

Lakeview Presbyterian Church
Called Session Meeting of 01.31.15
Amended Minutes

Attendance: Virginia Martin, co-pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church and acting as moderator of Lakeview's Session meeting today; Pastor Lauren Evans, Diane Klamer, Viola Bates, Bill Junkin, Gladys Adams, Walter Walker, Kitty Rawson and Joe Smith.

At 1:35 a quorum was declared and the meeting was called to order. Pastor Virginia Martin was introduced as moderator.

Pastor Martin opened the meeting by reading the second paragraph from the Presbyterian Preamble to the Constitution. The paragraph focuses on Christ as center of Church. Christ is at the center of everything we do in the church and in our life. She lit the Christ Candle as we prayed silently.

Pastor Martin reviewed the expectations of the day. She understood that we were there to write new bylaws. Various session members mentioned additional expectations including determining whether we want to maintain an inactive roll, defining what an active member is, decide a date for reviewing the rolls, and review our rollbook of current members

We briefly reviewed how one becomes a member of the Presbyterian Church. We agreed that first time membership is by profession of faith. The potential new member takes classes led by the pastor and then comes before session to be examined. Session votes on membership and the new member is then presented to the congregation and taken into membership.

Active members take part in the life of the church. They attend worship and participate in activities and support the church through time, talent and financial contributions.

The new book of order names additional categories of membership:
Baptized – Those who have been baptized but have not made a profession of faith
Affiliate – who usually are members elsewhere but are worshipping within this congregation for a period of time. They cannot vote.

When someone wants to join the church, the person talks to the pastor or an elder privately. It is not required that this be done publicly, during a worship service. Of course, an elder should tell the pastor immediately about the good news of a potential new member. Potential new members are required to take a membership class. Likewise, the parents of babies who are to be baptized must attend a class.

What is the difference between active or inactive membership? How do you determine when a person should be moved to the inactive list? Per Pastor Martin, it has to do with the person. If the person voluntarily removes him/her-self from the church, then he/she can be moved to the inactive roll.

How does an inactive member come back and become an active member? One becomes active by returning to the active life of the church. No vote has to be taken, no class is required. Simply by returning to active attendance and participation in the life of the church, one becomes an active member.

If someone has been on the inactive roll, after two years and several efforts to make contact including at least one attempt to send the person a letter by US Mail, with no response, a person can be removed from roll.

Motion to rescind vote to eliminate inactive membership made at session retreat.

Inactive gives us an opportunity to re-contact them and try to keep them involved in the church. **Motion carried.**

Why does the new Book of Order call for an Other Participants category? Pastor Martin confessed that she sees no purpose in this. Lakeview is free to maintain an inactive roll; it will not be reviewed when rolls and session minutes are reviewed annually. Lakeview can create a category called Friends of the Church for individuals like Frank Martin, who faithfully worships with Lakeview and participates the life of the congregation but has no current interest in membership. Pastor Martin says Lakeview can add this category when we write our bylaws.

MSA to consider homebound members as active members.

MSA that before moving someone from active to inactive membership, the person must be contacted to obtain permission to move to inactive roll or after many attempts to contact them including written with no response and told that without response they would be moved, moved to inactive.

MSA to review roll book every November.

Pastor Martin distributed and asked session members to complete a survey, Planning for Ministry Mission Emphases. Our instruction was to note the 5 most important and 5 least important duties for congregation members, active elders and the pastor. Once we had tallied our responses as a group, she explained that we should use the results to create job descriptions for committees and staff to be included in the bylaws. All the tasks are vital for healthy congregation.

MSA that Diane, Walter, Joe, and Pastor Lauren draft committee descriptions and bylaws using template provided by Pastor Martin. Pastor Lauren to convene this group. Bill Junkin will type up results of survey for distribution. Draft of proposed bylaws will be reviewed by session and then approved.

MSA to remove from active rolls Shavon Starling Louis because she is an ordained pastor, Virginia Montgomery and Aileen Chapman because they have died, and Jeff Rawson and Ceska Sutton because they requested letters of transfer.

MSA that a congregational meeting for the purpose of electing ruling elders and a congregational nominating committee be held on February 8.

MSA to adjourn with prayer at 4:25 pm.

Submitted,

Kitty Pelster Rawson
Clerk of Session