

Eastminster Presbyterian Church  
Wichita, Kansas  
Stated Meeting of Session  
September 27, 2011  
7:00 PM  
Fireside Room

Members present: Rev. Dave McKechnie, Moderator, Rev Kermit Opprieht, Jack Argetsinger, Wayne Becker, Barry Blades, Doug Crow, Tom Davis, Bill Faflick, Deb Hilscher, Lou Jacobs, Bill Johnson, Steve Johnson, Ray Jones, Walter Lewis, Roger Lowe, Scott MacLeod, Russ Pickering, Lisa Ritchie, Sandi Simon, and Monte Vines.

Members excused: Rev. Paul Bammel, Bill Hendrix, Ken Juell, Jack Kirkham, Susan Lear, and Todd Mestepay.

Staff Present: Gail Adamo, Kim Case, Steve Dickie, Julia Falke, Steve Falke, Cheryl Hennigh, Matt Jaderston, and Mary Stephens

Guests: Elder John Moody, Rev Jay Ayers, Interim Presbytery Administrator of Presbytery of Southern Kansas,

A quorum being present, Rev. Dave McKechnie, Moderator, called the meeting to order with an opening prayer.

Motion made and passed to approve the docket

Motion made and passed to seat Elder John Moody.

**Clerk's Report:**

- ⤴ Moved and approved the acceptance of the minutes of Stated Meeting of Session on 08/16/11 with the following corrections:
  - ⤴ Removed "Rev" from Elder John Moody
  - ⤴ Added under Membership Action the transfer of member Rodger Mpanje to Africa
- ⤴ Moved and approved the acceptance of the minutes of Stated Meeting of Congregation on 08/14/11
- ⤴ Moved and accepted letters to Session from:
  - ⤴ Roger Lowe
  - ⤴ Jack Kirkham
  - ⤴ Tom and Jo Kice
  - ⤴ Pam Van Bebber
  - ⤴ Todd Mestepay
    - ⤴ Accepted Todd's resignation as Chair of the Spiritual Formation committee
    - ⤴ Moderator McKechnie appointed Elder Doug Crow to fill the position of Chair of the Spiritual Formation committee. Doug accepted appointment.
  - ⤴ Ann Weidensaul
    - ⤴ Acknowledgement was made of request for adjustment to funeral policy regarding serving of vegetables at funeral receptions. Referred to committee.

- ⤴ Nate Purdum and Sarah Zerbe
  - ⤴ Moved and passed to allow Mark Posson, Executive Pastor of Business for Central Christian Church to assist Rev. Paul Bammel with wedding service.

### **Deacons Liaison Report**

- ⤴ 09/06/11 Deacon's Board meeting minutes recommended to Session for receipt and filling.

Acknowledged and welcomed Rev. Jay Ayers' attendance representing the Presbytery of Southern Kansas. Rev. Ayers requested privilege to speak during discussion of Denominational Relations Committee report. Moved and passed to give privilege.

Rev. McKechnie introduced and welcomed Matt Jaderston to the staff position of Director of Middle School.

### **Denominational Relations Committee (DRC)**

- ⤴ Acknowledgement given to letters recently received from:
  - ⤴ Sue Nispel—Moderator of Council, PSK
  - ⤴ Ben Ray—August 17, 2011
  - ⤴ Sue Nispel—September 9, 2011
  
- ⤴ Moved and passed DRC recommended Motion #1:
  - ⤴ Moved: (1) That Eastminster Presbyterian Church hereby disaffiliate from the denomination known as The Presbyterian Church (USA), such termination of affiliation to be effective upon notification by Session to the Presbytery of Southern Kansas as soon as possible following adjournment of the October 23, 2011 congregational meeting.
  
  - (2) That Eastminster Presbyterian Church shall become affiliated with the denomination known as the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) as soon as possible following notification to the Presbytery of Southern Kansas of Eastminster's decision to disaffiliate from the PC(USA). Session is authorized to take any actions deemed necessary to provide continuity of pastoral services, ministry and missions programs during the transition period until Eastminster becomes officially affiliated with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
  - ⤴ Monte Vines requested his dissenting vote be recorded
  - ⤴ Rev. Jay Ayers was given privilege to speak.
  
- ⤴ Moved and passed DRC recommended Motion #2:
  - ⤴ Moved: Session endorse changes recommended to Eastminster's bylaws as presented by DRC made necessary if the votes on the two recommendations in Motion #1 above are approved by the congregation.
  - ⤴ See Exhibit A representing the 09/27/11 proposed (redlined) amendments to Eastminster Presbyterian Church By-Laws (redlined copy of By-laws approved by Congregation on June 26, 2011.)
  
- ⤴ Moved and passed DRC recommended Motion #3:
  - ⤴ Moved: Session call a special congregation meeting for October 23, 2011. The business

to be transacted is as follows:

- ^ Vote on the two Session recommendations in Motion #1 above.
- ^ Vote on Session recommended revisions to Eastminster By-laws.
- ^ Convene a meeting of the Corporation for vote on amendments to the Articles of Incorporation recommended by the Board of Trustees
- ^ See Exhibit B representing the 09/27/11 proposed (redlined) amendments to Articles of Incorporation of Eastminster Presbyterian Church

^ Moved and passed DRC recommended Motion #4:

- ^ Moved: Session authorize the DRC and PTF to draft a letter to the congregation announcing the special congregational meeting on October 23, 2011. This letter which will include the business to be transacted will be sent the week of Oct. 3, 2011.

^ Discussion regarding DRC recommended Motion #5

- ^ Moved: Session authorize the DRC and PTF to draft a letter to Ms. Sue Nispel, Moderator of PSK Council, in response to her letter of September 8, 2011. In general the letter will inform Ms. Nispel of the action of the Session, announce the special congregational meeting of Oct. 23 including the business to be transacted, approve Council's request for a PSK representative to address the congregation on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and an expression of Eastminster's desire to maintain a mutually friendly relationship with our brothers and sisters in the PSK. Letter to be sent the week of October 3, 2011.

^ Moved and seconded to amend original Motion #5

- ^ Original -Motion #5 would have the following phrase removed from the motion
  - ^ "approve Council's request for a PSK representative to address the congregation on the 23<sup>rd</sup>"
- ^ On a hand vote, amendment passed

^ Moved and seconded to amend amended Motion #5

^ Amended Motion #5 would be re-stated to include:

1. The re-insertion of "approve Council's request for a PSK representative to address the congregation on the 23<sup>rd</sup>",
2. The PSK will be given speaking privilege for not to exceed 5 minutes,
3. The text of the PSK speaking privilege presentation will be presented to the DRC Chairman, John Moody, no later than October 17, 2011 for review and acceptance by Session
4. The PSK will identify to DRC Chairman, John Moody, no later than October 17, 2011 who will be representing the PSK at the speaking privilege time

^ Amendment was passed

^ Amended Motion #5 as below was then voted on

- ^ Moved: Session authorize the DRC and PTF to draft a letter to Ms. Sue Nispel, Moderator of PSK Council, in response to her letter of September 8, 2011. In general the letter will inform Ms. Nispel of the action of the Session, announce the special congregational meeting of Oct. 23 including the business to be transacted, approve Council's request for a PSK representative to address the congregation on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and an expression of Eastminster's desire to maintain a mutually friendly relationship with our brothers and sisters in the PSK. The PSK will be given speaking privilege for not to exceed 5 minutes. The text of the

PSK speaking privilege presentation will be presented to the DRC Chairman, John Moody, no later than October 17, 2011 for review and acceptance by Session. The PSK will identify to DRC Chairman, John Moody, no later than October 17, 2011 who will be representing the PSK at the speaking privilege time. Letter to be sent the week of October 3, 2011.

^ Amended Motion #5 was passed

^ Moved and passed DRC recommended Motion #6:

^ Moved: Session approved the following general plan designed to inform the congregation about the nature of the special congregational meeting Oct. 23, and highlight the importance of members attending.

^ (a) Informational announcements will be made at all four services on Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

^ (b) Elder will be present at tables in the Fellowship Hall after each service to answer questions of members starting Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>.

^ (c) Elders/Deacons will identify and meet with the different groups, including men and women's, seniors, Bible studies, Sunday School classes, etc., to inform them about the nature of the special congregational meeting Oct. 23, and highlight the importance of members attending.

^ (d) There will be bulletin informational inserts in the Sunday bulletins on Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

^ (e) Frequently asked questions, compiled from the questions submitted by members at the information meeting will be posted on Eastminster's website along with papers giving rationale for leaving PC(USA) and affiliating with EPC.

^ (f) A congregational wide information meeting will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2011. With Session's approval Ms. Betsy Rumer, Associate Pastor at Memorial Park Presbyterian Church, Pittsburg, PA will be present to talk about her experience and the issues concerning women pastors serving in the EPC.

^ Wayne Becker was appointed to organize activities (b) and (c)

^ Moved and passed DRC recommended Motion #7:

^ Moved: Session approve a single worship service on October 23, 2011 at 9:30 AM and the congregational meeting convene following the service.

## Consent Agenda

^ Clerk of Session

^ Membership actions

### ***Inactivate per request:***

Jordan and Heather Rockstad

### ***Remove per request:***

David and Gayle Pauly

Megan Pauly

### ***Reinstate per request:***

Don and Sharon Roberts

^

^ Baptisms



- ^ Finance Committee minutes—08/08/11
- ^ Consent Agenda approved by consent.

### **Discussion Agenda**

- ^ Deacons
  - ^ Approval of tables being set up between Sunday services and during the Wednesday Night Edge dinner with the purpose of collecting funds for the Thanksgiving baskets. This collection would occur during October and possibly continue into November.
  - ^ Rev McKechnie will give an appeal from the pulpit during the October 16, 2011 services.
  - ^ Motions moved and passed.
- ^ Worship Committee
  - ^ Recommends a single worship service at 11:00 AM on Christmas, December, 25, 2011 and a single worship service at 11:00 AM on New Year's Day, January 1, 2012.
  - ^ Recommends the discontinuance of the 5:00 PM Ekklesia Service at the conclusion of the October 16, 2011 service.
  - ^ Motions moved and passed.

### **Informational Items**

- ^ Attendance report in Session meeting packet
- ^ Sign up board for Communion Servers was circulated
- ^ Remaining 2011 Session meetings
  - ^ 10/18/11
  - ^ 11/15/11
  - ^ 12/13/11
- ^ Follow on conversation was conducted regarding voting and ballot procedures
- ^ Rev. Oppriecht will work with Rev. Jay Ayers of the PSK regarding ministering to any members voting in the minority to the Session's denominational recommendations.
- ^ Elder Russ Pickering afforded special acknowledgement to Steve and Julia Falke for their commitment and dedication to the Ekklesia service.
- ^ Elder Doug Crow reported on D6 Conference he attended on behalf of Children's Ministry.
- ^ Rev. McKechnie requested continual prayer for member Mike Pompeo who is our local representative in the House of Representatives in Washington, DC.

Motion made and passed to adjourn

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 9:05 PM.

Wayne A. Becker  
Assistant Clerk of Session

Exhibit A—EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BY-LAWS (redlined of the “approved by Congregation June 26, 2011)

Exhibit B—ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (redlined)