



Rooted in Faith, Growing to Serve

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

Session Meeting

7 p.m. | August 21, 2025

Moderator: Pastor Carl Anderson

Session Members: Becky Benson, Helen Bryce, Don Burch, Scott Fisher, Aaron Gibson, Chloe Goers, Virginia Ibrahim-Olin, Austin Kannegieter, Paula McCue, Emily Neddermeyer, Josh Schilling, Judy Swafford, Jon Swearingen, and Gregs Thomopulos

Moderator: Pastor Carl Anderson

Excused Members: Mary Hausler, Munir Tanas

Devotions & Opening Prayer: Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm by Pastor Carl Anderson. For this first meeting of the new elder year, what is one practical goal and one esoteric/dream goal each elder has for St Andrew over the course of this next year, was the question for devotion. These were shared as goals:
-support local businesses, -invite new neighbors into the congregation, -do a better job meeting visitors, -hope the small group launch is successful, -fill staff personnel vacancies, -get a better handle on food programs and how to minister in that regard, -capital campaign pays off the mortgage or gets close to that end, -different ways to welcome on-line worshippers, -good match for next pastor, - create environment where people who've left the church feel comfortable returning, -upcoming Guatemala trip in the summer, -high level of music continues, -understand backgrounds of the service and tech needs, - make signing up for serving more manageable, non-Christmas?Easter worship service with over 300 attendees, - review member rolls, -grow children's & youth ministry, Increase numbers in children and youth choirs, -confirmation returns in some form, -finance has a robust bank account, -increase in volunteer base, -encourage older members to get more involved.

Scripture passage from Philippians 3 shared about not having arrived but sprinting toward the goal of the call to a resurrection life espoused by Jesus. Prayer offered with the focus of sharing love to all.

Amend/Approve Agenda

Motion-to accept the agenda as presented.

MSC

Approval of Session Minutes:

- **July Session Meeting Minutes**

Motion-to accept the July session minutes.

MSC

- **Congregational Meeting Minutes, July 20, 2025**
Motion-to accept the July 20th congregational meeting minutes.

MSC

Consent Agenda:

Team Reports:

- **Worship Team**
 - **Worship Attendance Statistics**
- **Deacon Report**
- **Mission, Outreach, and Service**
- **Act Justly**
- **Student Ministry-confirmation report**

Motion-to amend the consent agenda by pulling the consent agenda for worship team for further discussion on communion and student ministry report.

MSC

Motion-to accept the amended consent agenda.

MSC

Leadership Team Reports

- **Transitional Pastor:**

Motion-to enter into executive session at 7:24 pm.

MSC

Motion-to adjourn executive session at 7:28 pm.

MSC

- **Ministry Directors:**

- **Student Ministry**-a confirmation retreat at Stronghold among a group of churches is planned and there could be a monthly follow-up with the participants from St Andrew, including involving the confirmands to attend session and other team meetings, etc, to gain an understanding of the activities of our church.
- **Children and Family Ministry**-still need a few substitute teachers for Sunday School.
- **Music Ministry**
- **August Messenger**
 - **Pastor Carl (page 2)**
 - **Matt Moore (page 4)**
 - **Austen Wilson (page 5)**
 - **Amy Schmidt-Rundell (page 6)**
 - **Learning Academy (page 7)**
 - **CFM Team (page 8)**
 - **Jeff Charis-Carlson & Capital Campaign (page 10-11)**

Clerk's Report:

- **Communion Stats:** On August 3, Pastor Carl Anderson oversaw the serving of communion to 224 attending in-person.
- **Baptism, New Members, and Roll Changes:** Baptism was held August 3, 2025 for Vera, Lydia, & Vivian Tanas
- **Presbytery:** The 217th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of East Iowa is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept 20th at First Presbyterian Church in Mount Pleasant. The meeting will be in-person, with a Zoom option.
- Need motion to call a Congregational Meeting Aug 24th (& retroactively approve Congregational Meeting held July 20th) for the purpose of electing a deacon (under nominating team).

Action & Discussion Items From Teams:

- **Building and Grounds-**elder Josh Schilling reported for the team; 3 quotes requested for the pond dredging but only 2 came back and were of similar cost. There is a designated fund to cover the costs in our budget. Probably needs to be done every 7-10 years, 15 at maximum..

Monthly Report

Landscaping signed proposal

Pond dredging quote/estimate

Motion-to approve the DeLong dredging proposal for the pond behind the church. MSC

- **Personnel Team-**elder Austin Kannegieter reported for the team. Pausing on any interviews for building and grounds coordinator, looking at hiring a maintenance company for general repairs and an in-house staff person to cover building events and technology use. Viability of salary is being studied by the finance team. Walter Sparks now keeps track of vacation hours as finance administrator.

Motion-to enter executive session at 7:50 pm. MSC

Motion-to exit executive session at 8:16 pm. MSC

Motion-to retroactively add the extra hours and compensation of instrumental ensemble director for Abby Chen as of August 8th-Nov 2nd. MSC

Motion-to empower Personnel to post a job position, still TBD (to be determined), for replacement of the organ/instrumental vacancies, after further discernment at the September Personnel meeting. MSC

- **Nominating Team**

- **August 2025 report**

Motion-to retroactively approve the call for Congregational Meetings on July 20 and Aug. 24 for the purpose of filling deacon vacancies. MSC

- **Pastor Nominating Committee**
 - **August Report**
- **Finance**-elder Emily Neddermeyer reported we are over halfway through the year & have about ½ of budgeted income received to date; we are closer to budget as far as expenses are concerned. Looking into a proposal to roll one staff member up to 50%time to cover some of the building and grounds coordinator position in regard to event scheduling and building use.
 - **August 2025 Finance Packet**
 - **August monthly report**
- **Worship Team**-elder Virginia Ibrahim-Olin reported communion serving process is under review and elders are welcome to attend September Worship Team meeting to discuss further.

New Business

- **Election of St. Andrew positions as required from session :**
 - **Clerk**
Motion-to approve Patricia Benson as clerk for the upcoming year. MSC
 - **Treasurer**
Motion-to elect Jason Schuchert for one additional month as finance team works out future plans for a treasurer to be elected for the remainder of the year at the September session meeting. MSC
 - **Assistant Treasurer**
Motion-to elect Michelle DeGroot as assistant treasurer. MSC
 - **3 Presbytery Commissioners**
 - 1) Helen Bryce
 - 2) Scott Fisher
 - 3) Becky Benson**Motion-to elect Helen Bryce, Scott Fisher, & Becky Benson as presbytery commissioners for this year. MSC**
 - **Officer Examination Team: 1-2 elders**
 - 1) Virginia Ibrahim-Olin
 - 2) Austin Kannegieter**Motion-to elect Virginia Ibrahim-Olin and Austin Kannegieter as officer examination team. MSC**
- **President of the Corporation**
Motion-to reaffirm Gregs Thomopulos as president of the corporation. MSC

- **Team representation by elders**
 - **Team Roster for 2025-26**-list updated with the following necessary elder roles filled and additional team roles chosen by elders depending on personal preferences/gifts/talents:
 - Nominating Team- 1) Helen Bryce**
 - 2) Paula McCue**
 - Personnel Team- 1) Austin Kannegieter**
 - 2) Gregs Thomopulos**

Rocket Docket:

- **Reminders of upcoming events**
 - **In Worship Congregational Meeting** | Aug. 24
 - **School Year's Eve** | Aug. 24
 - **Pedals & Pipes** | Aug. 24
 - **Food Market** | Aug. 27
 - **"Harvest of Gratitude": A Volunteer Celebration Potluck** | Sept. 2
 - **At the Table** | Sept. 4
 - **Celebration of Life: Robert John Shaffer** | Sept. 6
 - **Ministry Fair** | Sept. 7
 - **All Abilities Art Exhibit** | Sept. 7
 - **Sunday School and Learning Academy Resumes** | Sept. 14
 - **Senior Moments** | Sept. 16
 - **Next Steps Class** | Sept. 21
 - **Food Market** | Sept. 24
 - **At the Table** | Oct. 2
 - **"Sound of Friendship" Concert** | Oct. 3
 - **Impacto Reunion** | Oct. 3
 - **World Communion Sunday & Impacto Visit** | Oct. 5
 - **BASIC Pancake Breakfast** | Oct. 5
 - **Pilot Club Breakfast** | Oct. 11
 - **Hayrides @ Dane Farm** | Oct. 11
 - **Senior Moments** | Oct. 21
 - **Trunk or Treat** | Oct. 26
 - **Organ Recital: Abby Chen** | Oct. 27
 - **Food Market** | Oct. 29
 - **Minds Matter Resource Fair** | Nov. 1
 - **Homemade from Heart Sale** | Nov. 1
 - **All Saints Sunday** | Nov. 2

Meeting closed in Lord's Prayer at 8:54 pm

Next Meeting: September 18, 2025 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Benson
Clerk of session

Rev Carl Anderson
Moderator