



Rooted in Faith, Growing to Serve

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

Session Meeting

March 27, 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, Munir Tanas, Gregs Thomopulos, Gretchen Van Iddekinge, and Bruce Walker.

Moderator: Pastor Carl Anderson

Excused Members: Emily Neddermeyer

Unexcused Members: Munir Tanas

Scheduled Guests: John Benson for Land Sales Team rezoning update

Devotions & Opening Prayer: Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm by Pastor Carl Anderson upon confirmation of a quorum. Session was asked what they are celebrating personally and what they are celebrating at St Andrew. One thing mentioned was having 546 families shop at St Andrew yesterday at the food market and the handbell festival this weekend. The Gospel passage this weekend is a portion of Luke 15 and was shared by Pastor Carl regarding celebration.

Amend/Approve Agenda

Motion: to accept the agenda as presented, with the added information of Tim Patrick's final day of work as Building and Grounds Coordinator being April 11, 2025. **MSC**

Approval of Session Minutes:

- February Minutes of Session Meeting

Motion: to approve the minutes as presented. **MSC**

Consent Agenda

- **Team Reports:**
 - Deacons
 - Worship Team
 - Act Justly-information on FOSNA

Motion: to pull the Act Justly information for discussion and receiving the other reports as presented.

MSC

Leadership Team Reports

- **Transitional Pastor: Pastor Carl** asked which groups session has contacted who are interested in meeting with him regarding the characteristics of the next lead pastor. Qualifications for serving on the PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) will be presented to the congregation soon and the May Messenger will present a road map of the search process. Currently listening sessions are in process. An MIF will need to be prepared once the PNC begins meeting later this year (MIF-ministry information form is the job description and application), followed by the interview process, final candidates preaching at a neutral pulpit, and recommendation for hiring to the congregation. Pastor Carl would like to know by the April meeting how many persons should serve on the PNC so the nominating team will best be able to balance the demographics of the team. The June congregational meeting would be an opportune time to elect a PNC if the process moves forward as it is currently. COMV (Committee on Ministry and Vitality) will be invited to attend the April session meeting and have a separate meeting with the nominating team. The devotion time at the April meeting will be when the session can discuss their hopes and desires for a lead pastor. Discussed baptisms for non-members, no objections noted. Matt Moore, director of student ministry, is home recovering from a torn ACL repair today.
- **Ministry Directors:**
 - **Children and Family Ministry**
 - **Music Ministry**
 - **Student Ministry**
 - **Staff Meeting Notes (Feb. 25 - March 25)**

Clerk's Report:

- **Communion Stats:** 231 received communion on March 2, 2025
- **Baptism, New Members, and Roll Changes:** Nicholas Jay Schnicker and Stephanie Kate Schnicker would like their daughter baptized. Their older child, Henry Douglas Schnicker, born March 16, 2020, was baptized here in September 2020. The family are not currently members but do attend worship.

Motion: to approve the baptism for Sophia Kate Schnicker, born August 8, 2023 on April 27, 2025. **MSC**

Motion: to approve the baptism of Ivy Anderson, daughter of Carl Anderson and Natalie Freed at a date to be determined. **MSC**
- **Correspondence:** Certification of training letter for elder Don Burch for completion of Healthy Boundaries for ruling elders on February 8, 2025. Aaron Gibson also completed the training.

- **Presbytery:** Next meeting April 5 at Iowa City First Presbyterian. We can have 3 commissioners attending.. Our 2 elected commissioners, Helen Bryce and Virginia Ibrahim-Olin, will attend.

Action & Discussion Items From Teams:

- **Mission, Outreach, and Service**
 - **Report**
- **Finance-**it was clarified that the funding for the summer lunch bunch coordinator position is being covered by MOS funding from their budget for this year.
 - **Monthly packet report**
 - **March 25th Meeting**
- **Building and Grounds-**elder Josh Schilling gave a summary and answered questions regarding the cost of batteries for the emergency lighting system, and the shortfall of approximately \$10K for architectural & engineering fees for the front canopy project, the amount above the \$10K will be covered by the contingency fund but there is still this shortfall (which represents ¼ of the Building and Grounds annual budget). The recommendation regarding the shortfall is for the finance team to discuss options for covering this fee and to caution the session to be aware of the need for being more thorough in the future when considering total costs for construction projects. The entry door system proposal is currently \$15,000 for replacement and options are being investigated. TIm Patrick has submitted his resignation and his final day as building and grounds coordinator is April 11, 2025.
 - **Report**
- **Land Sales Team-**John Benson reported on rezoning; Elder Eric Gores recused himself from this portion of the meeting. One caveat of the rezoning discussion with the city-if the church ever wanted to sell a small area north of the South Triangle piece of property there would need to be a 2nd access road developed or the road would need to go through our main church property, possibly the parking lot, making this option unfeasible for the most part.

Report

Motions: to approve the conditional zoning agreement. MSC

to authorize the clerk of session to sign the document since the president of the corporation is out of town. MSC

to continue the 6-month contract listing agreement with realtor Jeff Edberg. MSC

- **Stewardship**
 - Note from Chris Charis-Donelson
 - Step-Up Chart
 - Giving Chart

Old Business

- **Nominating Team:** Discuss options for upcoming PNC process & demographic make-up— this will occur in April.

New Business

- **Personnel Team-**elder Austin Kannegieter reported for the team. A new building and grounds coordinator hire will not occur before the current employee leaves in April.

- Job Description for Building and Grounds Coordinator

Motion: To approve the posting for the Building and Grounds Coordinator position, per the attached job description. (This job description was reviewed by Personnel as well as Building and Grounds). **MSC**

- **Act Justly-** discussion of FOSNA request to sign a pledge which decries the treatment of Palestinian Christians as being similar to how apartheid has treated persons in South Africa. Act Justly would like St Andrew to review the material and decide whether the church should sign such a pledge. Session would like Act Justly to investigate which other Presbyterian organizations and churches have signed onto this pledge and will revisit the request at the April session meeting.

- **Motion:to hold the next Session Meeting April 24th with Virginia Ibrahim-Olin as clerk pro-tem in the absence of clerk Patricia Benson..**

MSC

Rocket Docket:

- **Reminders of upcoming events**
 - Suzanne Hill: Celebration of Life | Thursday
 - Intro to Lent Class | Sunday, April 6 & 13
 - Paul Meyer: Celebration of Life | Sunday
 - Lenten Potluck | April 3
 - At the Table | April 3
 - Communion Sunday | April 6
 - Bowling @ Colonial Lanes | April 6
 - ETC Trivia Night Fundraiser | April 11
 - 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
 - Session | April 24
 - At the Table | May 1

- Last Week of Sunday School | May 11
- Last Week of Learning Academy | May 18
- Meetup @ the Festival of Flowers (UAY) | May 22
- Meetup @ the Friday Night Concert | May 23
- Additional comments from teams with session representation-thanks to Jon Swearingen's team for touch up painting around the church building, Act Justly invites interested persons to attend a presentation on April 24 by Leslie Carpenter on lobbying for mental health at the state capital.

Prayer-8:33 pm meeting adjourned with all reciting the Lord's prayer

Next Meeting: April 24, 2025 at 7 pm

Respectfully submitted,

**Patricia Benson
Clerk of session**

**Rev Carl Anderson
Moderator**