

Session Minutes
Gashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church
July 19, 2018

A meeting of the Gashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church Session was held on July 19, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the church.

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

Session Moderator: Pastor Cable called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM after confirming a quorum was present. .

PRAYER: Mike Brink offered prayer for the group and the decisions to be made during the meeting.

- A. AGENDA ADOPTION:** The agenda was amended by removing item “c. Emergency Preparedness” under “New Business”. This item was included due to a clerical error.
- B. PASTOR’S REPORT:**
1. Book discussion, “Gospel Shaped Ministry” by Stephen Um, “Love”. Pastor Cable led a discussion on the connection between love and empathy and how we can respond to the needs of people in the pattern of Christ. The discussion led to one Elder sharing an experience with a personal friend who had asked for prayer for a son and provided a reminder to be open and responsive to opportunities to respond to people’s needs.
 2. General Assembly – Pastor’s Cable and Morefield and Elder Taylor reported on their attendance at GA in Nashville in June. It was a very enriching experience with much of the focus for the assembly being on racial reconciliation.
 3. Pastor Morefield reported that over 100 kids attended Breakaway Sports Camp every day of camp July 9-13. The vast majority of kids were not GEPC kids, but from the surrounding community. He related the story of one kid who attended and shared that his family was not churched. The Session prayed for this child and his family circumstances.
- C. BUSINESS REPORTS and DISCUSSION:**
1. **Old Business/follow-up items –**
 - a. **Sabbatical Policy** – Dennis King presented the final version of the proposed Sabbatical Policy for pastoral staff that was developed by the Coordinating Team. Session members received a copy of the policy to review prior to the meeting and had no additional comment or questions of the Coordinating Team.

**Motion: to adopt the Sabbatical Policy as submitted* – a second to the motion was not required as the policy proposal was approved by the Coordinating Team for submission to the Session for final approval.
A voice vote was held with all votes Yes – motion passed.
 - b. **Ministry Libraries** – Chris Taylor encouraged all ministry teams to take advantage of the ministry mapping process and create a library of activities falling within their ministry team so people going through the Re:Shape Today process could more easily be matched as a volunteer with a ministry team.
 - c. **Prayer Ministry** – Michael Morefield presented options for corporate prayer ministry, proposed by the Discipleship Team as follows: during 1st or 2nd service or during the Sunday School hour or on Wednesday nights before or during Conversations. Mark Lancaster agreed to continue to provide leadership for prayer during the Sunday school hour as another class offering under the umbrella of Adult Education.
 2. **New Business -**
 - a. **Concealed Carry Policy** – Dennis King made a report on the Safety and Security sub-Team progress to address church concerns in this area. Some members have inquired as to the policy of the church on members carrying concealed weapons inside the church. The Safety and Security Team recommended that GEPC follow existing Missouri State Statute in reference to this issue. The State Statute provides permission for concealed carry of firearms within a church for specific persons only as listed in the statute. A motion was presented by Dennis King, approved by the Coordinating Team, for presentation to the Session for final a disposition. After considerable debate and discussion, the motion was called for a vote:

****Motion: It shall be the policy of Gashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church to follow established Missouri State Statute in reference to persons carrying concealed firearms within church facilities. A voice vote was held – Yes 8/No 2. The motion passed.***

b. Wireless Internet- Chris Taylor presented a proposal from the Technology Team to install wireless internet connectivity throughout the entire church facility. The proposal is estimated to cost approximately \$33,000. Authorization was sought to enter into a contract with the vendor for completion of the project for a “not to exceed” cost of \$33,000 with funds coming from the church “Memorial Gifts” fund. Chris reported that the quote from the vendor was time sensitive. There was much discussion surrounding the proposal, with particular concern surrounding the lack of competitive quotes for the project. Session approved proceeding with the project on a unanimous voice vote provided two additional quotes were obtained and a subsequent vote was taken on the final vendor selection.

3. Ministry Team Reports

a. Worship Team – This Team did not meet in June.

b. Outreach Team – This Team did not meet in June

c. Relationship Team – The Team is planning a church-wide family game night sometime in September.

d. Discipleship Team – This Team had no other report after the presentation on corporate prayer.

e. Coordinating Team – The Kansas City Police Department has completed their site security survey report of the GEPC campus. The report was made available to Session members to review. David Smith will coordinate a meeting between KCPD personnel and the Coordinating Team to discuss recommendations from the report. Session members will receive an invitation to attend that meeting.

4. Clerk’s Report -

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

b. Alee House made a profession of faith, was baptized on July 1, 2018 and accepted into church membership by unanimous vote of the Session.

c. Caleb Winkler made a profession of faith, was baptized on July 8, 2018 and accepted into church membership by unanimous vote of the Session.

d. The next meeting of the Session was scheduled for August 16, 2018 at 6:30 PM. The Session agreed to move the meeting to the 3rd Thursday instead of the 2nd Thursday of the month to accommodate Pastor Cable’s schedule.

e. Request for transfer of membership letters were sent to the former churches of Brent and Angie O’Donnell and Timothy Price July 14, 2018.

f. Refinancing of GEPC Mortgage Loan – On July 12, 2018 Session received an email recommendation from the Finance Team for refinancing of the church mortgage loan with Commerce Bank for a 5 year 5.14% interest balloon loan + 2 year extension at then prevailing rates. Several other options were explored and presented by the Finance Team. The Session approved the Finance Team recommendation through a series of email votes on July 13-15. During the Session meeting on July 19, 2018, Pastor Cable put the Finance Team recommendation to a formal vote. The recommendation was confirmed as approved by a vote of 10 to 0.

D. CONSENT REPORTS:

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

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

E. ADJOURNMENT: Chris Taylor moved that the meeting adjourn, seconded by Jeff Van Der Weele. The voice vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM with prayer by Pastor Cable.

Paul Weatherford
Clerk of Session

Pastor Ritchey Cable
Moderator