



Rooted in Faith, Growing to Serve

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

Session Meeting

February 20, 2025 | 7 p.m.

Moderator: Pastor Carl Anderson

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

Moderator: Pastor Carl Anderson

Excused Members: Aaron Gibson, Gretchen Van Iddekinge

Devotions & Opening Prayer: Meeting called to order at 7 pm by Pastor Carl with 14 elders in attendance. Pastor Carl asked the session to remember the last “new” food they tried. Scripture shared from Psalm 34:8. Prayer then offered.

Motion: to approve agenda as presented.

MSC

Approval of Session Minutes:

- **January Session Meeting Minutes**

Motion: to approve the January Minutes

MSC

- **Annual Congregational Meeting February 2025 Minutes**

Motion: to approve the Congregational Meeting Minutes

MSC

Consent Agenda

- **Team Reports:**

- **Personnel Team | February Minutes**

- **Deacons | February Minutes**

- **Worship Team | February Minutes**

- **Attendance & Online Statistics**

- **Lent & Holy Week Schedule**

Motion: to approve the consent agenda with Building and Grounds team report pulled for discussion.

MSC

Leadership Team Reports

- **Transitional Pastor**

- Keys, Fobs, and Cards for church leaders-let elder-led teams know if they need these to contact Carl. He is looking at staffing patterns. There has also been

contact from some congregation members regarding some teams and how they are organized.

March 1 At the Table Retreat-encouraged elders to attend esp as Carl will lead a listening post during the retreat. Let Carl know if listening sessions are needed by any teams or activities elders are involved with. Think of times to schedule more of these posts at large for the congregation, a total of 4-6 are needed. Also will need an electronic session for those who only worship on-line.

- **Staff Meeting Notes**
- **Ministry Directors:**
 - **Children & Family Ministry**
 - **Music Ministry**-encourage the community to attend the concert March 8th, the theme is "HOPE".
 - **Annual Report 2025**

Clerk's Report:

- **Communion Stats:** On February 2, Pastor Carl Anderson oversaw the distribution of communion 245 individuals in-person with 30 devices logged in concurrently, for an estimated real time congregation of 310.
- **Presbytery:** there is a training meeting this Saturday for elders, Information was emailed to the session.

Action & Discussion Items From Teams:

- **Mission, Outreach, and Service**
 - **Monthly Report**
- **Finance**
 - **Finance Packet**
 - **The bank needs a statement from session** stating that Walter Sparks can have access to our church accounts for informational purposes. This would mirror John's permission. (Clerk can sign such a letter.)

Motion: to approve letter to bank denoting Walter Sparks as the new finance administrator at St Andrew.

MSC

Building and Grounds| Report-pulled for discussion led by elder Josh Schilling

ARC of SE Iowa requested to hold their summer camp here, is 2 sessions of 4 weeks at a time, beginning late June at rate of \$100/day to cover building costs and any extra cleaning fees. They will need to be out of the way of ministries that are already scheduled, so they would be out of the building for the week of VBS and Girls Rock. In the past sound systems or other equipment has been damaged or moved or unplugged; building and grounds should ensure there is a plan to cover/prevent any of these problems.

The worship team is discussing an acoustic assessment of the sanctuary that will need to be considered for future budget discussions.. Window tinting will be planned for this fall to help reduce the sun glare in sanctuary.

New Business

- **CRC -Immigrant Issues—elder Bruce Walker** has been a participant in the Consultation of Religious Communities.
They want to take a stance on social issues. What are the welcoming statements each church uses? Our inclusion statement might be helpful, Bruce wondered if the session had any objection to sharing it and they did not. CRC wants to take a position on how immigration is being treated by the present administration, but this is still under discussion.
- **Deportation and ICE**—children and family ministry would like guidance from the session. There is training available from the Center for Worker Justice and Catholic Worker House here in Iowa City. There will be cards available at St Andrew on the Welcome Desk in various languages as to what an immigrant should say if approached by ICE. PC USA is a sanctuary denomination, we would not invite ICE agents in without proper documentation reviewed by a designated person.
- **Highlights of session meetings** for the congregation to read within a few days following meetings— session could choose 2-3 things and send to Jeff Charis-Carlson who, in his communications role, could publish the highlights in congregation email & newsletters.
Highlights chosen from tonight's meeting:
 1. Walter Sparks authorization to access St Andrew accounts at the bank
 2. Children Family Ministry reports VBS needs volunteers
 3. ARC of SE Iowa will be hosting a camp in the building this summer
- **Upcoming session meetings** moved to March 27th and April 24th due to conflicts on the 3rd Thursday those months (spring break & Maundy Thursday),.
- **Discussion with Carl about the search for the next pastor** and what has come up in a few early listening posts. Pastor Kyle was seen as more conservative in his theology and this provided some congregants with comfort; whereas Pastor Rob was seen as more progressive and also provided comfort for some. With both on staff, people felt they had representation in the pastoral role. This is creating a unique situation for the church. St Andrew could become a “progressive flagship” within the denomination, or not. (Many stated this term was not particularly desirable). Elders shared comments for further consideration about the direction for St Andrew, including perhaps updating the inclusion statement for additional clarity, a desire for a biblical basis, being open & accepting of all believers, and being a safe community for all believers.

Rocket Docket:

- **Reminders of upcoming events**
 - 'Pie for a Pint' Blood Drive | Feb. 23
 - Food Market | Feb. 26
 - 'Come to the Table' Retreat | March 1
 - Communion. Sunday | March 2
 - *She Loves Me* Concert | March 2
 - Ash Wednesday | 5:30 p.m. | March 5

- **Lenten Potluck | March 6**
- **At the Table | March 6**
- **BASIC All-Nighter | March 7-8**
- **Melodious Harmony Concert March 8, 3 pm in sanctuary featuring St Andrew singers and musicians**
- **Child-Led Service | March 9**
- **Senior Moments Coffee | March 18**
- **Food Market | March 26**
- **Handbell Festival | March 28-29**
- **Lenten Potluck | April 3**
- **At the Table | April 3**
- **Communion Sunday | April 6**
- **Bowling @ Colonial Lanes | April 6**
- **Senior Moments Coffee | April 15**
- **Maundy Thursday Potluck | April 17**
- **Maundy Thursday Service | April 17**
- **Good Friday Service | April 18**
- **Easter Sunday | 7, 9 & 11 a.m. | April 20**
- **Food Market | April 23**

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm with the Lord's prayer recited by all.

Next Meeting: March 27, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

**Patricia Benson
Clerk of session**

**Rev Carl Anderson
Moderator**