

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2013

ATTENDING:

CURRENT RULING ELDERS PRESENT: Joyce Camlin, Donna Carlisle, Sue Denmead, Shirley Desmond, Debbie Evans, Terri Grantz, Linda Grimm, Jackie Koman, Mark Murphy, Stacy Phillips, Gary Recktenwald, David Taylor and Brian Teagarden

CURRENT RULING ELDERS EXCUSED: April Betzner, Chris Bury, Elsie Hall, Steve Johnson, and Sue Key

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg, Janet Nevin, and Don Nixon

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, April 8, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Dining Room. Dr. Broberg opened the meeting with a devotional reading from Luke 16:19 about missional thinking.

APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET

The docket for this meeting was reviewed next. After a motion was made and seconded, the April 2013 Session docket was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2013 SESSION MEETING

After a motion was made by Sue Denmead and seconded by Shirley Desmond, the minutes from the regular March 2013 Session meeting and the special Session meeting held on March 20, 2013 were unanimously approved with minor revisions.

SESSION MEETINGS

Dr. Broberg reminded the Session that, at the March 2013 Session meeting, it had approved to hold a special Session meeting on Sunday, June 2, 2013 starting at 8:00 a.m. to receive the 2013 confirmation class as new members.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK

Rev. Emily Miller was accepted into the Washington Presbytery at the March 2013 Presbytery meeting. There were no weddings reported to Session for March 2013.

Hunter Jason Dille, born September 12, 2012 and son of **Jason and Amy Dille**, was baptized in the Sanctuary on Sunday, March 10, 2013, with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.

Hayden Lynne Hodinko, born March 25, 2012 and daughter of **Douglas and Melissa Hodinko**, was baptized in the Sanctuary on Sunday, March 10, 2013, with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.

Robert M. "Skip" Hornickel died on February 23, 2013. His funeral service was held on March 3, 2013, in the Sanctuary of The Church of the Covenant with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg and Rev. Emily Miller officiating.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

Item A – Per Capita Discussion/Unified Mission Gift

Dr. Broberg and Brian Teagarden led a discussion about a recent note received from the Washington Presbytery transmitting information that body received from the Synod of the Trinity. The Synod's note changed the Presbytery's ability (and therefore compromised an individual congregation's ability) to designate where it would like its apportionments used, and Presbyteries now would lose their abilities to withhold per capita payments. The Washington Presbytery would be required to immediately remit all per capita apportionments owed to the Synod and General Assembly, regardless of the wishes of those congregations or whether or not those apportionments have been paid. That means that the Washington Presbytery owes about \$20,000 in per capita payments - if that amount is not made then the Washington Presbytery will cut its resources, raise the per capita, or both.

It seemed to contradict with a Book of Order rule allowing individual congregations to designate how its per capita would applied by the Presbytery. Our Session had allowed each member of our congregation to designate where it would like the per capita to be applied; i.e., to the Presbytery alone or to a combination of the Presbytery, Synod and the General Assembly. Our Session chose an alternative route in lieu of complying with the Presbytery's request. Stacy Phillips moved and Joyce Camlin seconded a motion to send a letter to the Presbytery advising that we will suspend our per capita and Unified Mission payments until the Presbytery clarifies these policy changes and until we rethink our priorities, inform the congregation what is happening, and decide what we want to do.

Discussion on this motion ensued. Some stated that we should not pay for other churches who cannot raise more funds or will not change their designations. Others noted that the Presbytery could be negatively impacted by this Synod decision, including the need to reduce staff salaries or the number of people employed there. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Broberg requested that the Information Task Group convene to set an agenda for a congregation meeting to discuss this matter. He also asked to Finance Committee to provide a written document with a plan by the May 2013 Session meeting.

Item B - Other

The Session was reminded that this fall the entire church will be asked to participate in a wide-ranging mission program. Also noted was that a Session Intreat will be held on May 11, 2013.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Brian Teagarden, Chairperson – Brian said that giving was now up about \$26,000 compared to the approved budget, with \$11,000 received in March. Brian stated that the Finance Committee is developing a Fundraising Calendar to provide some order and schedule for the many fundraising activities that come before the Finance Committee for approval.

Personnel Committee – Gary Recktenwald, Chairperson – Gary moved for approval of a job description for a part-time custodian assistant for Ralph Farabee, our Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, and to authorize the Personnel Committee to advertise for this job, and hire for the

position. Since the motion came from committee, no second was needed, and the Session unanimously approved the motion. It was noted that the funds for this position would come from the benefit payments that Rev. Miller would not be using since she opted out of the Board of Pensions benefits (both now and later in 2013 since she will use her husband's benefits).

Gary also advised the Session that it was time to extend Rev. Miller's status. Mark Murphy moved to extend Rev. Miller's contract on an automatic month-to-month renewal until November 2013. Linda Grimm seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Session.

OAR Committee – Donna Carlisle, Chairperson – Donna said that her Committee is working to get more people involved in Mission and Outreach in time for this fall's focus on mission.

Stewardship Committee – Debbie Evans, Chairperson – no report.

Mission Committee – Steve Johnson, Chairperson – David Taylor said that there was no report.

Worship and Music Committee – Joyce Camlin, Chairperson – Joyce asked the Session to consider three important points from the Committee's written report: 1) to develop a Facebook page; 2) to provide for a part-time public relations volunteer; and, 3) to develop and schedule a service to honor older members.

Christian Education Committee – Shirley Desmond, Chairperson – Shirley noted that God's Garden was very successful, attended by over 90 children and 30 helpers. Don Nixon asked for the Session's help in leading a citywide prayer effort on the National Day of Prayer, May 2, 2013, ending up on the Washington County Court House steps. Janet Nevin described the Church Family Retreat to be held in Laurelville on June 14-15, 2013, with the theme of "Walk Through The Bible".

Nominating Committee – Elsie Hall, Chairperson – Joyce Camlin gave the report. She asked all Committees to let the Nominating Committee know of any new potential nominees for elder or deacon.

Building and Grounds Committee – Mark Murphy, Chairperson – Mark said that his Committee was evaluating a new phone system for the church. No additional approvals are needed from the Session for this effort since it falls within current Committee plan and budget. The Committee hopes to improve service and save about \$300 per month by changing providers and getting new phones.

Administration Committee – Jonathan Pachter, Chairperson – no report.

Endowment Committee

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 - Dr. Broberg pointed out that the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry had approved the church's Church Information Form. The clerk will be able to submit it. Rev. Miller was approved to be a candidate for the associate pastor position if she should so choose.

PASTORAL REPORT

Dr. Broberg noted that the first meeting of the organizing committee for the Washington County Ministerium will be held on April 10, 2013. He also stated that home communion will take place in early June 2013.

DATES OF NOTE

The next scheduled Communion will be on Sunday, May 5, 2013. The next regular Session meeting will be on Monday, May 6, 2013, starting at 7:00 p.m. The next Stated Presbytery Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2013, starting at 7:00 p.m. at the West Alexander Presbyterian Church. Charlie Bowers and Terri Grantz are scheduled to attend.

ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

After a motion by Mark Murphy with a second from Debbie Evans, Session unanimously approved a motion to adjourn. The meeting was closed with a prayer at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Pachter

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Clerk of Session