

Session Minutes
Gashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church
May 9, 2019

A meeting of the Gashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church Session was held on May 9 at 7:22 PM at the church.

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

Moderator: Pastor Ritchey Cable called the meeting to order at 7:22 PM after confirming a quorum was present.

PRAYER: Peter Marshall opened the meeting with prayer.

A. AGENDA ADOPTION: The agenda was approved by unanimous voice consent after adding item “e. Sermon Audio” under New Business.

B. PASTOR’S REPORT:

1. Pastor Cable began the meeting by discussing the planning process for a capital campaign. One item of interest that may be included is upgrades to the nursery to begin addressing the growing needs of the Little Lambs ministry. These upgrades may be accomplished prior to the capital campaign if funds are located and Session approves of the expenditure since this is not a budgeted item for 2019.
2. Pastor Cable has been asked to serve on the committee to find a replacement for the EPC Stated Clerk, but this work would begin right after his return from sabbatical. Session gave permission to pursue this opportunity.
3. Pastor Cable gave an update on his planned sabbatical for this summer. The Session entered into a time of prayer for Ritchey and his family during this time.

C. BUSINESS REPORTS and DISCUSSION:

1. Old Business/follow-up items –

- a. Next Church – Mark Lancaster encouraged each Elder to begin examining their areas of ministry oversight and how that might look in 5 years. This will be a helpful step in preparation for the planned retreat for church leadership in the fall.
- b. Michael Morefield will be attending the General Assembly meeting in June in

2. New Business

- a. Conversations – A proposal was made to raise the meal price for this ministry event from \$4 to \$5 per person and \$12 to \$15 max per family. Discussion centered on the need for such a raise since this event operates with a budget surplus. In addition, there was strong sentiment to remove any meal costs from all church sponsored events so as to not hinder anyone’s participation. No action was taken to make any changes in the price structure at this time.

b. Nominating Team - The nominating team has proposed that a formal policy be established to address unexpired vacant terms for church officers and length of terms. It was proposed that GEPC formally adopt language from the EPC Book of Order as our official policy. A motion was presented as follows:

1. **The remaining term of a deacon or elder who resigns from their office will remain unfilled until the next annual nominating process and will not be required to be filled at an interim date.**

At the next scheduled congregational meeting the church should vote to adopt the specific terms provided for in *The Book of Order of the EPC, Part I The Book of Government, Chapter 9, Section 9-15* which states:

While ordination is for life, active service on a church Session or Board of Deacons may be for a specified term. A local church at a duly constituted congregational meeting, may elect to establish limited terms of service for either or both Ruling Elders and Deacons. If so, the following stipulations apply:

- ***Terms shall be for no less than three years except to initiate the system or to fill vacancies.***
- ***There must be at least three classes: and an officer who has served all or part of two consecutive full terms shall be ineligible for reelection for one year.***

After discussion of the proposal, an amendment was presented by Mark Lancaster to stipulate that the noted provisions for filling unexpired vacant terms and length of terms should become effective so long as they do not conflict with the GEPC incorporation Bylaws as governed by the State of Missouri.

***Motion - A voice vote on the motion as amended was unanimous.**

- c. **Compassion International Funding** – The Discipleship Team presented the history of GEPC utilizing Sunday School offering money for CI child sponsorship. After discussion of the process and accountability for funds collected and disbursed, the item was referred back to the Team to recruit someone to take on that responsibility.
- d. **Cash burn analysis** – Peter Marshall raised concern about the current status of the budget and projection for the remainder of the fiscal year. After discussion about the historical ebb and flow of income and expenditures, Peter agreed to meet with the Finance Team to discuss his concerns and return to the Session with what he had learned.
- e. **Recording sermons** - Derek Williams reported that progress is being made to address online access to recorded sermons.

3. Ministry Team Reports

- a. **Worship Team** – The Team asked that the Elders help to facilitate Sunday morning worship services by handling the greeting and announcement portions of the services during Ritchey’s absence. This will relieve some of the responsibility from Michael. Caleb will also help out with this.
- b. **Outreach Team** – The Team has not met since the last Session meeting, but plans are being made to partner with Gashland Methodist and Baptist churches in service to Gashland Elementary School this fall.
- c. **Relationship Team** – The Team is sponsoring an all church picnic on June 2nd. Mark Blakley led a time of prayer for all church volunteer ministry workers.
- d. **Discipleship Team** – No Team report.
- e. **Coordinating Team** – No Team Report.

4. Clerk’s Report -

- a. The April 2019 Session minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.
- b. The June 2019 Session meeting was scheduled for June 13th at 6:30 PM at the church.

D. CONSENT REPORTS:

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

E. ADJOURNMENT:

Derek Williams moved that the meeting be adjourned, second by Mark Blakley. A voice vote to adjourn was unanimous. Pastor Cable closed the meeting with prayer at 9:37 PM.