

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2015

CURRENT RULING ELDERS PRESENT; Joel Braun, Donna Carlisle, Jerry Davison, Terri Grantz, Linda Grimm, Jessica Hickman, Steve Johnson, Jackie Koman, Dennis Myers, Gary Recktenwald, and Brian Teagarden

CURRENT RULING ELDERS EXCUSED: April Betzner, Sue Denmead, Elsie Hall, Susan Key, Crystal Miles, and David Taylor

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

INCOMING ELDERS PRESENT: Pat Boyer, Gordon Core, Cindy Garlisi, Steve Marriner, and Barbara Reintgen – Jim Little was excused.

OPENING PRAYER AND DEVOTIONS

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Session of The Church of the Covenant was convened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg, on Monday, January 12, 2015 at 7:02 p.m. in the Dining Room.

APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET

After a motion was made by Jerry Davison and seconded by Steve Johnson, the docket for tonight's meeting was unanimously approved by the Session.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the regular November 2014 and December 2014 Session meetings as well as the minutes from the congregational meeting held in November 2014 were moved for approval by consensus of the Session, and then unanimously approved by the Session.

APPROVAL OF WEDDINGS

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

WELCOME INCOMING ELDERS

Dr. Broberg welcomed and introduced the incoming elders (those present are noted above – Jim Little was unable to attend). Dr. Broberg voiced his confidence in their abilities to perform the needed work on the Session, and advised them they have big shoes to fill.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK

Baptisms

On Sunday, November 23, 2014, **Elijah Thomas Chipps**, born July 8, 2006, and **Madison Olivia Chipps**, born May 26, 2009, son and daughter respectively of Brooke Kearns and Eli Chipps and grandchildren of Tom and Beth Kearns, were 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.

On Sunday, December 14, 2014, **Sophie Rose Georgalas**, born April 23, 2014, infant daughter of Matt and Erin Miles Georgalas and granddaughter of Debbie Miles and George Miles, was baptized at the 9:43 a.m. worship service, with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.

On Wednesday, December 24, 2014, **William Patrick-Everett Hoffman**, born October 10, 2014, infant son of Eric Joseph and Erin Condon Hoffman and grandson of Peggy Condon, was baptized at the 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service, with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.

Weddings and Funerals

There were no weddings or funerals to report in December 2014.

COMMUNICATION FROM AUDREY HAWKER

Audrey Hawker is moving away from Washington and asked to be removed from the Church's active roll, and to resign from the Board of Deacons. Steve Johnson moved to approve the requests, Terri Grantz seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

CALL FOR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Dr. Broberg requested that the Session call the annual congregational meeting for January 25, 2015. Steve Johnson moved to call the meeting on that date, Joel Braun seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved that motion.

THANKS TO OUTGOING ELDERS

Dr. Broberg thanked each of the five outgoing elders on behalf of the Session, the congregation and for himself and Pastor Emily. He gave each of these elders a plaque with a handwritten note of thanks: Donna Carlisle, Elsie Hall, Steve Johnson, Susan Key and Gary Recktenwald.

ELECTION OF CORPORATE OFFICERS

Dr. Broberg noted that the Nominating Committee moved to place these names on the slate for re-election as President of the Corporation – Chuck Neff; Clerk of Session and Secretary of the Corporation – Jonathan Pachter; and, Treasurer of the Corporation – Brian Teagarden. Since the motion came from the Committee, no second was needed. The motion to re-elect these individuals as corporate officers was then unanimously approved by the Session.

SET DATE/TIME FOR SESSION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND MINISTRY PLANNING TRAINING

Dr. Broberg advised the Session that training for Committee chairpersons and for undertaking Ministry Planning will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2015.

DR. BROBERG IS THE NEW MODERATOR OF THE WASHINGTON PRESBYTERY

Dr. Broberg advised the Session that he will be elected the new moderator of the Washington Presbytery at the Saturday, January 17th Presbytery meeting, starting at 11:00 a.m. and to be held at Washington and Jefferson College. As a result, we will need to hang the moderator's banner in our Sanctuary.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

Discussion of 2014 End-of-Year Finances and 2015 Operating Budget

Brian Teagarden, chairperson of the Finance Committee, noted that we finished the 2014 year with a monetary surplus. Mr. Teagarden then referred the Session to the 2015 Operating Budget. Brian stated that he felt the 2015 budget was conservative, since it carefully tracked the giving numbers projected from last fall's Stewardship campaign. The proposed budget also continues our policy of assigning 10% of the 2015 pledged giving to the Mission Budget. This budget also provides for a full-time Director of Christian Education. Staff members (except the Director of Christian Education) will receive a 1% COLA increase. Brian said that the Finance Committee was encouraged and moved that the 2015 Operating Budget be received and approved. Since the motion came from the Committee, no second was needed, and the Session unanimously voted to receive and approve the 2015 Operating Budget.

Setting the 2015 Mission Committee Operating Budget

The 2015 Mission Budget is \$77,500. That figure includes \$55,000, or 10% of the 2015 pledged income, which was \$550,000. It also includes \$22,500 from the Endowment Fund that is allocated for mission work. Steve Johnson moved to approve that 2015 Mission Budget, Brian Teagarden seconded that motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

Approval of Committee Chairpersons

Brian Teagarden moved and Steve Johnson seconded a motion to approve the list of proposed Committee chairpersons, as listed in tonight's Docket. Dr. Broberg noted that there were some Committees with no change in chairperson, and not listed in the Docket, since those chairpersons were not leaving Session yet. Steve Johnson pointed out that the Committees need to bring in some new members from the congregation. The Session then unanimously approved the motion.

Examine the New Elders for Ordination and/or Installation

Dr. Broberg conducted the required examination. Jerry Davison moved to accept the results of the examination, and Brian Teagarden seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The Session then unanimously approved the motion. Dr. Broberg stated that the Ordination/Installation service will be held during the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 18, 2015.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Brian Teagarden, Chairperson – Brian Teagarden had no additional information to report beyond that information already reported in this meeting.

Personnel Committee – Gary Recktenwald, Chairperson – Gary said the Committee did not meet in November or December 2014, but it will meet in January 2015. The Committee will hold the Staff Christmas Party at the Presbyterian Home on January 21, 2015.

OAR Committee – Donna Carlisle, Chairperson – Donna also said that this Committee did not meet in November or December 2014. Donna said that the OAR Committee will sponsor a fellowship dinner to be held on March 10, 2015. Don Nixon said that a Men's Retreat will be held at Ogleby Resort in Wheeling WV on January 23-24, 2015; rooms will be provided in

Wilson Lodge. Don also pointed out that our congregation contributed 2.5 tons of food for the Pack the Pick-Up youth event.

Stewardship Committee –Terri Grantz, Chairperson – Terri thanked everyone who helped with the fall 2014 Stewardship Campaign. She also thanked Dr. Broberg for his guidance.

Mission Committee – Steve Johnson, Chairperson – Steve said that his Committee did meet in November and December, developing a plan for allocating the \$77,500 in the 2015 Mission Budget. He also pointed out that the Mission Committee gave a \$1,000 check to the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund for use in the Ebola crisis in Africa. Finally, Steve said that the Mission Committee was moving to stop the monthly food drive, replacing it with food collection drives to be conducted in conjunction with big church dinners throughout the year. Since the motion came from Committee, no second was needed. The Session voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Worship and Music Committee – Jackie Koman, Chairperson – Jackie said that the W&M Committee had nothing to report.

Christian Education Committee – Jessica Hickman, Chairperson – Jessica reviewed the adult education program. She said that the youth programs are doing well, as is the children's ministry program. The 9:43 church service for children has 6-7 participants each week. Jessica also noted that pre-school registration and tuition fees were being increased to cover increased costs.

Nominating Committee – Elsie Hall, Chairperson – no report.

Building and Grounds Committee – Jerry Davison, Chairperson – Jerry provided highlights of the work done in 2014 by his Committee. He thanked the many volunteers for this work. Jerry asked each Committee to provide him with their 2015 wish list projects so this Committee and the Memorial Committee can look over their financial resources and begin budgeting for work. Dr. Broberg said that these wish list items could be part of each Committee's Ministry Plans.

Administration Committee – Jonathan Pachter, Chairperson – no report.

Endowment Committee and Memorial Committee – no reports.

Ministry Team and Pastoral Care – Dr. Broberg advised that in-home communion will be held in February 2015. Dr. Broberg also asked the session to pray for several members, as well as for Rev. Joe Rodgers, who was celebrating his 100th birthday. Terri Grantz moved to thank God for Rev. Rodgers' life and his 100th birthday, Steve Johnson seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

DATES OF NOTE

The next Communion will be held on Sunday, February 2, 2015. The next regular Session meeting will be held on Monday, February 3, 2015. The next Presbytery Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2015, at the Washington and Jefferson College, starting at 9:30 a.m. Charles Bowers and Dennis Myers are scheduled to attend.

ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

After a motion by the entire Session, Session unanimously approved the motion to adjourn. The meeting was closed with a prayer by Dr. Broberg at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Pachter

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session