

GASHLAND EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING
February 13, 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

Staff Members Present: ☒Josh Lee

Teaching Elders Present: ☒Pastor Michael Morefield

Guests: Josiah Durfee

- I. **Opening prayer:** After a quorum was determined present, Pastor Morefield opened the meeting with prayer at 6:33 p.m.

- II. **Adoption of Agenda:** Approved as written.

- III. **Review/Approval of Previous Session Meeting Minutes:**
January Session Meeting Minutes: Approved as written.

- IV. **Pastor's Report:**
 - A. Senior Pastor: Pastor Morefield reported on the following:
 1. Rebranding – is close to done. Presentation to the congregation is under consideration.
 2. Membership rolls are updated. Barry Cooper moved, Ethan Funk seconded, to remove the 2024 list of inactive members from membership. Motioned passed. Mark Blakley moved to accept the updated list of members noted as inactive. Ethan Funk seconded. Motion passed.

 - B. Director of Community: Josh Lee reported on the following:
 1. The Wednesday evening program, going through the book "Sent" is going well.
 2. The men's retreat is coming up soon.
 3. He and Michael are working on a strategic plan, which will be shared with session soon.

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V. Calendar Items:

- A. EPC Annual Report – due end of February: Pastor Morefield and office Admin. Kathy Welch are working on this.
- B. Election of Officers
 - 1. President: Tom Clapham made a motion to elect Mike Brink as President, seconded by Mark Blakley. Motion passed.
 - 2. Vice President: Justin Ewing made a motion to elect Ethan Funk as Vice President, seconded by Mark Blakley. Motion passed.
 - 3. Secretary: Ethan Funk made a motion to elect Tom Clapham as Secretary, seconded by Mark Blakley. Motion passed.

VI. Business Reports and Discussion:

- A. Old Business:
 - 1. Session SS Class Recommendations: Session realized an oversight was made by not engaging an attorney to review proposed bylaw changes under development. Pastor Morefield contacted Church & Ministry Alliance, which has attorneys who will review policies and bylaws, for a fee of \$500. Session is planning to start with this, and may consider more in-depth review as an option. Mark Blakley made a motion to have Church & Ministry Alliance do a legal review of internal policy documents and proposed bylaw amendments, at a cost of \$500. Bob Williams seconded. Motion passed.
 - 2. Article – “Shepherds for sale”: Mark Blakley shared an excerpt from the book and shared his remarks on the subject.
- B. New Business
 - 1. Discipleship Pathways – Josiah Durfee presented a discipleship program tentatively planned for implementation in the fall of 2025 with Josh Lee leading the program. (This was the first business meeting item discussed)
 - 2. Lower-Level Restroom Access/Restrictions: Discussion following several elders have approached by members and several members have inquired as to the lower-level restroom access restrictions related to children’s use. This change has not gone through proper channels and the access restrictions have been removed for the time-being until the issue can be addressed properly.

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3. BSF Request: BSF has requested to access/use the church building on their regular day at 8 a.m. instead of 9 a.m. Church staff does not arrive until 9 a.m. Mark Johnson moved to allow BSF to access the church at 8 a.m., and provide a key to one of their leaders. Seconded by Mark Blakley. Ethan Funk made a friendly amendment to the motion, to have the BSF leader go through the same screening process as a GEPC member prior to receiving a key to the building. Mark Johnson accepted the amendment to his motion. Motion passed.
4. Kristin Lee – Internship: A request for Kristin Lee (Josh Lee’s wife) to start an Internship position at GEPC was received. Funding for the internship for one year will be provided from a source supporting previous ministry efforts of Kristin Lee. The position would report to the Sr. pastor, and would be approximately 10 hours per week. Bob Wilson made a motion to accept this internship request as presented. Mark Blakley seconded. Motion passed.
5. Schedule Strategic Plan meeting: Pastor Morefield requested to schedule a meeting of elders where he and Josh Lee would present and discuss the framework of a ministry plan they have been developing. A meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, 2/25, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
6. Children Ministry Position Recommendation: Justin Ewing made a motion to enter into Executive Session, seconded by Barry Cooper. Motion passed at 10:02 p.m. Bob Williams made a motion to exit executive session. Barry Cooper seconded. Motion passed at 10:17 p.m.

C. Team Reports

1. Worship – Has not met this month
2. Outreach – Mission team submitted a motion stating that requests for mission funding shall be submitted to session for review approval. Motion passed. Mark Blakley made a motion to include the list of current missions funded with contact information in the 2025 church directory. Seconded by Mark Johnson. Motion passed.
3. Relationships – Planning to redecorate both entrance lobby areas and funding is available.
4. Discipleship – the bible reading plan updated was shared.

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5. Coordinating: Barry Cooper and Aaron Kleinmeyer are serving as co-chairmen.

D. Clerk's Report

1. Next Session Meeting: March 13, 6:30 p.m.
2. A \$10,000 donation for the purchase of new chairs used in the Ministry Center has been received. The Property team budget has \$5,000 allotted for the same. Property team will be checking sourcing for new chairs. Pew cushions in the sanctuary are also being considered.
3. A \$22,500 donation has been received, with the intent to be used as directed by session.

E. Consent Reports

1. Deacon's Report: Jan. 14, 2025 Meeting Report – received 1/22/25
2. Financial Report: Jan. 31, 2025 Report – received 2/12/25

- VII. **Adjournment and Closing Prayer:** Ethan Funk made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bob Williams. Motion passed. Pastor Morefield closed the meeting with prayer at 10:40 p.m.