

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, MAY 5, 2014

ATTENDING:

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

CURRENT RULING ELDERS EXCUSED: Jackie Koman, Crystal Miles, Gary Recktenwald, and David Taylor

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg, Rev. Emily Miller, 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, May 5, 2014 at 7:02 p.m. in the Dining Room. Dr. Broberg opened the meeting with devotions and a prayer.

APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET

The docket for this meeting was reviewed next. After a motion was made by Jerry Davison and seconded by Joel Braun, the May 2014 Session docket was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

After a motion was made by Sue Key and seconded by Elsie Hall, the minutes from the regular monthly Session meeting of April 7th. were unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF BAPTISMS

Dr. Broberg advised the Session of several baptisms and said that these baptisms would be occurring per the Church's baptism policy, and therefore did not require the Session's individual approval. These baptisms would be held at the May 18, 2014 11:00 a.m. worship service, and include: **William and Jennifer Andy King** requesting baptism of their infant daughter Olivia Rose King (born 11/11/13); **Aaron and Courtney Kojundic** requesting baptism of their infant son Thor Anthony Kojundic (born 11/6/13); and, **Scott and Ashley Taylor Bashioum** requesting baptism of their son, Carson Taylor Bashioum (born 6/21/09). Craig and Rachel Bertges Piatt also requested baptism of their infant son Maxim Daniel Piatt (born 2/5/14), date to be determined.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK

Jonathan Pachter reviewed the information given out at the Washington Presbytery's annual Clerk's meeting, during which the Church's 2013 minutes were approved. John Rodgers, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, passed out a leaflet that provided information on how each church should deal with oil/gas leases and property transfers. That leaflet was given to Sue Key. Jonathan also read a note from Janet Nevin, thanking the Session for its role in the evening celebrating Janet's retirement as Director of Christian Education.

There were no baptisms, funerals, or weddings to report for April 2014.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

Discussion of Congregational Involvement Prior to/ After General Assembly

Dr. Broberg reviewed his thoughts on providing the congregation with information about issues that will be considered at the General Assembly (GA) in Detroit in June, as well as plans for summarizing the discussions and outcomes of the GA. He proposed that we hold adult education classes both before and after the GA. The classes would allow the congregation to participate in a Q/A regarding the GA. Dr. Broberg would like to bring back Rev. Craig Kephart (Washington Presbytery Executive Presbyter) to discuss issues relevant to our Presbytery, such as the Peters Creek situation. Dr. Broberg also said that he would “blog” to the congregation on a regular basis from the GA, and that we would likely hold a congregational meeting after the GA ends. The Session endorsed the concept, and Dr. Broberg and Pastor Emily will move forward with the Administrative Committee in planning.

Club 56 and the Breakfast Club

Stacy Phillips and Don Nixon reviewed the new Club 56 (for 5th and 6th graders) and the Breakfast Club youth group. These would be held during the Sunday school hour, emphasizing the time when most youth are here – reducing the emphasis on Sunday night activities a bit. Both are comfortable that the numbers are there for these new programs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Brian Teagarden noted that cash income exceeded expenses in April by about \$4,000, but overall we are still about \$10,000 to the good regarding our budget. He pointed out that 2014 giving is below the budget amount year to date (YTD), and expenses are higher than budgeted YTD. Brian and Dr. Broberg reviewed a letter with the session that would remind the congregation of this Church’s past policy about designating how each person’s per capita pledge would be divided. We will continue following that approach, and ask the congregation to fulfill its per capita pledge giving (we are presently behind in that pledge).

Personnel Committee – Gary Recktenwald, Chairperson – Sue Key spoke for Gary, and she noted that this Committee met in April and she referred the Session to the Committee’s minutes. Sue said that the Personnel Committee will be conducting staff interviews in July.

OAR Committee – Donna Carlisle, Chairperson - no information to report.

Stewardship Committee – Terri Grantz, Chairperson - no information to report.

Mission Committee – Steve Johnson, Chairperson – Steve referred everyone to his Committee’s minutes. He also highlighted a response from the folks managing Family Promise. They acknowledged the Church’s concerns but did not provide any concrete commitments to resolving our issues. The parties will meet soon to discuss these matters, according to Steve. The Mission Committee still may come back to the Session with a request to decide a course of action.

Worship and Music Committee – Jackie Koman, Chairperson – Sue Denmead spoke for Jackie. Sue referred everyone to her Committee’s minutes. Also discussed were the Mountain Anthems concert and worship service to be held on June 29. The motion to approve these events came

from Committee, so no second was needed. The Session unanimously approved the motion. Sue also reviewed plans for Youth Sunday and the summer preaching schedule.

Christian Education Committee – Jessica Hickman, Chairperson – Jessica referred all to her Committee’s minutes, and reviewed items in those minutes with the Session. She noted that registration for fall Pre-School was good, and that she will be bringing various curricula to the Session for its approval.

Nominating Committee – Elsie Hall, Chairperson – Elsie stated that the Committee is working on the new slate of officers.

Building and Grounds Committee – Jerry Davison, Chairperson – Jerry referred to his Committee’s minutes. He also reminded all that the Committee will be coordinating a congregational meeting to be held on June 8th to allow the congregation to ask questions and learn more about the Building and Ground Committee’s plans for the near future for the campus.

Administration Committee – Jonathan Pachter, Chairperson – no report.

Endowment Committee - Sue Key, Chairperson - Sue advised that the Endowment Committee dessert will be held on May 6, 2014.

Memorial Committee – no reports.

Ministry Team – Pastor Emily said that in-home communion was held on May 4, 2014, with two teams serving five people. The next healing service will be held on May 20, 2014.

MINISTER’S REPORT

Dr. Broberg said that about 70 people were served dinner at the Charter Member lunch held on May 4, 2014. The reviews of that event were positive. He also noted that the Child Protection Policy was reviewed again by the Christian Education Committee.

DATES OF NOTE

There will be a Called Session Meeting on Sunday, June 1, 2014 at 8:00 a.m.to receive the 2014 Confirmation Class at their breakfast. The next Stated Session meeting will be on Monday, June 2, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Next Stated Presbytery Meeting will be held on May 13, 2014 at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Eighty Four, PA; Charles Bowers and Sue Key to attend.

ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

After a motion by Jerry Davison with a second from April Betzner, Session unanimously approved a motion to adjourn. The meeting was closed with a prayer by Pastor Emily at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session