

Session Minutes
St. James Presbyterian Church
September 14, 2025

Opening Prayer and Call to Order: Seth opened with prayer and called the meeting to order.

In Attendance: Seth Thomas, Pastor-Moderator; Tess Bowers, Aaron Caruso, Faye Hill, Jimmy Parks, Nebiyu Tesfa, Rick Seater, Stefany Ness

Absent: Ralph Buchan, Andrew McLaurin, Carol Dellecker.

Guests: Jean Seater, representing the Deacons.

Agenda Approval: Seth moved, and it was seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

Welcome and Privilege of the Floor: Seth moved to excuse the absences of Ralph, Andrew and Carol and grant privilege of the floor to Jean. The motion passed.

Devotions and Prayer: Aaron Caruso gave the devotion and prayer.

Deacons Report: Jean reported that the Deacons are planning the Annual Lunch, formerly called the Parish Lunch for October 26th. Faye added that the Worship committee will present a handout at the Church Lunch explaining what the committee does and how it functions. There is more discussion on this in the Worship committee report.

Clerk's Report and Consideration of the Minutes

Seth made a motion to approve the minutes, Jimmy seconded the motion and it was passed.

Treasurer's Report: Stefany reported that operating expenses are on track with the budget and that revenue is currently ahead of the budget. There was considerable discussion about how to handle per capita costs in relation to pledges. No conclusion was reached.

Seth moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Rick seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Committee Reports:

Finance: Andrew was not present to present the finance committee report. However, Stefany did report that we have resolved our issues with Peoples Bank and all is well.

Building and Grounds: Aaron presented a proposal to install enough solar panels on the roof to meet 101% of our current electrical needs. Estimated cost is \$81,000. We are pursuing a grant from PSE that may recover the cost of doing this work. Aaron also presented a proposal to reroof the west side of the building prior to installing the solar panels. The contractor's estimate for this is \$70,000. Funding for this will come from the Building Endowment Fund, not from the operating budget. We have sufficient funds available to meet these expenses. There was discussion about the need to replace the roof at this time. The roof is slightly beyond 50% of its expected life should be serviceable for several more years. However, once the solar panels are in place, roof replacement will require removal and re-installation of the solar panels, which will result in significant cost. Therefore we decided to replace the west side roofing now to avoid greater costs in the future. Rick moved that we accept the proposals and proceed with the roof replacement and the solar panels. The motion was seconded and approved.

Christian Faith Formation: Jimmy reported that we will be moving forward with Godly Play and that the Pub Theology will restarting as planned.

Loving Welcome: Tess reported that she will be setting up the next set of Saint James Dinner Parties and that she is looking forward to the October church lunch.

Mission and Social Action: Nothing new to report, Carol was absent.

Nominating: Next year we will need to fill expiring terms on both the Session and Board of Deacons. Nebiyu reported that he will be meeting with hi committee to find nominees for those vacancies.

Personnel: There was some discussion about how to fill temporary staff vacancies. No decision was reached.

Worship: Faye Will continue with scheduling ushers for offertory collections. We are considering re-instituting having the youth light the candles at the beginning of worship. We stopped doing this during Covid. Faye also suggested that the various

committees make brief presentations during the Church Lunch about what their committees do and how they function. After discussion we agreed that:

1. Each committee should make some kind handout or presentation about their committee during the Church lunch.

2. Each committee should make a presentation during a church service about what their committee does and how it functions. Committee chairs need to get their presentations to Seth for review as soon as practical.

Pastor's Report: We are moving into a very busy time of the year, and staff will be strained to get everything done. Seth will look into some options for staff support.

New Business: We are looking into paving the upper parking lot. We believe the parking area belongs to the city. Seth will write a request to the city asking what would be involved in getting the lot paved. There is concern that the area may be too narrow for pull-in parking.

Old Business:

Rick will follow up with Stefany about the AGM (Annual General Meeting Report)
We need additional follow-up on New Member interviews and the status of the Lay Pastor program.

Attend Deacons Meeting September meeting: Tess

September Devotions and Prayer: Aaron Caruso

Building lock up: Upstairs – Jimmy; Downstairs - Rick

Closing prayer: Jimmy closed us in Prayer.

Adjournment: Seth motioned that we adjourn the meeting, and we did so.

Richard Seater, Clerk of Session

Date

The Rev. Dr. Seth Thomas, Pastor, Moderator

Date