

**THE CHURCH OF THE COVENANT**  
**MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2014**

**ATTENDING:**

*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, Dennis Myers, Gary Recktenwald, and Brian Teagarden

*ELDERS EXCUSED:* Crystal Miles and David Taylor

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

*GUEST PRESENT:* Jim Agnew

**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, December 1, 2014 at 7:50 p.m. at Dr. Broberg's home. He opened the meeting with a prayer.

**BAPTISM REQUESTS**

Two (2) baptism requests were reviewed. They comply with the Church's Baptism Policy, so no Session additional approvals were needed for them. These two requests included :

- 1) Matthew and Erin Georgalas requested the baptism of their infant daughter, Sophie Rose Georgalas, born April 23, 2014, at the 9:43 worship service on Sunday, December 14, 2014, with the Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg officiating.
- 2) Steven and Rachelle Dickson Reihner (member) requested the baptism of their infant son Kolt David Reihner, born June 23, 2014, at the 11:00 worship service o Sunday, January 11, 2015, with Rev. Emily Miller officiating.

Scott and Ashley Bashioum requested that the baptism of their son Cole Scott Bashioum be recorded as an official baptism, one at the Hickory Presbyterian Church by Rev. Douglas Reinard on March 15, 2008. Due to a number of unanswered requests to the Hickory Church for official documentation of Cole's baptism, this would be recorded as such in the books of The Church. April Betzner moved to approve the request, Gary Reckenwald seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the request.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Anthony Nicolella reviewed current financial information for the Church. He said that we are current with Mission and per capita payments as of December 1, 2014. Even though giving is below budget at present by \$7,500, Anthony noted that December is usually a very good giving month, and he expects that the Church's finances will be in very good shape by the end of the year. He also said that pledges received in the fall stewardship campaign compare very well so far to 2013.

**REMOVAL OF PEOPLE FROM THE ACTIVE ROLL**

The OAR Committee provided the Session with a list of people who have approved removing their names from the Church's Active Roll. This list was handed out to the Session members present at this meeting. The Presbytery requires that this review be done annually. The OAR Committee determined which people have not been active for five (5) years, then contacted those folks by letter and by phone to find out if they want to be removed. Many people did not want to be removed, and their names were taken off of the removal list. Elsie Hall moved to accept the list provided by the OAR Committee, Brian Teagarden seconded that motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

Gary Recktenwald noted that the Personnel Committee has decided to wait until January 2015 to advertise for the full-time Director, Christian Education, in order to be able to see how the finances look for that position after receiving the results of the 2014 fall stewardship campaign. Gary noted that Stacy Philips was consulted regarding this decision.

Don Nixon read a note from a recent graduate of Washington and Jefferson College, Harley Straub, who was a regular attendee at our Sunday morning worship services. Don relayed that Harley had a very positive experience at our Church.

Jim Agnew gave the Session an update regarding his call to ministry. He has received his Master of Divinity from the University of Dubuque. He is presently working on his ordination exams, and is working at the Chartiers Hill United Presbyterian Church as a seminary graduate assistant. He also does pulpit supply as needed, and is waiting for a permanent call. The Session prayed for Jim to receive a call.

**ADJOURNING NOTES AND CLOSING PRAYER**

A motion was made by April Betzner, seconded by Sue Key, and unanimously approved by the Session to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Broberg closed the meeting with a prayer at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Jonathan M. Pachter](#)

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session