

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2013

ATTENDING:

CURRENT RULING ELDERS PRESENT: April Betzner, Joyce Camlin, Donna Carlisle, Sue Denmead, Shirley Desmond, Terri Grantz, Linda Grimm, Elsie Hall, Steve Johnson, Sue Key, Jackie Koman, Mark Murphy, Stacy Phillips, Gary Recktenwald, and Brian Teagarden

CURRENT RULING ELDERS EXCUSED: Chris Bury, Debbie Evans, David Taylor

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg, Rev. Emily Miller, and Don Nixon

GUEST PRESENT: Stephanie Silbaugh

OPENING PRAYER AND DEVOTIONS

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Session of The Church of the Covenant was convened by the Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg, on Monday, March 4, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Dr. Broberg opened the meeting with a devotional reading from Jeremiah 31:33 about Christ being the fulfillment of the law as represented in the Old Testament.

APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET

The docket for this meeting was reviewed next. After a motion was made by Mark Murphy and seconded by Stacy Phillips, the March 2013 Session docket was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2013 SESSION MEETING

After a motion was made by Mark Murphy and seconded by Brian Teagarden, the minutes from the February 2013 Session meeting were unanimously approved with minor revisions.

SESSION MEETINGS

The April 2013 regular Session meeting will be held on Monday, April 8, 2013, instead of Monday, April 1, 2013. A special Session meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 starting at 5:30 p.m. to receive new members. A special Session meeting will be held on Sunday, June 2, 2013 to receive the 2013 confirmation class as new members. After a motion was made by Mark Murphy and seconded by Shirley Desmond, the Session unanimously approved the dates for these meetings.

APPROVAL OF BAPTISMS

Douglas and Melissa Hodinko request that baptism of their daughter, Hayden Lynne Hodinko, born March 25, 2012, at the 11:00 a.m. worship service on March 10, 2013. This baptism complies with the Church's baptism policy, so Session approval is considered as being automatically given.

The Worship and Music Committee requested that the Session consider a request to approve the baptism of Hunter Jason Dillie, son of Jason and Amy Dillie. Dr. Broberg said that the Dillies were once members of our Church, left and have returned. They are in the current New

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Members class. This baptism requires Session approval because it will be held on March 10, which is before Jason and Amy will become members at the special Session meeting on March 20th. After a motion was made by Mark Murphy and seconded by Terri Grantz, the Session unanimously approved the baptism of Hunter Dillie.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK

Jennifer McIntee requested that her membership be transferred to the Church On Tap in Williamsville, NY. After a motion was made by Mark Murphy and seconded by Brian Teagarden, the Session unanimously approved this transfer.

Jim Agnew requested that the Session recommend and endorse him to the Washington Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry so that his status can be moved from Inquirer to Candidate. After a motion was made by Mark Murphy and seconded by Sue Denmead, the Session unanimously approved to recommend and endorse Jim Agnew for Candidate.

There were no weddings reported to Session for February 2013. **Colby Grace Sleek**, daughter of Brock and Brooke Sleek, was baptized in the Sanctuary on Sunday, February 24, 2013, with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.

Alexander V. Boyer died on February 6, 2013. His funeral service was held on February 11, 2013, in the Sanctuary of The Church of the Covenant with Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg and Rev. Emily Miller officiating.

Earl M. Sharpnack died on February 7, 2013. His memorial service was held on February 12, 2013, in the Sanctuary of The Church of the Covenant, with Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.

SECOND PRESBYTERY COMMISSIONER

Charlie Bowers, our permanent Presbytery Commissioner, will be unable to attend the March 12, 2013 meeting of the Washington Presbytery. Shirley Desmond volunteered to attend in Charlie's place. At this meeting, Rev. Emily Miller will be examined and approved as a member of the Washington Presbytery. After a motion was made by Mark Murphy and seconded by Steve Johnson, the Session unanimously approved Shirley Desmond to be a commissioner for The Church of the Covenant at the March 2013 Washington Presbytery meeting.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

Item A – Session Photo

Stephanie Silbaugh took the official photograph for the 2013 Session.

Item B – Discussion of the Church Information Form

Steve Johnson updated the Session on the status of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC)'s Church Information Form. That form is being drafted now, and will be provided to the Session for review and comment soon. Steve asked the Session members to review this document and provide general major theme comments to the APNC. If there are no important issues that come up, then the APNC will do a thorough edit and get it to the PC USA website unless Session requests to reconsider it first.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Brian Teagarden, Chairperson – Brian said that giving was down in February and we had a slightly negative month compared to the approved budget. Brian advised the Session that his Committee is preparing a plan to establish an endowment-type Procurement Fund for handling large building projects such as a roof replacement. The Fund would be keyed into providing adequate funds when certain structures or equipment had reached the end of their projected useful life. It was mentioned that this would be an excellent opportunity for people to denote resources to be deposited in this fund when creating their wills. Brian acknowledged that there are many details still to be worked out.

Personnel Committee – Gary Recktenwald, Chairperson – Gary provided a DRAFT Comprehensive Staffing Plan for the Session to consider. He asked the Session to provide him with any comments before the next Session meeting in April. Gary and Dr. Broberg pointed out that the DRAFT Plan includes hiring a part-time assistant for Ralph Farabee, our Buildings and Grounds Supervisor.

OAR Committee – Donna Carlisle, Chairperson – Donna referred the Session to her written report, and noted several of the important dates in that report. She also pointed out that it is unlikely that there will be a Health Fair in 2013 since the Washington Hospital seems disinterested in helping again.

Stewardship Committee – Debbie Evans, Chairperson – In Debbie's absence, Dr. Broberg mentioned that there needs to be a joint meeting of the Stewardship, OAR and Mission Committees to develop a plan for increasing mission awareness, mission involvement and mission giving among our congregation. He said that we need to get at least 100 new people involved in mission programs and that needs to be done in time for the Reachout Weekend in early October and our fall 2013 stewardship campaign in early November 2013.

Mission Committee – Steve Johnson, Chairperson – in addition referring the Session members to his Committee's written report and to the previous discussion regarding a joint Stewardship-OAR-Mission meeting, Steve noted that the Mission Committee is planning to hold an Alternative Shopping Mall during Advent 2013. Groups can come in and set up booths, with donations to their causes serving as alternative Christmas gifts. Steve asked each Session member to personally consider this idea and also present it at their next Committee meetings. After that he would like the Session to report back to him with their ideas, comments and concerns about this concept. Dr. Broberg mentioned that he has experience with a similar concept that was called Mission Bucks at a former church.

Worship and Music Committee – Joyce Camlin, Chairperson – no additional information to report beyond that presented in the Committee's written report.

Christian Education Committee – Shirley Desmond, Chairperson – Stacy Phillips reported that the Youth Group was doing great, and commended Don Nixon for his work. Stacy also mentioned the proposed change to the Child Protection Policy. The proposed change, which involves mentoring, was given to the Session for its review and approval. The motion to approve

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this change came from Committee, therefore no second was needed. There was minimal discussion. The Session unanimously approved the motion.

Nominating Committee – Elsie Hall, Chairperson – no report but the Committee will start soon on this year’s nominating effort. Rev. Miller noted that a deacon just resigned, so the Nominating Committee will also need to address that vacancy.

Building and Grounds Committee – Mark Murphy, Chairperson – no report.

Administration Committee – Jonathan Pachter, Chairperson – Dr. Broberg asked the Session to check out the notes from the Visioning Day that had been distributed. He and Mr. Pachter noted that the Administration Committee will meet after Easter to develop a program for a Session Intreat to be held on Saturday, May 11, 2013, to discuss the Visioning process and set in motion a process to develop a new Strategic Plan, one that will engage more people in mission. The Visioning Day went well, and as expected, there are new questions that need to be answered. For example, we will need to define our Church’s mission program versus the outreach program - they are not the same thing.

Endowment Committee

Sue Key said that her Committee met with the representatives from our investment banker, PNC, last week. Our church’s Endowment Fund now totals approximately \$978,403, earning 13.59% in 2012. Sue mentioned that the annual Endowment Dinner will be held on Sunday, May 5, 2013 after the 11 a.m. worship service. The speaker will be Betsy Trew, head of the Washington County Community Foundation.

Memorial Committee – no report.

APNC Committee - Steve Johnson said that there is nothing additional beyond that already reported.

PASTORAL REPORT

Dr. Broberg noted that the first meeting of the organizing committee for the Washington County Ministerium will be held on Wednesday, March 6, 2013. He said the Ministry Team had nothing to report.

DATES OF NOTE

The next scheduled Communion will be on Sunday, April 7, 2013. The next Stated Session meeting will be on Monday, April 8, 2013, starting at 7:00 p.m. The next Stated Presbytery Meeting will be held on March 12, 2013 location and time to be determined. Shirley Desmond and Debbie Evans are scheduled to attend.

ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

After a motion by Mark Murphy with a second from Shirley Desmond, Session unanimously approved a motion to adjourn. Dr. Broberg then closed the meeting with a prayer at 8:25 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Pachter

Jonathan M. Pachter
Clerk of Session