

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT

MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2015

RULING ELDERS PRESENT: April Betzner, Pat Boyer, Joel Braun, Jerry Davison, Sue Denmead, Cindy Garlisi, Terri Grantz, Linda Grimm, Jessica Hickman, Jackie Koman, Jim Little, Steve Marriner, Crystal Miles, Dennis Myers, and Brian Teagarden

RULING ELDERS EXCUSED: Gordon Core, Barbara Reintgen, and David Taylor

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

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, March 2, 2015 at 7:02 p.m. in the Dining Room. Dr. Broberg read from “The Father’s Prayer” for devotion.

APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET

After a motion was made by Jessica Hickman and seconded by Jerry Davison, the docket for tonight’s meeting was unanimously approved by the Session.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the regular Session meeting of February 2, 2015, were moved for approval by Jerry Davison, and seconded by Crystal Miles after a minor revision was noted by Jerry. The Session then unanimously approved the minutes.

CALLED SESSION MEETING – MARCH 25, 2015

Dr. Broberg asked the Session to approve calling a Session meeting for Wednesday, March 25, 2015, in the Dining Room, starting at 7:30 p.m. in order to receive the latest new member class. Brian Teagarden so moved, Pat Boyer seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved it.

APPROVAL OF WEDDINGS

Paul Phillips and Laura Smith requested the Session’s approval to be married in the sanctuary on June 18, 2016. Terri Grantz moved to approve the wedding, Crystal Miles seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved it.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK

*Baptisms and Weddings*

There were no baptisms or weddings to report for January.

*Funerals*

**Accious E. “Liz” Yelit** died on Saturday, February 14, 2015. Her memorial service was held on Thursday, February 19, 2015 in the sanctuary of The Church of the Covenant with The Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg officiating.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK

Janine Rainone requested to be transferred to the Bethel Presbyterian Church in Bethel Park, PA. Terri Grantz moved to approve the request, Linda Grimm seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

#### SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR - MINISTRY PLANNING

Dr. Broberg described the process for completing each Committee's 2015-16 Ministry Plan. Each Committee chairperson will briefly present the three to five most important points of their Committee's Ministry Plan in five minutes or so. Dr. Broberg noted that these Plans, once approved by the Session, authorize the Committees to carry out their work during the year. Jonathan Pachter advised the Session that he would consolidate the Ministry Plans once they all are approved into one binder for each of the Session members. Dr. Broberg then started the process for the evening, starting with the Finance Committee.

*Finance Committee* – Brian Teagarden, Chairperson – Brian Teagarden reviewed the ministry plan with the Session. He said there was no change from the 2014 plan. The motion to approve the plan came from Committee, and April Betzner seconded the motion. The Session unanimously approved the motion and the plan.

*Personnel Committee* – Sue Denmead, Chairperson – Sue reviewed the ministry plan with the Session. The motion to approve the plan came from Committee, and Jerry Davison seconded the motion. The Session unanimously approved the motion and the plan.

*OAR Committee* – Linda Grimm, Chairperson – Linda reviewed the ministry plan with the Session. She noted that it was similar to last year's plan, with the addition of a new goal regarding mission trips. Sue Denmead moved to approve the plan, Jerry Davison seconded the motion. The Session unanimously approved the motion and the plan.

*Stewardship Committee* – Terri Grantz, Chairperson – Terri said that her Committee would defer its report to a later date.

*Mission Committee* – David Taylor, Chairperson – Pastor Emily reviewed the ministry plan with the Session. The motion to approve the plan came from Committee, Jerry Davison seconded the motion. The Session unanimously approved the motion and the plan.

*Worship and Music Committee* – Jackie Koman, Chairperson - Jackie reviewed the ministry plan with the Session. She pointed out two of the points in the plan: 1) online worship services; and, 2) upgrading the physical worship spaces. The motion to approve the plan came from Committee, and Crystal Miles seconded the motion. The Session unanimously approved the motion and the plan.

*Christian Education Committee* – Jessica Hickman, Chairperson – Jessica reviewed the ministry plan with the Session. Camille Braun then reviewed the Pre-School goals and plans. The motion to approve both the CE plan and the Pre-School at the same time was made by Jessica, and the entire Session seconded that motions and unanimously approved the motion and the plans.

*Nominating Committee* – Joel Braun, Chairperson – he did not provide a report or plan, but he did share his thoughts on the role of prayer in developing these plans.

*Building and Grounds Committee* – Jerry Davison, Chairperson – Jerry reviewed the ministry plan with the Session. The motion to approve the plan came from Committee, and Dennis Myers seconded the motion. The Session unanimously approved the motion and the plan.

*Administration Committee* – Jonathan Pachter, Chairperson – he reviewed the work that the Session had done in compiling these Ministry Plans. He noted that the overall themes seemed to be looking back AND looking forward. He said that the Administration Committee's ministry plan consisted of planning for and holding a Session Intreat to be held in late May or early June, at which time the Session would be tasked with developing a strategic plan for the upcoming years. This strategic plan would be based on the information presented in the Ministry Plans, and would focus on what we need to do to bring our campus, worship experiences and programs into a more electronic/digital age.

That concluded the evening's presentations and approvals of Session Committee ministry plans.

*Ministry Team and Pastoral Care* – Pastor Emily noted the folks in the congregation who were in the hospital.

#### DATES OF NOTE

The next Communion will be held on Sunday, April 12, 2015. The next called Session meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Dining Room to receive new members. The next regular Session meeting will be held on Monday, April 13, 2015, starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Dining Room. The next Washington Presbytery Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, starting at 4:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, Monongahela, PA. Charles Bowers and Barbara Reintgen are scheduled to attend.

#### ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

After a motion by Crystal Miles and a second by Jessica Hickman, the Session unanimously approved the motion to adjourn. The meeting was closed with a prayer by Pastor Emily at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Pachter

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session