

Session Minutes
Gashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church
December 5, 2019

A meeting of the Gashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church Session was held on December 5th at 6:30 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 (Excused)	Dennis King	Jeff Van Der Weele

Guests – Bill Pearce, Ron Wilson, Mike Zachary

Moderator: Pastor Ritchey Cable called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM after confirming a quorum.

- A. PRAYER:** Pastor Cable opened the meeting with prayer.
- B. AGENDA ADOPTION:** The agenda was approved by unanimous voice consent.
- C. PASTOR’S REPORT:**
1. Pastor Cable began the meeting by inviting Bill Pearce to give Session an update on the status of the capital campaign progress. Bill shared that the Team and met with and received input from most ministry teams to receive input on needs for physical and program needs and desires for the future of the churches ministry. These ideas are being collected, cost estimates obtained and a strategy developed as to how to move forward with a capital campaign, hopefully by spring of 2020. Bill shared that one idea being considered would focus on reduction of the mortgage debt to help free budgetary funds for future use in ministry programs. Session emphasized the need for more detailed input from the Capital Campaign Team on scope, logistics, and specific plans and priorities to be targeted by the campaign before giving final approval to carry out the campaign. An update from the Team will be provided in January 2020.
 2. Pastor Cable shared that the past several weeks have been very busy and difficult. He was given encouragement by the Session in those areas upon which he has been focused.
- D. BUSINESS REPORTS and DISCUSSION**
1. Old Business
 - a. Deacon Vacancy - Peter Marshall reported that one of the Deacon candidates elected to office starting in January had resigned their position. Discussion centered on how to address this situation. Options included leaving the position open until officer elections in November 2020 or asking a Deacon with a 2019 expiring term to remain in office all or part of an additional year. Peter will confer with the Deacons, and along with Nominating Team input, will decide how to handle the vacancy in a manner that best meets everyone’s needs.
 - b. Membership Roll Update –
 - 1) Having reviewed the list of church members moved to the inactive roll in December 2018, and having determined no reason to return said members to the active roll, a motion was made by Mark Lancaster, seconded by Mark Blakley, to remove the following inactive members from the church roll: **Paul and Jennifer Binner, Carli Boen, Michael Douthat, Dave and Kaci Kennedy, Chad and Heidi Lane, Polly McCann.**
The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

2) Session then reviewed a list of current members who have not been active in the church for the past year. Having determined that their status has not changed, Michael Morefield moved, seconded by Mark Lancaster, that the following members be moved from the active roll to the inactive roll with their membership status to be reviewed for further action in December 2020: **Kirk Blakley, Carole Booth, Sarah Burgen, Conner Clapham, Matt and Mindy Clutter, Julie Darby, Becky and Nathan Edwards, Mike and Tracie Eklund, Brian and Sarah Kapera, Ed Staats, Courtney Taylor, Colleen Young and Abbey Zimmer.**

The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

3) **Session then noted the passing of member Roberta Smith and instructed that her name be removed from the church roll.**

Pastor Michael Morefield then prayed for each person impacted by these roll changes.

c. Under-shepherd Ministry Recommendations – Mark Lancaster led a discussion on transition of new elders onto the Session and transfer of responsibility for under-shepherd teams when the three new elders begin their terms in 2020. He submitted the following motion to address this transition, seconded Mark Blakley:

Current elders leaving Session and new elders joining Session will communicate with each other regarding the transition of under-shepherding group responsibility with the following assignments – Chris Taylor will take over Derek Williams’ group, Derek Williams will take over Dave Smith’s group, Mike Zachary will take over Mike Brink’s group and Ron Wilson will take over Mark Lancaster’s group. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Elders will discuss how to improve and enhance the ministry once the newly elected elders begin their terms in office.

d. Capital Campaign – Session discussed the information presented by Bill Pearce reiterating their support for the campaign. Session requested a more detailed update from the campaign team in January regarding proposed plans and projects which have been vetted by the ministry teams before giving final approval to proceed with the campaign beyond planning into implementation.

e. Little Lambs Flooring – Michael Morefield provided Session an update on plans to complete the flooring project in the Little Lambs ministry area with the previously approved \$15,000 in Memorial Funds. Some material purchases were moved up to take advantage of pricing before increases take effect in January.

2. New Business

a. Roll of Session – Jeff Van Der Weele shared concerns he had about the responsibility and roll of the Session in making personnel changes. Discussion centered on specific personnel policies that the church has in place, the role of the Coordinating Team and the Personnel Team as authorized by Session. There was also specific discussion regarding philosophy and practice on how employees are to be treated in the areas of training, work performance, evaluation and separation.

3. Team Reports

- a. Worship Team – Christmas Eve services will be at 3:00 PM (Chapel), 4:30 PM and 6:00 PM both in the Sanctuary.
- b. Outreach Team – The church received a very nice letter of thanks from Gashland Elementary School for our response in providing coats, hats, gloves and clothing items for the students.
- c. Relationship Team – Christmas caroling will be at 6:00 PM on December 15th, a game night on January 24th and family activity involving painting in February. The Team also reported their thanks for the many volunteers who participated in completing the LED lighting project.
- d. Discipleship Team – In 2020 the discipleship emphasis will be on reaching out beyond our walls.

- e. Coordinating Team – A job opening has been posted to fill the vacant office position. Applications are being received and interviews are being scheduled to start in mid-December.

4. Clerk's Report

- a. Approval of November 2019 Session Meeting Minutes - The minutes were summarized and approved by unanimous voice vote.
- b. Next meeting of the Session will be on January 9, 2020 at 6:30 PM.
- c. Session has scheduled a Member's Meeting for February 2nd, 2020. One item to be addressed is formalizing Church Officer Terms of Office.
- d. Session authorized the Clerk to communicate to Mid-America Presbytery our intent to honor FY2020 presbytery per member asking donation in support of their mission and ministry.
- e. The church accepted into membership **new confirmands Ava Anderson and James Greener** on November 3, 2019 with unanimous consent of the Session.

5. Deacons Minutes - The Minutes for November 2019 were received by the Session.

6. Financial Report – The report had not yet been received at the time of this meeting.

E. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:40 PM with prayer by Pastor Cable.

Paul Weatherford
Clerk of Session

Pastor Ritchey Cable
Moderator