

Session Minutes
Gashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church
January 18, 2018

The monthly meeting of the Session of the Gashland EPC was held at the church on January 18, 2018.

Elders attending: Mark Lancaster, Dennis King, Aaron Kleinmeyer, Chris Taylor, Peter Marshall, Dave Smith and Jeff VanDerWeele.

Moderator: Senior Pastor Ritchey Cable. Also attending was Associate Pastor Michael Morefield.

- A. The meeting was opened with prayer by Mark Lancaster.
- B. A quorum was confirmed and the agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.
- C. **Pastor's Report:**
 1. Ritchey offered three dates for consideration for the Retreat:
 - a. February 23-24
 - b. March 2-3
 - c. March 9-10After discussion, it was determined to contact Mike Brink and Mark Blakely, who had excused absences, to get their input to find a preferred date.
 2. Ritchey updated plans for the Retreat. It will provide for team building, time for prayer, discussion for under-shepherding and vision direction for teams. A pre-Retreat workbook will be provided.
 3. Michael Morefield will be taking one week of study leave in February.
- D. **Business Reports and Discussion:**
 1. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Chapel/Congregation Prayer:** Mark Lancaster asked for opinions on continuing the current program of having prayer time prior to the Wednesday conversations. No conclusion was reached and the program will continue as is, although it was suggested the program receive more publicity than it presently receives. Aaron Kleinmeyer suggested one day each month for corporate prayer during the time currently set aside for the conversations program.
 - b. **GEPC Care and Preparedness:** Dennis King will inform the congregation during the Congregation Meeting of the program and plans. There was considerable discussion regarding safety and security procedures and it was agreed unanimously the appropriate procedure is to comply with state statutes regarding group security measures covering such things as facility security, firearms, etc.
 2. **New Business:**
 - a. **Assign Two Elders to Nominating Team:** Peter Marshall was nominated two-year term and Dennis King for a one-year term. Motion by Dave Smith, seconded by Aaron Kleinmeyer to approve the nominations was carried.

- b. **2018 Budget**: The 2018 Budget was presented by Ritchey and a thorough discussion followed with each item being carefully reviewed. A motion was presented by Dennis King, seconded by Chris Taylor, to approve the budget by reducing the estimate for Account Number 7125 (electricity) by \$2,000 and Account Number 7155 (mowing) by \$1,717, thus attaining a balanced budget. The motion carried.
 - c. **Sweep Account**: The cash-on-hand threshold of \$250,000 has been attained and the current reported balance is \$260,970. There was considerable discussion on whether excess cash should be applied to outstanding debt or should be set aside as a reserve for future maintenance. A motion was presented by Mark Lancaster, seconded by Dave Smith, to have the Coordinating Team moderate a meeting of the Coordinating Team, the Property Team and the Finance Team to present a recommendation on this topic to the Session at the next Session meeting on February 8, 2018. The motion carried.
 - d. **Trustee Meeting of Members/Officers**: Mark Lancaster explained the requirement for holding a meeting of the Trustees and that the EPC considers the Session to be the Trustees; that the Trustees must meet during the first six weeks of a new year and that separate minutes of that meeting be kept. It was determined that the Trustees meeting will occur prior to or subsequent to the Session meeting of February 8, 2018 and at that meeting, a President and Secretary of the Trustees will be elected.
 - e. **Joint meeting with Board of Deacons**: The meeting will be hosted by the Deacons at their meeting on March 13, 2018.
 - f. **Prayer Request Cards**: Michael Morefield said the prayer request cards do, on occasion, have requests that are intended to be confidential to the pastors. Michael will conduct a timely weekly review of these cards in order to ensure confidentiality.
 - g. **Church Roll Update**: Ritchey presented a proposed letter to be sent to those attendees and members who have not been in attendance for the past two years, as determined by the weekly attendance cards. The letter asks the recipient to confirm whether they are, in fact, still wishing to be included in the membership roll or if they wish to be removed from the roll.
 - h. **Elder/Deacon Installation Date**: Ritchey and Michael will submit a proposed date at the February Session meeting.
3. **Team Reports**:
- a. **Worship**: Ritchey said there was no meeting in December due to Christmas worship schedule.
 - b. **Outreach**: Aaron reported on plans for the 2018 Sports Camp. He said there has been good response on the partnership with Gashland Elementary School. No decision has yet been made on the Care Portal.
 - c. **Relationship**: Michael Morefield said the churchwide game night will be April 7, 2018. He said the age group 20s/30s have inquired about background checks for the child care staff.

- d. **Discipleship:** Michael said approximately 140 people have enrolled via email for this program and a total of approximately 200 people have expressed an interest. The updating of the library is complete.
 - e. **Coordinating:** Dennis said the Ministry Team will be providing an outline of duties for the Girl Scouts to perform in lieu of a facility rental fee for using GEPC facilities. The committee will be meeting to improve policies and goals for communication.
 - f. **General:** Ritchey is assembling committee reports for inclusion in the Annual Report.
4. **Clerk's report:** In the absence of Paul Weatherford, Ritchey gave a brief report.
 5. **Deacon's Report:** Dennis said the Deacon's report has been received.
- E. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by Dave Smith, seconded by Chris Taylor. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:05. The meeting was closed with group prayer.

Jim Carney
Acting Clerk

Ritchey Cable
Moderator