

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2014

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, Jackie Koman, Crystal Miles, Dennis Myers, Gary Recktenwald and Brian Teagarden

CURRENT RULING ELDERS EXCUSED: David Taylor

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

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, September 8, 2014 at 7:07 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 Steve Johnson and seconded by Brian Teagarden, the September 2014 Session docket was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

After a motion was made by the Session, the minutes from the regular August Session meeting were unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF BAPTISMS

Requests from **Clarissa and Chris Lucas** to have their infant son Christian, and from **Brant and Jennifer Barletta** to have their infant daughter Gianna Rose, baptized on Sunday, September 21, 2014, complied with the church's wedding policy. The Session was notified of these requests, which did not need the Session's separate approvals.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK

Baptisms

On Friday, August 8, 2014, at the Laurelville Mennonite Church Center, Christine Crompton and her son, Thayne, and daughter Lilly Elise, were baptized by the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg.

On Sunday, August 10, 2014, Brantley Michael Dolanch, born May 27, 2014, son of Matthew and **Rebecca Frantz Dolanch**, was baptized by the Rev. Emily Miller at the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

Weddings

On Saturday, August 20, 2014, **Britney Hollick and Mitchell McClay** were married in the sanctuary of The Church of the Covenant with Rev. Emily Miller officiating.

On Saturday, August 30, 2014, **Tara George and Joseph Dyer** were married in the sanctuary of The Church of the Covenant with Rev. Emily Miller officiating.

Funerals

There were no funerals to report in August.

Remove a Member from the Active Roll

Paulette Graham requested via e-mail to be removed from the active roll. She is now a member of the Bethel Presbyterian Church. Terri Grantz moved to approve that action, Sue Denmead seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

Sign-Up for College of Elders Brunch

Dr. Broberg and Terri Grantz passed around a sign-up sheet for the College of Elders brunch, to be held on Sunday, September 14, at 10:45 a.m. and at 12:15 a.m.

Overview of Soundboard Station in the Covenant Center

Dr. Broberg reviewed with the Session the preliminary plans for a permanent soundboard station to be built in the Covenant Center. This station will hold all sound and computer equipment needed for the 9:43 worship service and for other events to be held in the Covenant Center. The funds for this construction will come from the Light the Fire campaign. After some discussion, the Session decided that the Building and Grounds Committee is authorized to proceed with construction, so long as the cost of construction is less than the \$25,000 authorized in the Light the Fire campaign and no PA Department of Labor and Industry approval is needed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Brian Teagarden, Chairperson – Brian referred the Session to the Committee's written report. He noted that income has exceeded expenses year to date by about \$23,000. He also said that we continue to be close to our budget projections. We need to watch to see if giving tails off towards the end of the year starting in October like it did in 2013. The Finance Committee will monitor this carefully and report to Session on giving at the October 2014 Session meeting.

Personnel Committee – Gary Recktenwald, Chairperson – Gary said no meeting was held in August 2014. He pointed out that Dona Hamilton started work in mid-August, replacing Peg Flynn, who resigned.

OAR Committee – Donna Carlisle, Chairperson – Donna reported that the "Communita" women's group will start up soon. She said that the Church Retreat and the Festival of Hope were successful. Dr. Broberg said that there will be follow-up Bible studies for the Festival of Hope. Over 26,000 people and 500 churches participated in the Festival of Hope.

Stewardship Committee – Terri Grantz, Chairperson – Terri said the Committee had nothing to report except to remind all again that the College of Elders events will be held on Sunday, September 14, 2014.

Mission Committee – Steve Johnson, Chairperson – Steve noted that we are supporting a God in Action group at the City Mission, and that the Haiti Mission Team will meet on September 12,

2014. The Celebrate Mission weekend will be held on October 5, 2014. Also, \$500 was authorized to be sent to the Chosen People Ministry.

In reviewing the Family Promise ministry, there was considerable discussion about continuing our support for that program. The Family Promise coordinators are not well organized any more, and they are not on they have not used our building on Beau Street in about a year. The Session agreed to continue current funding levels but the Family Promise program needs to try to find another location to use. The building requires significant repairs which could have a major impact on our budget; Brian Teagarden recommended that we evaluate continued support for this under-utilized program especially in light of likely 2015 personnel budget needs.

Worship and Music Committee – Jackie Koman, Chairperson – Jackie referred the Session to her Committee's minutes. She thanked and complimented Pastor Emily for her work in creating and coordinating the Connect prayer service.

Christian Education Committee – Jessica Hickman, Chairperson – Jessica referred all to her Committee's minutes, and reviewed items in those minutes with the Session. Jessica said that Rally Day was successful, with 38 children and 17 youth participating. She said that a Children's Church will be started and held on a trial basis during the 9:43 worship service.

Nominating Committee – Elsie Hall, Chairperson – Elsie reported that the Committee continues to work to fill the slate of nominees for the Class of 2017.

Building and Grounds Committee – Jerry Davison, Chairperson – Jerry told the Session that there will be more door repair work done in 2015. The Committee has compiled a list of contractors for the Bell Tower repair work. Jerry also noted that a tenant was evicted from the 418 Chestnut Street property, but that the evicted tenant vandalized that property before he left. The matter has been turned over to our insurance carrier; hopefully we will not see a raise in our insurance rates.

Administration Committee and Memorial Committee – no reports.

Endowment Committee - Sue Key, Chairperson – Sue reported that the Committee's By-Laws were revised to reflect two changes: 1) never used Trust Fund E was eliminated; and 2) the Trist Fund Management Committee will continue to elect one of their members annually to sit on the Endowment Committee. Dennis Myers moved to approve the By-Law changes, Brian Teagarden seconded the motion, which the Session unanimously approved.

Ministry Team/Pastoral Care – At this time, no one was in the hospital and needing pastoral care. There were many weddings to do and many meetings to attend. Pastor Emily noted that the Haiti Mission Dinner would be held on October 21st; each Committee was asked to donate a basket to be auctioned.

DATES OF NOTE

The next Communion will be held on Sunday, October 5, 2014. The next regular Session meeting will be held on Monday, October 6, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. The next Stated Presbytery

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Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Canonsburg United Presbyterian Church.

ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

After a motion by Sue Denmead and a second from April Betzner, Session unanimously approved a motion to adjourn. The meeting was closed with a prayer by Pastor Emily at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session