

GASHLAND EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING

January 9, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

<u>Ruling Elders Present:</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027*</u>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Brink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Blakley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barry Cooper
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Clapham	<input checked="" 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

(*) Elders not installed/ordained as of meeting date

Staff Members Present: ☒ Josh Lee

Teaching Elders Present: ☒ Pastor Michael Morefield

Guests: Phil Josephson

I. **Opening prayer:** After a quorum was determined, Pastor Morefield opened the meeting with prayer at 6:38 p.m.

II. **Adoption of Agenda:**

- A. Under Pastor's Reports, change "Assistant Pastor" to "Director of Community"
- B. Under Calendar Items, address item B. Annual Budget as the first item of business, with Phil Josephson presenting, virtually.
- C. Approved, with the two amendments noted above.

III. **Review/Approval of Previous Session Meeting Minutes:**

December Session Meeting Minutes: Approved as written.

IV. **Pastor's Reports:**

- A. Senior Pastor: Pastor Morefield reported
 - 1. The Rebrand team has continued to meet and has developed the main logo, is working on (sub) icons and should be close to completion by the end of January.
 - 2. Josh Lee and Pastor Morefield have been meeting plan the development of a multi-year strategic plan/direction and have a rough draft developed, for planning for the future, and mapping out a "path". Ministry teams will be included in this process as it develops.

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3. Mark Blakley discussed with Pastor Morefield previously, a section from the book "Shepherds for Sale". This will be discussed at the February session meeting.

B. Director of Community: Josh Lee reported

1. He met with Discipleship team, updating content, and will be using the book "Sent" for the Wednesday evening family night program.
2. Ordination – written exams are finished and passed. Jan. 14th he will go before the committee, and January 25th will go before Presbytery.

V. Calendar Items:

A. Elder Team Assignments for 2025:

Worship team: Bob Williams, Michael Morefield
Outreach team: Mark Johnson, Josh Lee
Missions team: ?
Relationships team: Mark Blakley, Ethan Funk, Josh Lee
Discipleship team: Mike Brink, Justin Ewing, Josiah Durfee
Coordinating team: Barry Cooper, Aaron Kleinmeyer
Clerk of session: Tom Clapham

- B. Annual Budget Review: Ethan Funk made a motion to excuse the Pastor and Director of Community, to discuss salaries; seconded by Mark Blakley. Motion passed. Discussion occurred. Mike Brink made a motion to revisit the salary discussion in April 2025 after Pastor Morefield has completed one full year of service as the Senior Pastor. Mark Blakley seconded. Motion passed. The pastors returned to the meeting and Phil Josephson joined the meeting virtually to present the proposed 2025 Annual Operating Budget to session. Ethan Funk made a motion to approve the proposed budget as presented; Mark Blakley seconded. Motion passed.

- C. Undershepherding Roll Review: Pastor Morefield provided the inactive report to all ruling elders.

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- D. Review report of members with “no attendance and no financial contribution in last 12 months” and distribute to elders. Pastor Morefield advised ruling elders to review this list and email updates or corrections to him.
- E. Annual Meeting – Jan. 26 (tentative): After discussion and considering required steps and information to be assembled, Ethan Funk made a motion to hold the Annual Meeting of the Members on February 2, 2025; seconded by Mark Blakley. Motion passed. The meeting will be held after the second service, in the ministry center, at approximately 12:15 p.m.

VI. Business Reports and Discussion:

- A. Old Business: None
- B. New Business
 - 1. Finance/Deacon reporting structure
 - 2. Pastoral Bonus Procedure: Pastoral bonuses paid by GEPC and those received from anonymous donors were discussed, as to how they are handled and reported in the financial statements. Ethan Funk volunteered to research any existing policies regarding special gifts. Tithely options to direct giving was also discussed and the need to manage that process.
 - 3. Annual Calendar (congregational meetings): The idea of developing an annual calendar was discussed. Pastor Morefield and Kathy Welch will work on setting up this calendar, to included dates for the nominating process, budgeting process, congregational meetings, HR staff reviews, etc.
- C. Team Reports: Brief reports were provided from the ministry teams.
 - 1. Worship
 - 2. Outreach
 - 3. Relationships
 - 4. Discipleship
 - 5. Coordinating
- D. Clerk’s Report
 - 1. Next Session Meeting: February 13, 6:30 p.m.
- E. Consent Reports

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

VII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer:

Mike Brink made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ethan Funk. Motion passed.

Pastor Morefield closed the meeting with prayer at 9:48 p.m.