

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2014

ATTENDING:

CURRENT RULING ELDERS PRESENT: April Betzner, Joel Braun, Donna Carlisle, Jerry Davison, Sue Denmead, Linda Grimm, Jessica Hickman, Jackie Koman, Dennis Myers, Gary Recktenwald, and Brian Teagarden

CURRENT RULING ELDERS EXCUSED: Terri Grantz, Elsie Hall, Steve Johnson, Sue Key, Crystal Miles, 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, June 2, 2014 at 7:01 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 Sue Denmead and seconded by Brian Teagarden, the June 2014 Session docket was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

After a motion was made by Jerry Davison and seconded by Brian Teagarden, the minutes from the regular monthly Session meeting of May 2014 were unanimously approved.

CALLED SESSION MEETINGS

Dr. Broberg asked the Session to call a Session meeting for Sunday morning June 29, starting at 9:00 a.m., to receive new members from the Rapid Class. These people would be presented to the congregation at the 9:43 service on the 29th. Sue Denmead moved to approve calling the Session meeting, April Betzner seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved it.

Dr. Broberg then suggested we cancel the regular Session meeting in June 2014, and meet next on August 4, 2013. Sue Denmead moved to cancel the regular July Session meeting, Donna Carlisle seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved it.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK

On Sunday, May 18, 2014 at the 11:00 a.m. worship service, three children were baptized: 1) **Carson Taylor Bashioum**, son of Scott and Ashley Bashioum, born June 21, 2009; 2) **Olivia Rose King**, infant daughter of William and Jennifer Andy King, born November 11, 2013; and, 3) **Thor Anthony Kojundic**, son of Aaron and Courtney Broberg Kojundic, born November 6, 2013. The Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiated. There were no funerals or weddings to report for May 2014.

Three members of the Greg Locy family, Greg, Mary and Anna, requested to transfer to the Redeemer Lutheran Church in McMurray, PA. Sue Denmead moved to approve that transfer, Donna Carlisle seconded the motion, and the Session approved it.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

Discussion of Fall 2014 Stewardship Campaign

Joel Braun and Dr. Broberg reviewed plans for the Fall 2014 Stewardship Campaign, which has “Learning to Love God” as its theme. The goal will be to visit every member of the Church on one Sunday, October 19, 2014, starting at 2:00 p.m. The visits will consist of handing out a cover letter along with a 2-5 minute discussion to be held on the doorstep of the house. 100 people involved in the leadership of our Church will be asked to help, starting with the Session. There will be training provided. The focus will be to insure that we have enough funds to hire a full-time (the current position is only part-time) Christian Education director. The congregation will receive a letter describing this campaign in the late Summer, and also advising about these visits and the information they will receive in the mail. Gary Recktenwald moved to approve this campaign, April Betzner seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved it.

Update on Issues from the General Assembly Meeting

Dr. Broberg outline the dates and what will be discussed at upcoming meetings to inform the congregation about what will be happening and what happened at the General Assembly (GA) meeting in Detroit. There will be two meetings held before the GA meets, and two meetings held after the GA has met. He will be attending the GA, as will Rev. Craig Kephart and Dan Kephart. Dr. Broberg passed out a handout that will outline the discussion topics and the Ground Rules for Helpful Conversation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Brian Teagarden noted that cash income exceeded expenses in April by about \$6,000, but overall we are still about \$5,000 to the good regarding our budget. He pointed out that 2014 planned giving is now on track to meet our targets, and unplanned giving is higher than expected. Brian and Dr. Broberg noted that there is still approximately \$117,000 in the Light the Fire campaign funds. The Finance Committee moved to take \$80,000 of that amount and convey it to the Endowment Committee to invest. The spending schedule for this \$80,000 is still to be determined. The remaining \$37,000 would be spent as shown in the Light the Fire campaign over the next three years. The motion came from Committee, no second was needed, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

Personnel Committee – Gary Recktenwald, Chairperson – Gary said that this Committee met at the end of May. Dates have been set for staff reviews, during the first half of July.

OAR Committee – Donna Carlisle, Chairperson – Donna reported that the Church Retreat, “A Walk Through The New Testament”, will be held on August 8 and 9. The Church will reserve two buses for travel to the Franklin Graham Crusade in Pittsburgh during mid-August 2014.

Stewardship Committee – Terri Grantz, Chairperson – Joel Braun had nothing additional to report beyond the information already presented to the Session.

Mission Committee – Steve Johnson, Chairperson – Pastor Emily reported that the Church had responded well to the City Mission food drive. The first weekend in October will be when our Celebrate Mission weekend will be held, culminating with a dinner on Sunday, October 5th.

Worship and Music Committee – Jackie Koman, Chairperson – Jackie referred the group to the Committee’s minutes from its last meeting. She said that the Committee was pleased with the results from Charter Member Sunday and Youth Sunday.

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 the fall 2014 Sunday School curricula will follow the stewardship theme of Learning to Love God. Vacation Bible School will be held from July 14 – 18 in the morning. She asked the Finance Committee to approve a CE ice cream sundae fundraiser, and discussed the 2014 children’s’ Sunday School curricula.

Nominating Committee – Elsie Hall, Chairperson – Dr. Broberg reported that everything was moving along well for this Committee.

Building and Grounds Committee – Jerry Davison, Chairperson – Jerry referred to his Committee’s minutes. He said 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 Use Policy. The Committee will review the congregation’s comments at the Committee’s June 23rd meeting. The Committee will bring its report to the Session for review and approval at the August 4th Session meeting. They want to be able to inform building users of any changes in the Building Use Policy in early September 2014.

Administration Committee and Memorial Committee – no reports.

Endowment Committee - Sue Key, Chairperson – Dr. Broberg reported that the Endowment Dessert held in early May 2014 was a great success despite lower-than-expected attendance. The testimonies were wonderful. Two families had agreed to establish permanent endowments.

Deacons Report and Ministry Team Report – Pastor Emily said that the fish fry during Lent was profitable, and that the W&J finals donut night was well attended. She noted that the healing service will be held on May 20, 2014.

DATES OF NOTE

The Session has been called to meet at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, June 29, as stated earlier in these minutes. The next regular Stated Session meeting will be held on Monday, August 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. The next Stated Presbytery Meeting will be held on September 9, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. with the location to be determined. Charles Bowers and Jackie Koman are scheduled to attend.

ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

After a motion by consensus, Session unanimously approved a motion to adjourn. The meeting was closed with a prayer by Pastor Emily at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session