa.** MSC

**Motion: To empower the transitional pastor to call a congregational meeting for the purpose of selling a portion of the church property to Western Homes.** MSC

● **Personnel-Elder Austin Kannegieter** spoke to the continued search for a church organist and an instrumental assistant music director. An organist candidate was interviewed last night and she will come to accompany the choir next week as part of the interview process. Pastor Carl's contract is until mid-December and may require an extension.

**Motion-to empower personnel team to extend a job offer to potential music candidates.** MSC

- October Minutes

- **Building and Grounds-Elder Josh Schilling** discussed having the B&G team compiling the wishlist for future budget funding requests from church teams.
  - Oct Report

## New Business

- **Mental Health Initiatives-Marcia Murphy** has a question regarding her next project, see link and then answer her question.
  - *Mental Health Initiatives: Should this be written with all people and institutions anonymous, using pseudonyms? Or do you advise that I use real names?*  
Per session affirmation, pseudonyms are appropriate for individuals, institutions are appropriate to name.

## Rocket Docket:

- **Reminders of upcoming events**
  - Senior Moments | Oct. 21
  - Food Market | Oct. 22
  - Trunk or Treat | Oct. 26
  - Organ Recital: Abby Chen | Oct. 27
  - Minds Matter Resource Fair | Nov. 1
  - Homemade from the Heart Sale | Nov. 1
  - Beginning of Daylight Savings | Nov. 2
  - All Saints Sunday | Nov. 2
  - Farewell Reception for Abby Chen | Nov. 2
  - Caregiver Wellness Day | Nov. 6
  - At the Table | Nov. 6
  - AGO Organ Recital | Nov. 8
  - Gifts of the Heart Packing | Nov. 15
  - 'No Grinch Here' Food Drive | Nov. 16 to Dec. 7
  - Next Steps | Nov. 16-need to postpone as session will meet that date for November meeting at noon
  - Food Market | Nov. 19 (*third Wednesday*)
  - Alternative Gift Market | Nov. 23
  - Hanging of the Greens | Nov. 23
  - ETC/BASIC Thanksgiving | Nov. 23
  - Celebration of Life: Mary Mixdorf | Nov. 30
  - Hills Bank's Lights of Remembrance | Dec. 1
  - At the Table | Dec. 4
  - Lessons and Carols | Dec. 7
  - Children's Christmas Pageant | Dec. 14
  - Orchestra Iowa Brass Concert | Dec. 14
  - Cocoa and Carols | Dec. 21
  - Christmas Eve | 5, 7, & 11 p.m., Dec. 24
  - Bingo & Games | Jan. 2

- At the Table | Jan. 8
- Sunday School &  
Learning Academy Resume | Jan. 11
- Next Steps | Jan. 18
- Women's Retreat | Jan. 31
- At the Table | Feb. 5
- Congregational Meeting | Feb. 8
- Chili Cookoff & Souper Bowl Lunch | Feb. 8
- Ash Wednesday | Feb. 8
- Men's Retreat | March 7
- Additional comments from teams with session representation.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm with recitation of the Lord's Prayer**

**Next Meeting: Thursday, November 16, 2025 at 12 pm**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia Benson  
Clerk of session**

**The Rev. Dr. Carl Anderson  
Moderator**