

John Calvin Presbytery
August 1, 2024

Two Hundred and Fifteenth Stated Meeting
St. Andrew at Hideaway Presbyterian Church
Galena, Missouri via Zoom

JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERY
Southminster Administrative Commission Report

Action without meeting of the Administrative Commission for Southminster Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Missouri

Date: July 7, 2023 via email

Subject: Closure of Southminster Presbyterian Church

Action: The Commission moves that Southminster Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Missouri be formally closed at a called or regular meeting of the John Calvin Presbytery at which time COM and or the Executive Presbyter sees fit.

Note: All funds have been received by the Presbytery, records collected and presented to the Stated Clerk.

The Commission will not be excused until all the records have been sorted and filed for storage, verification of the W-2s and 10-99s, closing the corporation with the State of Missouri.

Action without meeting can only happens immediately upon 100% vote in the affirmative or a majority of members voting in favor, no one objecting or requesting an in person or zoom meeting and 48 hours past the notice date taking place.

Voting in favor of the motion: Julie Mercer-Kidd, Dixie Anders, Bill Martin and Dennis Pirkle.
Not responded Frank LeBlanc.

The action stated above is approved as of July 13, 2023.

Attest:

Dennis Pirkle,
Moderator of the Commission

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May 11, 2023

Administrative Commission (AC) members: Teaching Elders , Dixie Anders, Frank Leblanc, Julie Mercer-Kidd, Ruling Elders Bill Martin and Dennis Pirkle (elected Chairperson)

MOTION:

- 1. To dissolve Southminster Presbyterian Church, Springfield, MO. effective immediately.**

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE MOTION AND ACTION:

The membership and Session of Southminster Presbyterian Church, Moderated by Rev. Marvin Groot, voted to disband as a congregation in early 2023 and set a date for their final Worship on Easter Sunday, 2023 without any further celebration of their history. Shortly thereafter the Presbytery was informed of their decision. The decision was based primarily on lack of participation and congregation age with average worship attendance dropping from 20 in 2020 to the low teens in recent years.

Three members of the AC met with the Session and Moderator of Southminster Presbyterian Church and received information. In addition the AC met by Zoom and Action without Meeting to complete the task assigned.

SOUTHMINSTER ASSETS:

Within a short period of time following the decision of the congregation and prior to notification to the Presbytery, most of the cash assets were distributed to a number of charities and mission programs that Southminster Presbyterian Church has been involved with many years. There remains approximately \$10,000 in liquid assets that will be transferred to the Presbytery. Southminster no longer owns the building (more on the building in the recent history section). There were several physical assets, as part of the purchase agreement, that remained with Southminster of which most have been donated to the Sanctuary of Praise congregation who purchased the building and some smaller assets to members. There were conditions of the sale which allowed for Sanctuary of Praise to keep items such as the cross on the exterior of the building and all of those requirements were met and confirmed by Sanctuary of Praise.

When the building was sold and the amount of \$455,000 was deposited into the bank showing an overall balance of \$480,901.65 on January 19, 2020. On January 22nd the following checks were issued by Southminster Presbyterian Church:

- Convoy of Hope \$100,000

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• Ozarks Food Harvest	\$ 50,000
• Rare Breed	\$ 25,000
• Care	\$ 25,000
• Boys & Girls Club	\$ 25,000
• Drury University	\$ 60,000
• Evangel University	\$ 60,000
• MSU Foundation	\$ 60,000
• Ukraine	\$ 50,000
<u>TOTAL DISBURSMENTS</u>	<u>\$455,000</u>

PAST HISTORY:

Southminster Presbyterian Church was officially formed as a congregation on December 3, 1956. It was started by 39 members of Westminster Presbyterian Church believing the need for more Presbyterian congregations throughout the Springfield area. It was very successful until approximately the last 10 years with drop in membership and participation.

RECENT HISTORY:

In 2020 Southminster Presbyterian Church elected to sell the building and land where they are located at 2245 S Holland Ave, Springfield, MO 65807. An AC was appointed by the Presbytery to facilitate the transaction and voted upon by the Presbytery. The total sale price was \$455,000 (the same amount Southminster donated to 9 charities the day after they deposited the sale proceeds). Part of the conditions of sale, Southminster was still able to use the Parlor for worship and had office space at no charge. This agreement was in place with no end date as long as Southminster Presbyterian Church is still a congregation. Notice was given to Sanctuary of Praise that they would no longer use the building after Easter Worship, 2023. The use of the building was a large determining factor of the three offers for the sale of the property and building.

FURTHER ACTIONS AND FOLLOW-UP:

- The Chairperson (Dennis Pirkle) or another Member or Members of the AC will: (even when dissolved)
 - Work with the Presbytery Treasurer and the Southminster Treasurer to transfer any remaining assets and ensure any final bills have been paid.
 - Obtain the financial statements from February to present.
 - Ensure all records are properly sent to the PCUSA archive or to the Stated Clerk. She has acknowledged she has boxes of material from the Southminster Clerk of Session.
 - Arrange to close the website and Facebook and any other media.

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- Verify the phone is disconnected along with any other utilities in their name.
- Mail letters to all members regarding their ability to obtain a letter of transfer of membership from the Presbytery.
- Ensure the Stated Clerk receives all copies of correspondence, information, history and other documents of Southminster Presbyterian Church and of this AC.
- Ensure the Southminster TIN number issues any necessary 10-99 or W-2 forms for 2023 and file with the IRS appropriate forms.
- File any closing documents to dissolve the TIN and/or Missouri Incorporation standings.