

Session Minutes
Gashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church
May 11, 2017

A meeting of the Session of Gashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church was held at 6:30 PM on Thursday, May 11, 2017 at the church.

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

Session Moderator: Pastor Ritchey Cable

- A. **Prayer:** Pastor Ritchey opened the meeting with prayer.

- B. **Agenda Adoption – (amendments to agenda were made at this time):** The agenda was adopted with amendments by unanimous consent.

- C. **Pastors' Report:**
 1. Pastor Ritchey shared offices are being repainted along with preparing Caleb Mason's office for his arrival on June 16. He indicated September 1 would be the timeline for the promotion on Michael to Associate Pastor of Family Discipleship. The Presbytery will officially approve Michael at the October meeting and we will need congregational approval. A date for this approval is being finalized for some time in August.
 2. Pastor Ritchey shared the Deacons are gathering welcoming gifts for Caleb & Cassidy.
 3. Pastor Ritchey shared the passing of both Hoy Middleton and Jann Rider. Elder Lancaster prayed for both, their families along with the transition to Kansas City for Caleb and Cassidy.
 4. Michael reported on Presbytery meeting in Columbia on April 25th. He informed the elders that the Presbytery approved changing the annual membership fee from \$38 per member of congregation to a church contribution of 1% of their annual budget. For GEPC this will be a savings over our current contribution.

- D. **Discussion Agenda:**
 1. Old Business
 - a. Rotation and tenure of Trustees was tabled until Elder Kleinmeyer is present to lead discussion.
 - b. Update of motion to hire new Director of Student Ministries was reported in the Pastor's Report.
 - c. Service times feedback. Over the past month the coordination of the service times with Sunday school has been going well except the one week in which we had both communion and the Arco's visiting from Italy. Services for this week went longer and impacted Sunday school. We will continue to evaluate the services through the summer and provide an update at the end of July.

 2. New Business
 - a. Elder Lancaster reported on Chapter 9 of "Pastors are People Too" which was titled "Conflict (It's Inevitable)". He shared that conflict will occur and that the Pastor as the highest authority in many congregant's minds will be the one to whom the conflict is taken for resolution. The leadership must refuse to let antagonists set the

agenda for the church. Without peace worship is hard and making peace takes risk but the leadership must undertake this risk. The chapter addressed the need to collapse relational triangles and redirect conversations to cut out the third point which creates the triangle. The resolution must be made point-to-point. Lastly to determine how important the conflict is relative to other church priorities.

- b. June 8th at 6 pm will be the joint meeting of the elders and deacons. Agenda will include reviewing communion and discussing prayer becoming part of the church DNA.

3. Team Reports

- a. Worship Team – team will review weddings conducted at the church and involve the Coordinating Team in reviewing the current policy in place.
- b. Outreach Team – Hillcrest ministry is being reviewed to determine if this will remain as one of the focused ministries. The team may recommend only continuing to support them financially.
- c. Relationship Team – Church picnic will be on June 4th. Team continues to evolve “ReShape” with a focus on how to “place” members once their gifts are identified.
- d. Discipleship Team – Children and youth have been serving with “FirsTeam” as greeters for both services. The bingo night raised \$3,000 for the youth trip to Joplin.
- e. Coordinating Team – As reported in the Pastor’s report, Caleb Mason has officially accepted our offer as Director of Student Ministries and will begin on June 16th.

4. Clerk’s Report

- a. Elder Vande Polder moved, seconded by Elder Lancaster, to approve the April 13, 2017 Session Meeting minutes as read. All yeas, motion carried.
- b. Elder King shared the main changes received from EPC regarding the changes to the 403(b)9 benefits plan. The main changes are the retirement funds are changing from Fidelity to Vanguard with fewer fund options available to participating members. Also the administrative fees to manage this plan will increase which will impact GEPC by \$3 per month.
- c. Next meeting on June 8th at 6 pm and will be a joint meeting with the Deacons.

5. Consent Reports

- a. Deacons report received and accepted
- b. Financial report received and accepted

E. Adjournment of Session Meeting:

Elder Stewart moved, seconded by Elder Vande Polder, to adjourn the meeting. All yeas. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm. Pastor Morefield closed with prayer.

Dennis King
For Paul Weatherford
Clerk of Session

Pastor Ritchey Cable
Moderator