

**Session Minutes**  
**Gashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church**  
**April 14, 2016**

A meeting of the Session of Gashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church was held at 6:37 PM on April 14, 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 Reeve and Vande Polder were excused for the meeting.

**Session Moderator:** Pastor Ritchey Cable

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

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

The agenda was adopted by unanimous consent after addition of discussion items 3 and 4.

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

1. Pastor Cable asked for those interested in attending the Presbytery meeting in Columbia, MO on April 26<sup>th</sup> to let him know as soon as possible so registration could be complete. Elder Stewart will attend and Elder Taylor will decide on his availability before next week.

2. Pastor Cable announced that the EPC General Assembly meeting was scheduled for June 21-25 and that both he and Michael Morefield would be unable to attend due to prior commitments. He encouraged any Elders who were available to attend. Chris Taylor and Aaron Kleinmeyer said they were considering attending.

3. Pastor Cable reported on his mentoring process with Pastor Serve and Jay Fowler. Jay will be in attendance at the next Session meeting to address the Session on how we may better serve and support Ritchey in ministry at GEPC. Pastor Cable has been reading a book, "Pastors are People too", as part of the mentoring process and desires for the Session to benefit from this resource as well. Mark Blakley will read chapter one of the book and give a teaching from the chapter to the Session at the May meeting.

4. Pastor Cable reported on the personal struggle of a pastor friend of his in St. Louis and how this has impacted that pastor's church. He led prayer for that church and his friend.

5. Pastor Cable gave an update on the status of the office personnel and current workload. He suggested that elders needing office assistance with projects and programs provide specific deadlines for the work to be done so that priorities can be set and work completed in a timely manner. Larry Harris led a prayer for the office staff.

6. The vision/mission work group consisting of Pastor Cable, Michael Morefield, Chris Taylor and Mark Lancaster has faced various issues and challenges in getting organized. Pastor Cable hopes to have the group functioning soon and plans to introduce a fall ministry focus on prayer and outreach.

**D. Discussion Agenda**

1. Elder Lancaster introduced the first discussion forum asking the question what Jesus would think about our faithfulness to one of His teachings, specifically that forgiveness is of great importance. Elders read Luke 5:27-32, Matthew 6:12-15 & 9:1-8, Mark 11:25 and John 20:23 and discussed each passage. There were comments about how we see forgiveness displayed in our church and how we can be more faithful to live out this teaching individually and as a church. Roy Stewart will select and lead a discussion next meeting.

2. Elder Kleinmeyer encouraged all elders to communicate with their teams and provide information to Marilyn in the office to support Chris Stackpole and the ministry fair in May by submitting photos, ministry descriptions, and contact information for the posters that are being developed for the fair.

3. Mark Lancaster led a discussion about the Session response to the 2014 audit. Session agreed to seek clarification from the Coordinating Team about the follow up on the 2014 audit response from Session and how this was communicated back to the Audit Team.

4. Larry Harris brought several issues to the attention of Session and asked for clarification and/or guidance in areas – Noise from Metro Life praise band practice disrupting the SS fellowship hall classroom on Sunday morning. Mark Lancaster will talk to Metro Life about this issue. Larry sought approval from Session to be absent from the next two session meetings to allow his participation in the Liberty Community Chorus. Approval was granted. Larry's approved absence sparked discussion about the appropriateness of virtual meetings or attendance when someone would be absent. Pastor Cable stated his desire to have meetings in person, but had no objection to individuals who were going to be absent participating via conference call or skype. Mark Lancaster agreed to review the GEPC bylaws to see if this issue was addressed.

#### **E. Ministry Team Reports**

1. Session Meeting minutes of March 10, 2016 were approved by unanimous voice vote as submitted.

2. Ministry Team Reports:

a. Worship Team – Larry Harris reported that the Worship Team has assumed responsibility for decorations in the sanctuary and ministry center as these are considered integral to worship and that Sarah Sporrer had joined the Team to help coordinate this responsibility. Larry asked that the Session pray about the upcoming stewardship presentation on testimony in May. The Stewardship Team will be offering a SS class this summer on stewardship and financial planning.

b. Outreach Team – Roy Stewart reported that the Team did not meet last month due to some illnesses by members on the team. The Session prayed for team members who have been ill recently.

c. Relationships Team – Mark Blakley reported that a church-wide picnic is planned for June and summer socials will be offered again for people to sign up for at the picnic. April Downey has agreed to take over the administration of the prayer chain. Mark will coordinate the transition to April's leadership.

d. Discipleship Team – Michael Morefield is assuming responsibility for leadership of this Team.

e. Coordinating Team – Both elders on this Team were absent. No report was made.

3. Clerk's Report

a. The 2015 annual EPC statistical report was submitted on March 30th.

b. Information from the Mid-America Presbytery on **Engage 2025** was received and forwarded to the Outreach Team.

c. Information packets for the upcoming Presbytery meeting and General Assembly meeting were received and distributed to the elders showing interest in attending these two meetings.

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

1. Board of Deacons – March 2016 report received.

2. Financial Report – March 31, 2016 report received with discussion following. Mark Lancaster moved that the expense for the recent HVAC work be funded from some source other than the Property Team annual maintenance budget, seconded by Larry Harris. All –yes. Motion passed.

There was also discussion about possible funding of many deferred maintenance items which are reaching a critical stage and may end up costing more money to remediate if not addressed in a timely fashion. The Coordinating Team will set up a meeting with the Property Team and Finance Team to discuss priorities and the funding mechanism to address these projects this year.

#### **G. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM with prayer by Pastor Cable.

Paul Weatherford  
Clerk of Session

Pastor Ritchey Cable  
Session Moderator