

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT  
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2015

RULING ELDERS PRESENT: April Betzner, Pat Boyer, Joel Braun, Gordon Core, Jerry Davison, Sue Denmead, Terri Grantz, Linda Grimm, Jackie Koman, Jim Little, Steve Marriner, Dennis Myers, Barbara Reintgen, David Taylor and Brian Teagarden

RULING ELDERS EXCUSED: Cindy Garlisi, Jessica Hickman, and Crystal Miles

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, April 13, 2015 at 7:10 p.m. in the Dining Room. Dr. Broberg read from Matthew 19:22 for the devotion.

APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET

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

APPROVAL FOR TWO UPCOMING CALLED SESSION MEETINGS

Dr. Broberg asked the Session to approve calling a Session meeting for Monday, June 1, 2015, in the Dining Room, starting at 6:00 p.m. in order to receive the 2015 confirmation class. Dr. Broberg also asked the Session to approve calling a Session meeting for Sunday, June 28, 2015, in the Dining Room, starting at 10:30 a.m. to receive the latest new member class. Sue Denmead moved, April Betzner seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK

*Weddings or Funerals*

There were no weddings or funerals to report for March.

*Baptisms*

**Noah Matthew Anderson**, born February 14, 2004, and **Nolan Bryan Anderson**, born October 11, 2010, were baptized at the 11:00 a.m. worship service on March 15, 2015, in the sanctuary of The Church of the Covenant with The Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating. Both are sons of **Bryan Anderson and Danielle Lapcevic**.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK

There were no communications from the Clerk.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

*A. Simply Giving Approach - A Strategic Conversation*

Dr. Broberg and Terri Grantz, chairperson of the Stewardship Committee, reviewed options for electronic giving with the Session. They were not asking for the Session to approve anything on this night. They wanted the Session to listen to the information and consider different ways of giving (for example, direct deduction from a checking account, using a debit card, or using a

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credit card) that might vary from the traditional “write the check” approach we have used for many years. There was much discussion about the information presented, and the Session requested that it be provided with more information and then test out an approach that could be included as part of our giving options.

#### *B. Updated Child Protection Policy*

Stacy Phillips and Camille Braun reviewed the revised Child Protection Policy, noting that it complied with numerous state policy and statutory changes. They had attended a class on PA’s new requirements. Anyone who is older than 18 and interacts with or is responsible for the care of children or youth will need to obtain state clearance. Anyone who works with children must report incidents by themselves if no one else will report such incidents - everyone is accountable and the reporting can be anonymous. There was considerable discussion on this issue and the revised policy. Gordon Core moved and Jerry Davison seconded a motion to approve the policy as presented tonight, and to engage an expert on these matters at a later date to review the policy and determine if any revisions need to be made. The Session unanimously approved the motion.

#### SESSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Finance Committee* – Brian Teagarden, Chairperson – Brian Teagarden noted that we are still pretty good shape for the year, as we are up approx. \$7,500 when compared to the budget. He said that pledged income is tracking well with budget,

*Personnel Committee* – Sue Denmead, Chairperson – No report.

*OAR Committee* – Linda Grimm, Chairperson – Session was asked by Linda to review the Committee’s written minutes.

*Stewardship Committee* – Terri Grantz, Chairperson – Terri presented her Committee’s Ministry Plan. She moved that the Ministry Plan be approved as presented, and Sue Denmead seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Session.

*Mission Committee* – David Taylor, Chairperson – David pointed out that Jennifer Haddox from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary spoke recently about Mission Training.

*Worship and Music Committee* – Jackie Koman, Chairperson - She asked the Session to review her Committee’s Minutes.

*Christian Education Committee* – Jessica Hickman, Chairperson – Stacy Phillips provided the CE report in Jessica’s absence. She reviewed a letter to place \$4,000 from the Light the Fire (LtF) funds into the Janet Nevin Children’s Ministry Fund. Dennis Myers moved to approve the motion, and David Taylor seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Dr. Broberg explained how interest income from the LtF campaign would be used to fund the proposal, and that such funding was included in that campaign. After this discussion, Session voted, and the result of that vote was 13 Yes 2 No. The motion passed.

*Nominating Committee* – Joel Braun, Chairperson – Joel had no report, but noted the Committee will meet in April.

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*Building and Grounds Committee* – Jerry Davison, Chairperson – Jerry said that work will begin soon on the Beau Street doors, but the project needs more money as it was coming in a bit more than budgeted. He also wants to begin work on the Commons doors. Jerry reported on the fire on the deck of the house we own on Chestnut Street, and the work was done without involving our insurance. Due to recent claims, Jerry said that our insurance costs have risen a bit.

*Administration Committee* – Jonathan Pachter, Chairperson – Jonathan advised the Session that the Administration Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 13, 2015, at Panera's to discuss the Intreat. The Intreat - intended to be a strategic planning meeting - will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2015, starting at 9: 00 a.m.

*Endowment Committee* - Steve Marriner, Chairperson - Steve said that the Desserts for DONors event will be held on May 6th.

*Memorial Committee* - No report.

*Ministry Team and Pastoral Care* – Dr. Broberg advised the Session that Dottie Bowers had passed away on Sunday night, April 12th. Her Memorial Service date is to be determined, as is visitation, Gwen Meyers passed away, and her graveside service will be held at the Grandview Cemetery in Johnstown, PA, on a to-be-determined date. Rev. Craig Kephart's father passed away on Saturday, April 11th, and the date for his memorial service is still to be determined. Several folks - Joe Donham, Marjorie DePoe, Nancy Neff, and Mary Wichterman - were in the hospital, and he noted their conditions.

#### DATES OF NOTE

The next Communion will be held on Sunday, May 3, 2015. The next regular Session meeting will be held on Monday, May 4, 2015, starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Dining Room. The next Washington Presbytery Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12, starting at 7:00 p.m. at the North Buffalo Presbyterian Church, Washington, PA. Charles Bowers and David Taylor are scheduled to attend.

#### ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

After a motion by April Betzner and a second by Pat Boyer, the Session unanimously approved the motion to adjourn. The meeting was closed with a prayer by Don Nixon at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Pachter

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session