

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2014

ATTENDING:

CURRENT RULING ELDERS PRESENT: April Betzner, Joel Braun, Donna Carlisle, Jerry Davison, Sue Denmead, Terri Grantz, Elsie Hall, Jessica Hickman, Steve Johnson, Jackie Koman, Dennis Myers, Gary Recktenwald, and Brian Teagarden

CURRENT RULING ELDERS EXCUSED: Linda Grimm, Sue Key, Crystal Miles, and David Taylor

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg, Rev. Emily Miller, Camille Braun, Debi Nicolella, Darla Pepper-Miller, and Don Nixon

GUEST: Rev. Craig Kephart, Executive Presbyter - Washington Presbytery

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 7, 2014 at 6:33 p.m. in the Dining Room. Dr. Broberg opened the meeting with devotions and a prayer.

APPROVAL OF NEW MEMBERS

Part of tonight's session meeting was to receive and approve 12 new members (see Attachment 1 , New Members Received 4/7/14) into the congregation of The Church of the Covenant.

Following a welcoming dessert, introduced the elders of Session, who in turn introduced the 10 prospective new members present at this meeting and located at their tables. Dr. Broberg also introduced Rev. Craig Kephart, Executive Presbyter of the Washington Presbytery. Dr. Broberg (NOTE: Aaron Kojundic and John Williamson were joining in absentia.) Then Dr. Broberg introduced the members of staff who were present and asked them to give a brief description of the work they do for The Church of the Covenant.

Jessica Hickman moved that the Session receive these named individuals into church membership, by the manner indicated in their information form, including those received in absentia, and that Session commend their active discipleship and the work of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in their lives. Dennis Myers seconded the motion. The Session members voted on and unanimously approved the motion. Dr. Broberg welcomed the new members into the Church of the Covenant. He pointed out that these folks will be formally introduced and presented to the congregation at the 11:00 a.m. service on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2014.

CONVERSATION WITH REV. KEPHART

Rev. Kephart spoke with the Session about a number of topics, including:

- Churches leaving the Presbytery - he feels that this phase has ended and the Presbytery is ready to move forward as a unified group of churches. He noted that one result of churches leaving the Presbytery has been a 20% reduction in Presbytery income.

Session Meeting,

April 7, 2014

Page 2

- The 2014 General Assembly meeting - Rev. Kephart and the representatives to the GA (including Dr. Broberg) will help the Presbytery and its church stay informed and prepared to react to issues that arise at the GA. He reminded us that the local churches can decide how to respond to issues decided at the GA.

CONTINUATION OF REGULAR SESSION MATTERS

Dennis Myers moved and Jerry Davison seconded a motion to receive all Committee minutes at one time. There was no discussion and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

Brian Teagarden, chairperson of the Finance Committee, reviewed our finances with the session. He noted that we are all right so far this year but income is not at projected levels. We need to be very diligent for the rest of the year and watch our budgets carefully.

Dr. Broberg reminded the Session that our per capita payments will be handled as voted on by the congregation in the past; i.e., each member can designate if their per capita payment is sent 100% to the Presbytery or is split between the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly.

For the Personnel Committee, Chairperson Gary Recktenwald moved that Rev. Miller's salary and housing allowance be adjusted by \$16,000 to address possible income tax issues. There is no increase or decrease to the Church, only money moved from one category to the other, with the other reduced by the same amount. Elsie Hall seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved it.

Dr. Broberg asked that the Minutes from this Session meeting show these two items:

- Congratulations to the Da'an Church in Taipei, Taiwan, on the completion of their new building; and,
- Congratulations to Rev. Tony Lo on his retirement.

Sue Denmead moved and Steve Johnson seconded a motion to approve these congratulatory statements. and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

Baptisms

The following child was baptized on March 16, 2014 at the 11:00 a.m. worship service: **Wyatt Patrick Jacobs**, born March 15, 2013, infant son of **Shaw Patrick and Aleece Gaddis Jacobs**. Rev. Emily Miller officiated.

Weddings

There were no weddings to report for March 2014.

Funerals

Grace F. Meighan passed away on Tuesday, March 18, 2014. Her funeral service was held on Saturday, March 22, 2014 in the Forest Lawn and Gardens Chapel, McMurray, PA, with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.

E. Paul Day passed away on Wednesday, March 19, 2014. His funeral service was held on Sunday, March 23, 2014 in the Nichol Funeral Home, Washington PA, with Pastor Gary Gibson officiating.

DATES OF NOTE

The next Stated Session meeting will be on Monday, May 5, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. The next Communion will take place on Maundy Thursday, May 13, 2014. The next Stated Presbytery Meeting will be held on May 13, 2014 (registration will be at 6:30 p.m.) at the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Eighty Four PA; Charles Bowers and Susan Key are scheduled to attend.

ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

After a motion by Jerry Davison with a second from Donna Carlisle, Session unanimously approved a motion to adjourn. The meeting was closed with a prayer at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan

Jonathan M. Pachter
Clerk of Session

ATTACHMENT 1 - NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED 4/7/14

NOTE: The new members names are shown below first, followed by their method of joining our Church

Eileen Caldwell – Letter of Transfer from 1st Presbyterian Church, Monongahela, PA

Steve & Peggy Day – Letter of Transfer

Courtney Kojundic – Reaffirmation of Faith

Audrey Moss – Reaffirmation of Faith

Ed Miller, Sr. – Letter of Transfer from John McMillan Presbyterian Church

Harry & Johnnie Broberg – Letter of Transfer from Peters Creek United Presbyterian Church

Donna Slezak – Reaffirmation of Faith

Jayne Ewing – Reaffirmation of Faith

Received in Absentia:

Aaron Kojundic – Reaffirmation of Faith

John Williamson – Letter of Transfer from Southminster Presbyterian Church