

THE CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2014

ATTENDING:

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

INCOMING ELDERS PRESENT - Jerry Davison, Jessica Hickman, Crystal Miles, Dennis Myers

ELDERS EXCUSED: Joel Braun, Chris Bury, Sue Denmead, David Taylor

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg, Don Nixon, and Stacy Phillips,

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, January 13, 2014, at 7:04 p.m. in the Dining Room. He opened the meeting with a devotion from Luke 24, and then a prayer.

APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET AND MINUTES

A motion was made by Mark Murphy and seconded by April Johnson to approve the docket. Session then voted unanimously to approve the motion.

A motion was made by Brian Teagarden and seconded by Steve Johnson to approve the minutes from the December 2013 Session meeting. Session then voted unanimously to approve the motion.

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, AND FUNERALS

BAPTISMS

On Sunday, November 24, 2013, **Blake Matthew Piatt**, born September 20, 2013, infant son of **Matthew and Amanda Piatt**, was baptized. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiated. Blake is the great grandson of **Jean Piatt**.

On December 24, 2013, **Cadance Juliet Salsbury**, born October 19, 2013, infant daughter of **Sean and Rebecca Seliga Salsbury**, was baptized. Dr. Stuart Broberg officiated.

WEDDINGS

No weddings to report in December

FUNERALS

Thelma Dunning Johnson died on Thursday, November 21, 2013. Her funeral service was held on Wednesday, November 27, 2013 at William G. Neal Funeral Home with Dr. Stuart Broberg officiating.

William Frank Pryor died on Sunday, November 24, 2013. His funeral service was held on Saturday, November 30, 2013 at William G. Neal Funeral Home with Dr. Stuart Broberg officiating.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Broberg and Jonathan Pachter reviewed a letter for the Session to send to Kim Carter, who has decided to step down as the chairperson of our Operation Christmas Child program. A motion was made by Mark Murphy and seconded by Joyce Camlin to approve the letter. Session then voted unanimously to approve the motion. It is noted that the Session is grateful to Kim for her many years of caring and tireless work for this effort.

Session Meeting,

January 13, 2014

Page 2

Dr. Broberg advised that the baptism and wedding information presented in the Docket for tonight's meeting comply with the Church's baptism and wedding policies, and therefore no votes are needed by the Session.

A motion was made by Jackie Koman and seconded by Debbie Evans to to approve Leslie and Madison Zajdel as co-chairpersons of Operation Christmas Child. Session then voted unanimously to approve the motion. It was noted that Operation Christmas Child comes under the Mission Committee.

The Session heard a request from Cathi and Bobby Proudfit to be removed from the active roll since they are attending Immaculate Conception Church. A motion was made by Mark Murphy and seconded by Brian Teagarden , and the Session voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Stacy Phillips advised the Session that she had received a verbal request from Jamie Ewing Stickovich to be removed from the active roll. Dr. Broberg noted that Ms. Ewing needs to submit a written request for the Session to act on this request. Stacy will relay that information to Ms. Ewing.

Dr. Broberg requested that the Session approve January 26, 2014, as the date for our annual congregational meeting. The meeting will be held in the Covenant Center, starting after the end of the 11:00 a.m. worship service. A motion was made by Mark Murphy and seconded by April Betzner , and the Session voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Dr. Broberg thanked these outgoing Session members for their service and presented them with plaques: Joyce Camlin, Shirley Desmond, Debbie Evans, and Mark Murphy.

Dr. Broberg then asked the Session to approve the following people as officers of the Church's corporation: Chuck Neff as President, Jonathan Pachter as Secretary (and Clerk of Session), and Brian Teagarden as Treasurer. A motion was made by Mark Murphy and seconded by Joyce Camlin, and the Session voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Dr. Broberg advised the Session that it needs to set a date soon for committee chairperson training and ministry planning - that task was assigned to the Administration Committee and it will be held soon. He asked each Committee to bring in new committee members, and noted that the Session needs to approve the make-up of the Committees. Also, Dr. Broberg noted that he will be installed as Vice-Moderator of the Washington Presbytery on Saturday, January 15, 2014. He advised the Session that he will become the Moderator of the Presbytery in 2015, and that he will be attending the General Assembly in Detroit in June 2014.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

DISCUSSION OF 2013 FINANCES AND 2014 OPERATING BUDGET

Brian Teagarden advised the Session that the Church ended 2013 with an approx. \$12,000 budget deficit. Unpledged income was down as was income from pledged income. We were paid in full for our per capita and mission (at the Session-approved 10% of pledged income) pledges. In order to balance the 2014 budget, several budget adjustments needed to be made, including elimination of the part-time janitor position, reducing the salary (and hours) for our Director of Christian Education, bringing in more or the income from our various endowments, and reducing building use on certain nights. Brian mentioned that the Session chairs recently voted to keep our Mission giving at the 10% tithe level.

There was much discussion about this topic. Many questions were discussed and thoroughly examined by the Session, including: 1) "Why didn't the congregation meet its pledged income budget?"; and 2)

Session Meeting,

January 13, 2014

Page 3

“Did we follow up enough with the congregation to get people to fulfill their 2013 pledges?” Dr. Broberg pointed out that congregations often see reduced giving after major fundraisers like the recent Light the Fire campaign.

Phone calls were made and letters sent to the congregation to try to increase giving at the the end of 2013. Notes were sent by Dr. Broberg to members of the congregation who give but don't pledge. He also said that this is a very manageable situation, and that the Session needs to proceed as we normally do, working with the congregation to achieve our budget goals.

The proposed 2014 operating budget is \$814,400. Projected pledged income is set at \$526,700. This recommendation for the operating budget came from the Finance Committee, therefore no second was needed. Mark Murphy did second the motion, however. The Session unanimously approved the motion. Steve Johnson moved to set the 2014 Mission budget at 10% of \$526,700, or \$52,700. Brian Teagarden seconded the motion, and the Session voted unanimously to approve it.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Mark Murphy moved, Jerry Davison seconded, and the Session unanimously approved the following motion to name chairpersons and second elders on the Session's committees:

Administration - Jonathan Pachter
Building and Grounds - Jerry Davison, Dennis Myers
Christian Education - Jessica Hickman, Sue Denmead
Endowment - Sue Key
Finance - Brian Teagarden, April Betzner
Mission - Steve Johnson, David Taylor
Nominating - Elsie Hall, Joel Braun
OAR - Donna Carlisle, Linda Grimm
Personnel - Gary Recktenwald, Sue Key
Stewardship - Terri Grantz, Joel Braun
Worship and Music - Jackie Koman, Crystal Miles

The Session then examined the new elders according to the Book of Order and asked them to attend Leaderfest training program provided by the Washington Presbytery. The new elders were also asked to attend our own training: both are to be held at The Church of the Covenant on Saturday, February 1, 2014.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE - Brian Teagarden had nothing additional beyond that already discussed.

PERSONNEL - Gary Recktenwald discussed the part-time janitor position, and mentioned that Pastor Emily will be going on the Haiti mission trip.

OAR - Donna Carlisle that 50 people joined the congregation in 2013. She also noted that only 15 people asked to be taken off the active roll during the OAR Committee's recent active roll review effort. Many people asked to be kept on the active roll, and Dr. Broberg noted that he felt good about that process.

STEWARDSHIP - Debbie Evans had nothing new to report.

MISSION - Steve Johnson - he said that the Mission Committee will be reviewing the list of mission opportunities and will apportion its giving based on the 2014 budget. Elsie Hall reported that the Haiti mission trip will be taking place from January 25th to February 1st, and that the trip will be

Session Meeting,

January 13, 2014

Page 4

commissioned at the 9:43 service on Sunday January 16th. Elsie also noted that the Washington Presbytery gave \$1,000 for the trip. Linda Grimm and others will blog from Haiti unless they have no electricity.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC - Joyce Camlin - nothing to report, but there was a discussion about the next meeting date.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - Shirley Desmond mentioned that Stacy Phillips is the new Director of Christian Education (CE), and that Jessica Hickman is the new Chairperson for the CE Committee.

There was a brief discussion about the Service of Christian Unity held on Sunday January 12, 2014 at Washington High School. Dr. Broberg noted that over 400 people attended this event, with nearly 50 people attending from our Church. Dr. Broberg said that The Church of the Covenant has become a force for good in the community, and is a major advocate for the revitalized Washington Ministerium.

NOMINATING - Elsie Hall had nothing to report.

BUILDING AND GROUND - Mark Murphy had nothing to report.

ADMINISTRATION - Jonathan Pachter had nothing to report.

ENDOWMENT - Sue Key had nothing to report, other than the Committee will meet on January 14th.

MINISTRY TEAM - it was noted that in-home communion will be held again in 2014.

NEXT SESSION MEETING AND NEXT PRESBYTERY MEETING

The next Stated Session meeting will be on Monday, February 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. The next Communion will be held on Sunday, February 2, 2014. The next Stated Presbytery Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Houston. Charles Bowers and Elsie Hall are scheduled to attend.

ADJOURNING NOTES AND CLOSING PRAYER

A motion was made by Debbie Evans to adjourn the meeting, and that motion was seconded by Shirley Desmond. The Session then unanimously approved that motion to adjourn. Don Nixon closed the meeting with a prayer at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Jonathan M. Pachter](#)

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session