

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2013

ATTENDING:

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

CURRENT RULING ELDERS EXCUSED: Chris Bury, Joyce Camlin, Mark Murphy,

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

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, August 5, 2013 at 7:01 p.m. in the Dining Room. Dr. Broberg opened the meeting with a devotional reading from 1 Kings 3:9 which addresses the need to give your whole heart to God.

APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET

The docket for this meeting was reviewed next. After a motion was made by Jackie Koman and seconded by Brian Teagarden, the August 2013 Session docket was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2013 SESSION MEETING

After a motion was made by Sue Key and seconded by Steve Johnson, the minutes from the June 2013 Session meeting were unanimously approved.

NOTES FROM DR. BROBERG

Dr. Broberg reviewed several baptisms and weddings with the Session. These comply with the Church's Baptism and Wedding policies; therefore, separate Session approval is not needed for any of these events.

Dr. Broberg advised the Session that the next Session meeting would be held on Monday, September 9, 2013, not the 1st Monday of the month, September 2nd, which is Labor Day.

Dr. Broberg said that the Session should consider appointing a liaison for Alex Miller, our former Director of Youth Ministries, in his effort to become a Presbyterian minister. Alex is currently a student at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Since Alex used to be on staff, Dr. Broberg volunteered to handle that role. Jackie Koman moved and Sue Denmead seconded a motion to confirm Dr. Broberg as Alex Miller's liaison, and the motion was unanimously approved by the Session. Dr. Broberg will ask Alex to review his progress during the October or November Session meeting.

Dr. Broberg advised that first reading of the dismissal agreements for five churches read at the July meeting of the Washington Presbytery. Those documents will be finalized for dismissal of the churches at the September Presbytery meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK

Terry (McCrorry) Luchovick requested that the Session approve the transfer of her letter of membership to the Ascension Lutheran Church in McKees Rocks, PA. Linda Grimm moved and April Betzner seconded a motion to approve the transfer, and this motion was unanimously approved by the Session.

BAPTISMS

Cameron Robert Densmore, infant son of **Erik and Julie Densmore**, and grandson of **Bob and Bonnie Densmore**, born February 5, 2013, was baptized in the sanctuary at the 11:00 a.m. worship service, with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.

WEDDINGS

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Stewart (Taylor Dino) were married in the sanctuary on Saturday, June 29, 2013, with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating. Patrick is the grandson of **Mary Stewart**.

Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Rector (Bethany Weir) were married in the sanctuary on Saturday, July 13, 2013, with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating. Bethany is the granddaughter of **Wilma Beeghly**.

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Saffell (Bonnie Simpson) were married in the sanctuary on Saturday, August 3, 2013, with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating. Bonnie is the daughter of **Fred and Sherry Simpson**.

FUNERALS

There were no funerals to report to the Session for June or July, 2013.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

Review and Approve the Focus Program for Fall 2013 – “Mission IS Possible”

Dr. Broberg, Janet Nevin and Steve Johnson led a discussion about the plans for “Mission IS Possible”, our fall focus program. The Session reviewed the written Program Plan, the Mission Directory, and the program timeline including the adult education series for the fall. The effort will start on Rally Day, September 8th, ending in November on Consecration Sunday. On Involvement Day, Sunday September 22, 2013, people will select their mission options. The goal is to get 200 people in God in Action Groups, moving to actual mission service in January 2014. This information will be presented to the congregation in the September 2013 Messenger. Sue Denmead moved and April Betzner seconded a motion to approve the program plan for “Mission IS Possible”, and the motion was unanimously approved by the Session.

Review and Approve of the Church Calendar

The Session considered the proposed calendar for the 2013-2014 church year. Several people noted that some items that needed to be revised. April Betzner moved and Linda Grimm seconded a motion to approve the calendar pending the completion of the needed revisions, and this motion was unanimously approved by the Session.

Recommendation to Establish a Maintenance Endowment Fund

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Brian Teagarden reviewed our financial information for the month of July. He said our finances and budget look good through the end of the year so long as income and expenses occur as projected. Next, he reviewed the the Chart of Accounts for the Church; that document listed authorized signatures for each Committee. He also reviewed the Committee's plans for a church Fundraising Calendar, which will force committees to do better financial planning.

Then Brian reviewed the purpose, goals and policy formulation effort for the Maintenance Endowment Fund. This proposed fund would provide funding for large maintenance expenses, not small emergency situations. Examples would include but would not be limited to the planned and scheduled repair of roof areas, floors, heating and cooling equipment. Brian said that having this fund would help us avoid depleting our operating budget and other cash sources to deal with building emergencies by doing routine planning and scheduled repair work.

This fund would be built entirely by donations. Brian envisions that there would be several different types of funds to which people could donate, or there could be a pre-authorized fund for donators who do not wish to choose a fund. Brian said that this concept has not yet been reviewed with the Endowment Committee. Sue Key, chairperson of the Endowment Committee voiced concern about conflicts with the Endowment Committee's work. Other people expressed the same concern. Dr. Broberg felt that any such conflicts could be worked out. Sue and Brian agreed with Dr. Broberg's statement, and everyone agreed the concept was sound. Dr. Broberg and the Session asked the Finance Committee and the Endowment Committee to meet soon and discuss this matter before any additional steps are taken by either Committee. Sue and Brian agreed to hold such a meeting.

Spiritual Fall Kick Off, Saturday, September 7, 2013

Dr. Broberg reviewed this worship service with the Session, noting that communion will be served and that activity will need the Session's approval. David Taylor moved and Sue Denmead seconded a motion to approve serving communion at this service, and the motion was unanimously approved by the Session. Dr. Broberg said that all of our congregation's leaders should attend, as "Mission IS Possible" will be dedicated to the Lord during this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee –Brian Teagarden had no new information to present beyond that which he presented earlier in the meeting.

Personnel Committee – Gary Recktenwald, Chairperson – Gary noted that interviews have been held for the part-time janitor position. There are two finalists, and the position will be filled in August 2013 pending the Personnel Committee's approval. Gary also noted that interviews were held in June and July 2013 with each person on staff, with several recommendations coming out of those interviews.

OAR Committee –Donna Carlisle, Chairperson – Donna stated that the family retreat held earlier in the summer was a great success.

Stewardship Committee – Debbie Evans, Chairperson – our fall campaign work is on track.

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Mission Committee – Steve Johnson, Chairperson – Steve reminded all that Outreach Weekend will take place in October. He said that he has received letters from local mission groups requesting assistance for that weekend. He will coordinate with the Deacons on this.

Steve and Dr. Broberg noted the great work done by Abe Key in compiling the Mission Directory reviewed earlier this evening.

Worship and Music Committee – Joyce Camlin, Chairperson – it was noted that we need to upgrade our publicity effort, and Jonathan Pachter was asked to re-engage Don Nixon on using social media to further this concept.

Christian Education Committee – Shirley Desmond, Chairperson – Shirley asked Janet Nevin to review what is going on with CE in the summer. Janet noted the increase in children and youth attending the camps at Pine Springs, and highlighted several Youth group events. Janet reviewed the 2013 Vacation Bible School (VBS), providing the Session with a written report. There were nearly 200 children attending each day, including 75 from the Lemoyne Center, and 90 adults helped during the course of the week.

Nominating Committee – Elsie Hall, Chairperson – Elsie noted that the effort to secure nominees for this year's nominating effort is progressing well with the slate filling up. She asked that the Session members to keep this work and the people considering how to serve in their prayers.

Building and Grounds Committee – Mark Murphy, Chairperson – Dr. Broberg reported for Mark Murphy. He noted that the exterior door by the chapel is undergoing needed repair work. Other doors will be worked on after the work on this one is finished. Approximately \$15,000 has been provided in donations for the exterior door repair project.

Administration Committee – Jonathan Pachter, Chairperson – no report.

Endowment Committee

Sue Key advised the Session that PNC Bank has asked the Church to terminate the Elizabeth Warren Trust due to the small amount (less than \$64,000) left in this very old Trust (established in 1917). Sue made a motion to terminate the Trust with the corpus being re-invested. Debbie Evans seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

Memorial Committee – no report.

APNC Committee - Steve Johnson said that the Committee covered everything at the special Session meeting on Sunday, August 4, 2013, when the Committee recommended Rev. Emily Miller for this position. Her candidating Sunday will be held on August 18, 2013, with the called congregation meeting to be held after the conclusion of the 11:00 a.m. worship service. that same day. The Washington Presbytery will consider approving her for our Associate Pastor position at its September 10, 2013 meeting. Pastor Emily's installation will occur here on Sunday, October 20, 2013. Many thanks to Steve and the entire Nominating Committee - Dottie Bowers, Joe

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Donham, Hugh Crawford, Steve Johnson, Jeff Legler, Eric Meyers, and Leslie Zajdel - for their diligent work!

Ministry Team

Sue Denmead relayed a request from Pastor Emily for more volunteers for the next in-home communion, to be held in November 2013. This program is greatly appreciated by our home-bound members.

DATES OF NOTE

The next scheduled Communion will be held on Sunday, September 1, 2013. The next regular Session meeting will be on Monday, September 9, 2013, starting at 7:00 p.m. The next Stated Presbytery Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 starting at 4:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Finleyville, PA, with Charlie Bowers and Donna Carlisle scheduled to attend.

ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

After a motion by Debbie Evans with a second from April Betzner, Session unanimously approved a motion to adjourn. Dr. Broberg then closed the meeting with a prayer at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Pachter

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Clerk of Session