

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2014

CURRENT RULING ELDERS PRESENT; April Betzner, Joel Braun, Donna Carlisle, Sue Denmead, Terri Grantz, Linda Grimm, Jessica Hickman, Steve Johnson, Jackie Koman, Crystal Miles, Dennis Myers, Gary Recktenwald, David Taylor, and Brian Teagarden

CURRENT RULING ELDERS EXCUSED: Jerry Davison, Elsie Hall, and Susan Key

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg 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, November 3, 2014 at 7:10 p.m. in the Dining Room. Thus was a continuation of the Session meeting that just ended to welcome new members. Dr. Broberg opened the meeting with devotions and a prayer.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

After a motion was made by Brian Teagarden and seconded by Terri Grantz, the minutes from the regular October Session meeting and the congregational meeting held in October were unanimously approved by the Session.

APPROVAL OF WEDDINGS

There were no weddings or baptisms for the Session to approve.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK

Baptisms

On Sunday, October 12, 2014, **Tyler Easton Hopkins**, infant son of Ryan and Crystal Hopkins born April 27, 2014, was baptized in the sanctuary of The Church of the Covenant during the 11:00 a.m. worship service, with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.

Weddings

Heather Mohr and Ryan Ruffa (**son of Carolyn Holmes**) were married in the sanctuary of The Church of the Covenant on October 4, 2014 with Rev. Emily Miller officiating.

Lindsay Flavion and William Burns were married in the sanctuary of The Church of the Covenant on October 25, 2014 with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.

Funerals

Norma Brown Smith died on Friday, October 17, 2014. Her funeral service was held on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at The Church of the Covenant with The Rev. Dr. Joanne Carlson Brown and The Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg officiating.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

Wedding Policy Discussion

Dr. Broberg asked everyone to pray around their tables and to express their concerns about the pending vote on the changes proposed to the Session for the Wedding Policy. Next, much

discussion ensued about the policy. Donna Carlisle moved to amend the policy changes by adding language to page 2, second paragraph, that stated, "We uphold that God has ordained". The motion was seconded by David Taylor. The Session voted on the motion, and that vote was 4 yes, 8 no, and two persons chose not to vote. Next, the Worship and Music Committee moved to accept the Wedding Policy changes as proposed by the Worship and Music Committee. No second was needed since the motion came from committee; the Session voted unanimously to approve the Wedding Policy changes as proposed by the Committee.

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. But he also said that we continue to be close to our budget projections. He noted that giving tailed off in October 2014 like it did in 2013. The Finance Committee will send out letters asking people to fulfill their pledges. Brian did note that November and December usually are good giving months, and he felt we should be able to make up the budget difference, allowing us to fulfill all of our 2014 Mission pledges, including our per capita pledge.

Personnel Committee – Gary Recktenwald, Chairperson – Gary said the Committee has developed a new job description for the full-time Director, Christian Education position. Sue Denmead reviewed the job description with the Session. Gary moved from the Committee to approve the job description; no second was needed since the motion came from the Committee. The Session vote unanimously to approve the motion. Gary said that the job will be opened up to anyone qualified, and it will be advertised two times in the Church's E-Blast, and once in the Washington Presbytery's newsletter. He also noted that Stacy Phillips will have to apply and go through the interview process. It was noted that we won't know if adequate funding will exist in 2014 to create the full-time position until the current Stewardship Campaign results are known.

OAR Committee – Donna Carlisle, Chairperson – Donna described the annual process that we must undergo to review our Active Roll. The goal is to contact anyone who has not been active for at least five (5) years, through letter and personal contact of some type. The OAR Committee is going through that process at this time.

Donna also moved (from Committee) asking the Session to approve opening up our Thanksgiving dinner to the general public, with a good will offering and a Billy Graham film after the dinner. She also proposed that people affiliated with charitable groups such as the City Mission need not have to pay. Since the motion came from Committee, no second was needed. The Session voted unanimously to approve the Committee's motion.

Stewardship Committee – Terri Grantz, Chairperson – Terri provided an update for the stewardship campaign. Approximately 330 packets were delivered on Sunday October 19, 2014. Terri thanked anyone who helped with this campaign. She noted that Sunday, November 16, 2014, is the first anticipated report-out date.

Mission Committee – Steve Johnson, Chairperson – Steve referred the Session to his Committee's written report, and thanked everyone who participated in the Celebrate Mission weekend and dinner (especially Pastor Emily).

There were no other Committee reports given this evening.

DATES OF NOTE

The next Communion will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2014. The next regular Session meeting will be held on Monday, December 1, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., at Dr. Broberg's house; it will be the annual Session Christmas Party. The next Presbytery Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Canonsburg United Presbyterian Church -- Charles Bowers and Crystal Miles are scheduled to attend.

ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

After a motion by the entire Session, Session unanimously approved a motion to adjourn. The meeting was closed with a prayer by Dr. Broberg at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Pachter

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session