

GASHLAND EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING
May 8, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
MEETING MINUTES

<u>Ruling Elders Present:</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Brink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Blakley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barry Cooper
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Clapham	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethan Funk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Justin Ewing
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aaron Kleinmeyer

Excused: Mike Brink, Ethan Funk

Teaching Elders Present: ☒ Senior Pastor - Michael Morefield
☒ Assistant Pastor of Community - Josh Lee

I. **Opening prayer:** After a quorum was determined present, Pastor Morefield opened the meeting with prayer at 6:32 p.m.

II. **Adoption of Agenda:** Adopted as written.

III. **Review/Approval of Previous Session Meeting Minutes:**
Session Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2025.

IV. **Pastor's Report:**

A. Senior Pastor: See also written report, provide by email on May 1st

1. Presbytery Update:

Presbytery is asking member sessions to read Greg Johnson's book, and to review information provided by Presbytery, to become educated on the matter. This summer GEPC session may have some called meetings to prepare for the Fall Presbytery meeting. GEPC will need to exercise our voice and leadership the Fall Presbytery.

2. Rebrand Update:

Website update is approx. 50% complete. Updating signage and wayfinding is underway. There may be some additional signage considerations needed, for which cost estimates are being obtained.

3. Hymnal Update:

No update this month.

B. Assistant Pastor of Community:

1. The Sent class finished this week.

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2. Now focusing on 1st Team, and met with those leaders with the goal of improving the welcoming experience for visitors.

V. Calendar Items:

- A. EPC 45th General Assembly, 2025: <https://epconnect.org/ga2025/>
Ward Church, Northville MI
June 17-19
Pastor Morefield and Asst. Pastor of Comm. will be attending.
Justin Ewing moved to commission Aaron Kleinmeyer as a GEPC rep to GA.
Mark Blakley seconded the motion. Motion passed.
Bob Williams moved to commission Mark Blakley as a GEPC rep to GA.
Barry Cooper seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VI. Business Reports and Discussion:

- A. Old Business:
 1. Team Meeting Night
Barry Cooper moved to begin the team meeting night (ministry teams meet on the same date, monthly) on July 15, and elder should advise ministry teams of this meeting date change. Seconded by Aaron Kleinmeyer.
Discussion was held, both pros and cons, with the main idea being to become more efficient and prevent team members from having to attend meetings on multiple dates each month. It was recognized that this may take some getting used to, but is ultimately for the well-being of the congregation.
Motion passed.
 2. Discipleship Pathways – Discussion only. Plan is for Elders to have groups.
Laura Cooper will organize the leaders for the women’s groups. Plan is to meet on Wednesday evenings beginning fall of 2025.
 3. Administration help
Discussion only. Barry Cooper will revise/refine and update the job description, for upcoming consideration.

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4. Admin. & Coordinating Team Charters

Bob Williams made a motion to accept the revised/update responsibility list/charter for Coordinating team. Justin Ewing seconded the motion. Discussion considered the Admin. Team responsibility within Coordinating team. Barry Cooper (one of the Coordinating team elders) will accept responsibility to oversee Security and IT initiatives. Motion passed.

5. Part-time Social Media Administrator Position

Barry Cooper moved for session to accept the new part-time staff position of Social Media Administrator at an hourly rate in the range of \$18-\$22 per hour, to report to the Assistant Pastor of Community. Bob Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed.

6. Executive Session

Mark Blakley made a motion to enter executive session at 8:36 p.m., seconded by Bob Williams. Motion passed.

Mark Johnson made a motion to exit executive session at 8:51 p.m., seconded by Barry Cooper. Motion passed.

7. Approval of Employee Handbook

Aaron Kleinmeyer made a motion for session to accept the revised Employee Handbook, subject to minor edits (as discussed at this meeting). Mark Blakley seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. New Business

1. Shut-In Communion

The following elders volunteered to coordinate and do quarterly visits to shut-in members, and to administer communion. Bob Williams moved to commission them to administer communion. Seconded by Aaron Kleinmeyer. Motion passed.

Mark Blakley	Aaron Kleinmeyer
Mark Johnson	Barry Cooper
Justin Ewing	

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2. Missions Committee Team Chair

Ethan Funk volunteered to lead the Missions Team. Mark Johnson moved to appoint Ethan Funk to serve as the Missions Team Chairperson. Seconded by Mark Blakley. Motion passed.

3. Purchase of New Chair (Ministry Center)

Mark Blakley moved to provide \$10,000 (from the session discretionary fund) towards the purchase of new chairs in the ministry center. Mark Johnson seconded. Per discussion, \$10k has been donated for new chairs, and Property team had budgeted \$5k for cleaning, (which won't be needed now and could be used toward the purchase). 300 new chairs can be purchased with this level of funding. Motion passed.

4. Parent Day Out Exploration

Mark Blakley moved to explore the possibility of starting a preschool within GEPC. Bob Williams seconded. Discussion ranged from a parent's day out program, to part-time day care, to a preschool program. The preschool program is the focus. Motion passed.

5. GA Funds for Kristen Lee

Barry Cooper moved to fund up to \$1000 (from the Women's Ministry Restricted Fund) for Kristin Lee to attend General Assembly. Bob Williams seconded. Motion passed.

C. Team Reports – Refer to team reports distributed by email.

D. Clerk's Report

1. Next Session Meeting: June 12, 6:30 p.m.

E. Consent Reports

1. Deacon's Report: Not yet received
2. Financial Report: Not yet received

VII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer:

Justin Ewing made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mark Johnson. Motion passed. Pastor Morefield closed the meeting with prayer at 9:45 p.m.