

**Session Minutes**  
**Gashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church**  
**March 10, 2016**

A combined meeting of the Session and Board of Deacons of Gashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church was held at 6:35 PM on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at the church.

**Elders Present:**

Class of 2016  
Chris Taylor  
Mark Lancaster  
Dallas Reeve

Class of 2017  
Dennis King  
Mark Blakley  
Don Vande Polder

Class of 2018  
Larry Harris  
Aaron Kleinmeyer  
Roy Stewart

Elders Taylor and King were excused for the meeting.

**Session Moderator:** Pastor Ritchey Cable

**A. Prayer:** Elder Harris opened the Session meeting with prayer.

**B. Adoption of Agenda (any changes to the Ministry Team Report Agenda or Discussion Agenda should be made at this time).**

The agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

**C. Pastor's Report by Pastor Ritchey Cable**

1. Pastor Cable commented on the February combined Deacons/Session meeting and how important he believes these are for enhancing communication and ministry within the church.
2. The next Presbytery meeting is April 26<sup>th</sup> in Columbia, MO. Elders were asked to consider the possibility of attending with assignments to be made at the April Session meeting.
3. Pastor Cable reported that he will be out of town the week of March 14<sup>th</sup> and that Michael Morefield would be handling the Wednesday evening Conversations responsibility.
4. Prayer was held for several church members who are currently facing various health concerns.

**D. Discussion Agenda**

1. Elder Lancaster introduced a discussion forum for future Session meeting consideration asking the question what Jesus would say about how we are being faithful to His commands if he walked into our church. Mark will prepare a discussion question for the April meeting focused on a portion of scripture as a catalyst for evaluation and discussion. Elders will share responsibility going forward for preparing a similar lesson at subsequent meetings.
2. Elder Stewart led a discussion on the importance of emphasizing the ministry aspect of each ministry team when engaged with the congregation eliciting their support of the various ministries. Discussion focused on the merits of describing ministry workers as something other than volunteers.  
**\*Action Item** - The Mission/Vision work group will discuss this issue and report back to the Session.
3. Elder Blakley led a discussion of the long-range financial needs of the church to address the mortgage debt, deferred maintenance items and life-cycle replacement of various tangible assets. The question was asked about the possibility of a capital campaign to address these issues. Elder Blakley agreed to gather some background information on past capital campaigns to facilitate discussion at the next combined Deacon/Session meeting in June.
4. A general discussion about prayer was focused on the need and desire for the Elders to be more in prayer for the congregation and ministries of the church. This area of spiritual responsibility and ministry will be added as an agenda item at future Session meetings.

## **E. Ministry Team Reports**

1. Session Meeting minutes of Feb. 11, 2016 were approved by unanimous voice vote as submitted, the Congregational Meeting minutes of Jan. 24, 2016 were approved and electronic copies of both documents were forwarded to the Deacons and Church Office.
2. Ministry Team Reports:
  - a. Worship Team – Larry Harris reported on the Holy week service schedule and logistics. The Worship agreed to assume responsibility for decorations in the sanctuary and ministry center as these are considered integral to worship.
  - b. Outreach Team – Roy Stewart reported that the three designated ministries that the church will support in 2016 are Hillcrest, City Union Mission and Rachel House.
  - c. Relationships Team – Mark Blakley reported that Re-Shape is up and running and the people who have completed their spiritual gifts assessment profile have found it very useful. This ministry will be emphasized more in the coming weeks. Each elder was encouraged to complete their own profile assessment if they have not already done so.
  - d. Discipleship Team –Michael Morefield reported on the new Sunday School classes that have formed for the current quarter. He also provided an update on the Kanakuk Camp summer youth ministry opportunity that is being held this year as an alternative to VBS. Scholarships are available for students who need them. He also reported on the progress of fundraising for the High School student summer mission trip with a church-wide event scheduled for April 2nd.
  - e. Coordinating Team – Don Vande Polder reported that personnel reviews were currently underway for all staff. The Boy Scout Troop has transitioned out of our church and has found a new location for their meetings.
3. Clerk's Report
  - a. The 2015 annual EPC statistical report is due to on March 31<sup>st</sup>. The clerk will be working to complete that report with assistance of the church staff.
  - b. Correspondence was received from several churches acknowledging transfer of membership for several people to GEPC.
  - c. Correspondence was received from a church member regarding the status of defibrillators on the church property. The letter was forwarded to the Coordination Team who will pass it on to the Deacons. The clerk contacted the member writing the letter to advise of the status of their inquiry.

## **F. Board and Consent Reports**

1. Board of Deacons – Not yet received at the time of this report.
2. Financial Report – Not yet received at the time of this report.

## **G. Executive Session**

A motion was made at 8:58 PM by Mark Blakley, seconded by Don Vande Polder, that the meeting move into executive session. All yes, motion passed. Executive session was concluded at 9:08 PM.

## **H. Adjournment of Meeting**

Adjournment was made at 9:10 P.M. with prayer by Mark Lancaster and Session members meeting in individual small groups for under-shepherding ministry prayer time.

Paul Weatherford  
Clerk of Session

Pastor Ritchey Cable  
Session Moderator