

**Session Minutes**  
**Gashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church**  
**February 9, 2017**

A meeting of the Session of Gashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church was held at 6:32 PM on Thursday, February 9, 2017 at the church.

<b>Elders:</b>	<u>Class of 2017</u>	<u>Class of 2018</u>	<u>Class of 2019</u>
	Mark Blakley	Aaron Kleinmeyer	Mike Brink
	Dennis King	Roy Stewart (by phone)	Mark Lancaster
	Don Vande Polder	Chris Taylor	Dave Smith

**Session Moderator:** Pastor Ritchey Cable

- A. **Prayer:** Elder Chris Taylor opened the meeting with prayer.
- B. **Agenda Adoption – (changes to agenda should be made at this time):** The agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.
- C. **Pastors' Report:**
1. Pastor Ritchey welcomed Mike Brink and Dave Smith as elders of GEPC. Pastor Ritchey read a passage from Acts then the elders laid hands on Mike and Dave and prayed for them. Elder Mark Blakley led prayer for Mike Brink and Elder Aaron Kleinmeyer for Dave Smith.
  2. Pastor Ritchey shared that Mark Smith will be rotating off the communion serving team. The Worship Team will be reviewing who will coordinate communion assignments going forward.
  3. Pastor Ritchey shared the 2017 General Assembly will be in Sacramento, California from June 20-23, 2017. Currently only Pastor Ritchey will be attending on behalf of GEPC as Pastor Michael has a commitment with the church youth at that time. Elders will finalize their calendars by the March Session meeting to determine if any may be able to join Pastor Ritchey.
  4. Pastors Ritchey and Michael along with Elder Chris Taylor will develop a process on how new members are added to the respective Undersheperding teams.
  5. Elder and Deacon installation will be on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>.
  6. Pastor Michael and Lacey will be on vacation next week. Pastor Ritchey prayed for renewal for them both during their time away.
  7. Pastor Michael shared about his excitement regarding his transition into his new role later in the year.
  8. Pastor Michael shared the Ministry Director position has been posted and applications have begun to be received.
- D. **Discussion Agenda:**
1. Elder Don Vande Polder led discussion from the book "Pastors are People Too" being discussed by Session. The chapter was on the role of the Pastor's wife and focused on how to handle expectations, criticism of being in the "public eye" and the need for support to guard against loneliness. The Church (GEPC) needs to be a safe place for them void of gossip and to stand with a pastor's wife.
  2. Elder Mark Lancaster shared the Undersheperding framework and expectations with the new elders. Elder Mike Brink will inherit Larry Harris' team while Elder Dave Smith will inherit Dallas Reeve's team.

3. Elder Mark Blakley moved, seconded by Elder Aaron Kleinmeyer, to move the oversight of the Undersheperding from the Discipleship Team to Session with Elder Mark Lancaster as the leader of this oversight for 2017. All yeas, motion carried.
4. Elder Mark Blakley moved, seconded by Elder Aaron Kleinmeyer, to have a representative from each of the following teams (Discipleship, Relationship, Outreach and Helps) meet by June 15, 2017 to discuss the agenda and format for Conversations for the fall of 2017. Elder Mark Blakley will coordinate this discussion. All yeas, motion carried.
5. Elder Mark Lancaster reviewed the GEPC Articles of Agreement and Book of Order and reminded the leadership these documents are our governing rules.

Elder Chris Taylor moved, seconded by Elder Mark Blakley to suspend the Session meeting and move into a Trustee meeting. All yeas, motion carried. Session meeting was suspended at 7:48 pm.

Session meeting was called back to order at 7:56 pm.

6. Community Church Builder (CCB) training will take place at the joint meeting of elders and deacons in March. Emily will set up a representative from CCB to conduct the training and provide log-in details for the leadership team.
7. The Coordinating Team brought forth a motion, seconded by Elder Aaron Kleinmeyer, to amend the approved 2017 budget to increase the Mercy Team budget total to \$1,750. All yeas, motion carried.
8. Pastor Michael provided an update of the Undersheperding groups information and requested all missing information be completed by the end of February.
9. Elders Mark Blakley and Mark Lancaster, along with representatives from the Worship and Discipleship teams will meet to discuss the service times on Sunday. Currently Sunday School times are being cut short due to the length of the services on some Sundays. Also, the “Fellowship” time following first service and the start of Sunday school is an important time as well. The purpose of the meeting is to find a solution to honor and identify appropriate time for teaching during the services and Sunday school along with fellowship time.
10. Elder Aaron Kleinmeyer moved, seconded by Elder Roy Stewart, that all GEPC leadership will be required to go through the ReShape course by April 13, 2017. All yeas, motion carried.

**E. Ministry Team Reports:**

1. Session Meeting minutes of January 12, 2017 and Congregation Meeting minutes of January 29, 2017 were approved by unanimous voice as submitted.
2. Ministry Team Reports:
  - a. *Worship Team* – Pastor Ritchey shared how well the Christmas services went.
  - b. *Outreach Team* – Elder Aaron Kleinmeyer shared GEPC will be hosting a Farmers Market this summer in the church parking lot. Additional work is to be done on the promotion and liability agreements needed to protect the church and any vendor.
  - c. *Relationship Team* – Elder Taylor shared the summer picnic will be in June with plans to be a bigger event than in past years.
  - d. *Discipleship Team* – Team is continuing to discuss how Gashland MD will continue to expand and remain a focus for all members of GEPC.
  - e. *Coordinating Team* – Team report was accepted. Elder Don Vande Polder shared the next Elder gathering would be at his home on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
3. Clerk’s Report: No Clerk’s report was presented.

F. **Consent Report:**

1. Deacons Report – No Deacons report was received.
2. Financial Report – No Financial report was received.

G. **Adjournment of Session Meeting:**

Elder Chris Taylor moved, seconded by Elder Mark Blakley, to adjourn the meeting. All yeas.  
Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:32 pm.

H. **Closing Prayer:**

Pastor Ritchey led the group in closing prayer.

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Dennis King  
For Paul Weatherford  
Clerk of Session

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Pastor Ritchey Cable  
Moderator