

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, MAY 6, 2013

ATTENDING:

CURRENT RULING ELDERS PRESENT: April Betzner, Joyce Camlin, Sue Denmead, Shirley Desmond, Debbie Evans, Terri Grantz, Linda Grimm, Elsie Hall, Steve Johnson, Sue Key, Mark Murphy, Stacy Phillips, and Gary Recktenwald

CURRENT RULING ELDERS EXCUSED: Chris Bury, Donna Carlisle, Jackie Koman, David Taylor, and Brian Teagarden

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

GUEST PRESENT: Joe Donham

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, May 6, 2013 at 7:01 p.m. in the Dining Room. Dr. Broberg opened the meeting with a devotional reading from Exodus 19:4 about which addresses the importance of our relationship with God.

APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET

The docket for this meeting was reviewed next. After a motion was made by Mark Murphy and seconded by Shirley Desmond, the May 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 Steve Johnson, the minutes from the April 2013 Session meeting were unanimously approved.

NOTES FROM DR. BROBERG

Dr. Broberg reminded the Session that the Confirmation Class Breakfast will be held on Sunday, June 2, 2013 starting at 8:00 a.m. The Session will receive the confirmands into membership at that time. This meeting will conclude before the 9:43 service is ready to begin.

Dr. Broberg pointed out that the Session Intreat will now be held on Saturday, June 1, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. He also noted that there are no baptisms or weddings to approve.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK

Jim Agnew advised the Session that he was approved to have his status moved from Inquirer to Candidate on May 29, 2013 by the Washington Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

The Executive Presbyter of the Washington Presbytery, Rev. Craig Kephart, has requested that the Presbytery be allowed to use The Church of the Covenant for the Presbytery's Leadership Fest, to be held in February 2014. This request was referred to staff for review and consideration so it can be evaluated in light of all other already scheduled activities.

There were no weddings or baptisms to report to Session for April 2013. **Sara Jane Headley Ahwesh** died on April 7, 2013, in Bradenton, FL. Her funeral service was held on April 13, 2013, at the William G. Neal Funeral Home with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.

APPROVAL FOR STACY PHILLIPS AND JOE DONHAM FOR COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER CLASSES

Stacy Phillips and Joe Donham came before the Session seeking approval to begin classes in the fall 2013 at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary to become commissioned ruling elders, or CRE's (formerly called commissioned lay pastors). Dr. Broberg asked them to describe their sense of call to be CRE's; Joe replied first followed by Stacy. The Session was afforded a chance to ask questions. Mark Murphy moved and Terri Grantz seconded a motion to endorse Stacy Phillips and Joe Donham to the Washington Presbytery to attend CRE classes at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary starting in the fall 2013; the motion passed unanimously. Rev. Miller offered a prayer for Joe and Stacy's callings.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

Per Capita/Unified Mission Gift Discussion

Dr. Broberg and April Betzner led a discussion about the latest information received from the Washington Presbytery regarding our per capita payments and unified mission gift payments. In summary, the Presbytery advised us that our 2012 decision stands regarding how we divide up our per capita payments. The Presbytery will not use our unified mission gift to pay any additional needed payments that the Presbytery needs to make to the General Assembly or Synod. It was decided that since there was no change in our designations that we do not need to hold a special congregation advisory meeting. Steve Johnson moved and Gary Recktenwald seconded a motion to confirm our 2013 per capita payment would be \$26,235 and our unified mission gift would be \$21,800. This motion was unanimously approved by the Session.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – April Betzner (for Brian Teagarden, Chairperson) – April said that giving was down in April, but expenses tracked as expected and the overall budget is on track. Monthly reports were provided to the Session.

Personnel Committee – Gary Recktenwald, Chairperson – Gary noted that the part-time janitor position had been approved and the position would be advertised soon in the Observer-Reporter. Ralph Farabee, our Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, will conduct any interviews to be held. Staff reviews will be held at the end of June 2013.

OAR Committee – Don Nixon (for Donna Carlisle, Chairperson) – Don told the Session that the response to the National Day of Prayer was excellent. Over 100 people participated from The Church of the Covenant. Approximately 300 people from the entire community participated in the part of the day held at the Washington County Court House.

Don mentioned that attendance for the Family Retreat in June is growing, and that Church Involvement Day will be held on September 22, 2013, to raise awareness for the fall mission effort.

Mission Committee – Steve Johnson, Chairperson – in addition to referring everyone to his Committee's written report, Steve said that the Habitat for Humanity work day will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2013. Our Church will host Family Promise from May 26th through June 2nd.

Worship and Music Committee – Joyce Camlin, Chairperson – Joyce referred the group to the Committee's written report, and said that the children will present a Mother's Day program during the 9:43 service on May 12, 2013.

Stewardship Committee – Debbie Evans, Chairperson – no report.

Christian Education Committee – Shirley Desmond, Chairperson – Shirley referred all to the Committee's written report. In response to a request from Shirley, Mark Murphy made a motion that was seconded by Joyce Camlin to approve the Pre-School's 2013-14 curricula. That motion passed unanimously.

Nominating Committee – Elsie Hall, Chairperson – Elsie noted that the effort to secure nominees for this year's nominating effort begins on May 12, 2013, and she asked for the Session to fully participate in this effort.

Building and Grounds Committee – Mark Murphy, Chairperson – Mark referred everyone to the Committee's written report. Mark advised the Session that this Committee will begin to evaluate parking problems that occur when people attending the 9:43 service are leaving and people are arriving for the 11:00 service. Usually there are no parking spaces available during this period of time for people arriving early for the 11:00 a.m. service and who may want to park in the spaces nearest to the building. Possible solutions were discussed and will be considered by the Committee.

Administration Committee – Jonathan Pachter, Chairperson – no report.

Endowment Committee

Sue Key advised the Session that about 60 people attended the annual Endowment Dinner held on Sunday, May 5, 2013 after the 11 a.m. worship service. The speaker was Betsy Trew, head of the Washington County Community Foundation. Sue also provided the Session with the Annual Endowment Report, noting that the Fund was approximately \$1,000,000 in value.

Memorial Committee – no report.

APNC Committee - Steve Johnson said that the Committee had received over 30 applications for the Associate Pastor position. That list has been whittled down to six (6) candidates, and will be further narrowed down to two (2) people.

Ministry Team

Rev. Miller is looking for volunteers for the next in-home communion, to be held on June 2nd. This program is greatly appreciated by our home-bound members.

PASTORAL REPORT

Dr. Broberg told the Session that he really appreciated his recent vacation. It was the first time in his career that he took off two consecutive weeks. Dr. Broberg complimented the staff for their fine work. He told the Session that things are running smoothly, there is much interest in all activities, and attendance is increasing at our worship services.

DATES OF NOTE

The next scheduled Communion will be on Sunday, June 2, 2013. The next stated Session meetings will be on Sunday, June 2, 2013 starting at 8:00 a.m. (to receive the confirmands into church membership), followed by the regular monthly Session meeting on Monday, June 3, 2013, starting at 7:00 p.m. The next Stated Presbytery Meeting will be held on May 14, 2013 at the West Alexander Presbyterian Church (time to be determined), with Charlie Bowers and Terri Grantz are scheduled to attend.

ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

After a motion by Debbie Evans with a second from Joyce Camlin, Session unanimously approved a motion to adjourn. Rev. Miller then closed the meeting with a prayer at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan

Jonathan M. Pachter
Clerk of Session