

Session Minutes
Gashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church
March 14, 2019

A meeting of the Gashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church Session was held on January 10 at 6:35 PM at the church.

<u>Elders:</u>	<u>Class of 2019</u>	<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>
	Mike Brink	Peter Marshall	Aaron Kleinmeyer
	Mark Lancaster	Mark Blakley	Derek Williams
	David Smith	Dennis King	Jeff Van Der Weele

Session Moderator: Pastor Ritchey Cable called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM after a confirming a quorum was present.

PRAYER: Mike Brink opened the meeting with prayer.

A. AGENDA ADOPTION: The agenda was approved by unanimous voice consent

B. PASTOR'S REPORT:

1. Pastor Cable reported that pastoral staff would be unavailable next week on the 18th and 19th. Mark Lancaster and Jeff Vander Weele agreed to be available to handle any pastoral needs that might arise.
2. Pastor Cable encouraged elders to participate in ministry to shut-ins by visiting them periodically. He shared that he and Elder Lancaster had scheduled visit with someone in St. Joseph later in the week.
3. Pastor Cable gave an update on his planned sabbatical for this summer. Many of the plans are being finalized.

C. BUSINESS REPORTS and DISCUSSION:

1. **Old Business/follow-up items** – None reported
2. **New Business**
 - a. **The Next Church** – Mark Lancaster presented this item with the goal to address the long-range viability of our Church. Such topics as how to prepare future leaders, ministering to the needs of our members, millennials and our community as well as understanding why people leave our church or why they come back should help us to be better positioned for sustained ministry growth. Elders discussed various ways to obtain relevant information for this purpose including surveys of people who have left the church, the congregation, other churches and under-shepherd groups. Pastor Cable said he was aware of research tool that may useful for this purpose and would obtain more information it. The discussion was tabled to be added to the April Session meeting under old business so that further discussion could occur.
 - b. **Searchable Sermon Documents** – Mark Lancaster suggested establishing a team to provide on-line, searchable archival access to our pastor's sermons. The Worship Team has already been discussing this possibility so the item will be referred to them for further discussion.
 - c. **Communion service for shut-ins** – Jeff Vander Weele gave a report on the shut-in members were given communion in the last month.
 - d. **Special Communion Service March 24th** – Mike Brink reported the church will observe a special communion service that ties in with Pastor Morefield's preaching on the Passover on that Sunday.
 - e. **LED Lighting Proposal** – Pastor Cable reported that the Property Team had received a proposal from a company to replace all of the churches lighting with LED lights. The proposal would cost \$36,000 over a three year period and would reportedly pay for itself in energy savings in a few years. Session wanted more information and proposals from other vendors before making a decision so the item was referred back to the Property Team for further development.

3. Ministry Team Reports

- a. Worship Team** – The Team is still reviewing options for possible replacement of the church hymnals.
- b. Outreach Team** – The Team did not meet in February.
- c. Relationship Team** – The Team announced that Conversations would not be held on March 17th.
- d. Discipleship Team** – The Team did not meet in February.
- e. Coordinating Team** – No other report from this Team beyond the LED lighting proposal.

4. Clerk's Report -

- a.** The Session met by teleconference on February 12, 2019 at 6:30 PM due to inclement weather. The minutes of the meeting were prepared by Elder Vander Weele, amended by edits submitted by Elder Marshall and approved, as amended, by unanimous voice vote.
- b.** The April 2019 Session meeting was scheduled for April 11th at 6:30 PM at the church.
- c.** The Church received a letter of appreciation from the Presbytery of Mid-America for hosting the Presbytery meeting in January.
- d.** The Clerk received correspondence from Big Creek Presbyterian Church announcing availability of scholarship funds for seminary students.

D. CONSENT REPORTS:

- 1. Board of Deacons** – February 2019 meeting minutes received.
- 2. Financial Report** – February 2019 report received.

E. ADJOURNMENT:

Dave Smith moved that the meeting be adjourned, second by Derek Williams. A voice vote to adjourn was unanimous. Derek closed the meeting with prayer at 8:28 PM.

Paul Weatherford
Clerk of Session

Pastor Ritchey Cable
Moderator