

Session Minutes
Gashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church
August 16, 2018

A meeting of the Gashland Presbyterian Church Session was held on August 16, 2018 at 6:33 PM at the church.

<u>Elders:</u>	<u>Class of 2018</u>	<u>Class of 2019</u>	<u>Class of 2020</u>
	Aaron Kleinmeyer	Mike Brink	Peter Marshall
	Chris Taylor	Mark Lancaster	Mark Blakley
	Jeff Van Der Weele	David Smith	Dennis King (Excused)

Session Moderator: Pastor Cable called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM after confirming a quorum was present. .

PRAYER: Jeff Van Der Weele offered prayer for the group and the decisions to be made during the meeting.

A. AGENDA ADOPTION: The agenda was amended by adding item “f. Joint Meeting with Deacons in November” under New Business

B. PASTOR’S REPORT:

1. Book discussion, “Gospel Shaped Ministry” by Stephen Um, “Mercy”. Pastor Cable led a discussion about mercy by reading Matthew 25:31-46, The Parable of the Sheep and Goats. Sheep are not aware they are helping others; it is part of their nature as Christ followers. Goats are not aware they are ignoring the needs of others. Pastor Cable prayed for the Session that we would become more like Christ in our response to the needs of others. ****Action step (All) – Watch the video segment on “Mercy” and be prepared to discuss at the September Session meeting.***
2. Fall preaching schedule for Ritchey and Michael will focus on Romans chapters 13-16.
3. Pastor Cable officiated at Marge Tuck’s funeral on August 13th.
4. The next Presbytery meeting is in in St. Louis in September.
5. Pastor Cable commended Michael Morefield for his stewardship of the pre-marriage counseling program. He will be officiating at a funeral at the church this coming weekend.

C. BUSINESS REPORTS and DISCUSSION:

1. **Old Business/follow-up items – none**
2. **New Business -**
 - a. **Adult Sunday School** – Jeff Van Der Weele gave an update on the new Sunday School classes which begin on September 9th.
 - b. **Mortgage Refinancing** – Mark Lancaster gave an update on the recently completed refinancing of the mortgage on the church property. Session needs to be prepared to address the balloon payment due in August 2023.
 - c. **Budget Planning Process** – Mark Lancaster reminded Team leaders that the budget process begins in September and this discussion item should be added to each teams meeting agenda.
 - d. **Homeless/Transient Persons** – Mark Lancaster urged the church to develop a systematic approach to address the issue of homeless and transient persons staying in the pavilion on church property. Area neighbors are concerned about safety and security, the church is concerned about the welfare of the neighbors, the people who find their way to seek refuge in the pavilion and the church members. The church strives to strike a balance between the needs of all concerned, demonstrating love and practical help in every response. The Deacons have formed a work group consisting of representatives from the Mercy, Outreach, Property and Coordinating Teams, along with Administrative staff, to form a policy and solutions that are beneficial for all parties. Pastor Cable concluded the discussion with prayer for the neighborhood, the homeless persons and the church work team addressing the issue.

e. Elder/Deacon Nomination Process - Peter Marshall presented a timeline for completion of the Elder and Deacon nominating process. Nominations opened on July 27th and will close on August 26th. A slate

of candidates will be presented for election by the membership at a congregational meeting scheduled for October 28th. Training for those elected will be on December 14th and installation into office will occur on January 6, 2019.

f. Joint Meeting with Deacons – The Deacons has invited the Session to attend their meeting on September 11th for a time of fellowship. The Session will host a reciprocal meeting in November.

3. Ministry Team Reports –

a. Worship Team – The Apostle’s creed and other liturgical readings will begin to be incorporated into both services.

b. Outreach Team – The Team is recruiting additional members to serve on the Team.

- They are also starting to focus on major points of entry or life events as an opportunity to minister more effectively to people during those times – weddings, funerals, baptisms.

- Gashland Elementary School Partnership – Several people helped to paint in the school in July, 26 backpacks with school supplies were provided for students at the school, several church members have signed up to volunteer at the school in various capacities during the school year.

c. Relationship Team – The Team requested that a new membership directory be produced to update the recent additions to the membership. The under-shepherding assignments will be included in the directory. On-line access to the directory is being planned for 2019. ****Action step – Pastor Cable will instruct office administrative staff to begin the process and plan to publish an updated directory by November 1, 2018.***

- The Team requested that current Sunday School classes be posted on the video board for easy reference.

d. Discipleship Team – Caleb Mason is revising the confirmation process with a focus on high school age kids instead of middle school age.

e. Coordinating Team – The wireless internet connectivity project presented in July has been put on hold until the Property Team is able to determine cost of the roofing repair and a funding source can be identified.

- The Team plans to resurrect the church newsletter to provide more in-depth communication about specific topics and issues of concern for the church. No start date was announced.

4. Clerk’s Report -

a. The July 2018 Session Meeting Minutes were summarized and approved by unanimous voice vote.

b. The next Session meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2018 at 6:30 P.M. at the church.

c. Elder Dennis King will serve as acting Clerk of Session during the Clerk’s absence in September and October.

d. Acknowledgement transfer of membership letters were received from the former churches of Brent and Angie O’Donnell and Timothy Price.

f. As Clerk of Session, the church mortgage refinancing loan with Commerce Bank was signed by the Clerk on August 3, 2018.

D. CONSENT REPORTS:

1. Board of Deacons – Monthly report for July 2018 received.

2. Financial Report – financial report for the month of July 2018 received.

E. ADJOURNMENT: David Smith moved that the meeting adjourn, seconded by Peter Marshall. The voice vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 P.M. with prayer by Aaron Kleinmeyer.

Paul Weatherford
Clerk of Session

Pastor Ritchey Cable
Moderator