

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, MAY 4, 2015

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

RULING ELDERS EXCUSED: Sue Denmead, Terri Grantz, Barbara Reintgen, and David Taylor

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg, Rev. Emily Miller, and Don Nixon

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, May 4, 2015 at 7:06 p.m. in the Dining Room.

APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET

After a motion was made by Jerry Davison and seconded by Jim Little, the docket for tonight's meeting was unanimously approved as revised by the Session. The docket was revised at Dr. Broberg's request to include a discussion of the Washington Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (CoM)'s planned visit to our June 2015 regular Session meeting. Such visits are part of the routine functions of the CoM and are supposed to occur every three years. Pastor Emily is the chairperson of this Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 13, 2015 SESSION MEETING

The minutes from the regular Session meeting of April 13, 2015, were moved for approval by April Betzner, and seconded by Linda Grimm after a minor revision was noted by Dr. Broberg (who noted that Noah Anderson was baptized as an adult). The Session then unanimously approved the revised minutes.

FUTURE BAPTISMS

Rev. Robert Hedges and his wife, Kathy Hedges, requested the baptism of their grandchildren, Devin Michael Reese and Siddaly Marie Brooks, on Sunday, May 31, 2015 at the 9:43 worship service. Dr. Broberg has counseled both individuals, and they will be baptized as adults. The baptisms comply with the Church's baptism policy, so no additional Session action is needed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK

Baptisms or Weddings

There were no baptisms or weddings to report for March.

Funerals

Gwendolyn Claire Meyers joined The Church Triumphant on April 8, 2015 and **Dorothy Louise "Dottie" Bowers** joined The Church Triumphant on April 12, 2015. Memorial services

Session Meeting

May 4, 2015

Page 2

are to be scheduled at a later date.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK

The Clerk of Session, Jonathan Pachter, noted that the annual review of the minutes and rolls had been held at the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Eighty Four, PA on Saturday, April 25, 2015. He noted that the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, John Rodgers, had advised the assembled Clerks of Session of the following three points. First, e-mail cannot be used for voting on motions - Rodgers said he would provide additional information to the Clerks after receiving many questions on this item.

Second, a candidate for membership into any congregations would need to provide written proof of baptism before they could be received into membership - Pastor Emily said she would review this point with Mr. Rodgers.

Third, Commissioners to Presbytery meetings from any Session need to be approved by the Session before they can be considered official representatives of the Session for any Presbytery meeting. Mr. Rodgers suggested that each Session elect all current ruling elders as commissioners for the calendar year. Our Session agreed with that idea. Jim Little moved and Pat Boyer seconded a motion to elect all current ruling elders in our Session as commissioners. The motion was unanimously approved by the Session.

DESSERT FOR DONORS

The Session was advised that the correct date for the Dessert for Donors event sponsored by the Endowment Committee was May 5th, not May 6th, 2015.

SESSION DESSERT WITH CONFIRMANDS

The Session was asked by Dr. Broberg to attend a dessert to be held at 6:00 p.m. prior to the June 1, 2015 Session meeting to meet the 2015 confirmation class members.

CALENDAR MEETING

Dr. Broberg advised that Debi Nicolella will provide an update to the Session at the June Session meeting regarding the church calendar.

SESSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Brian Teagarden, Chairperson – Although expenses exceeded income in April by approximately \$20,000, Brian Teagarden noted that we are still pretty good shape for the year. We are up approx. \$24,000 when compared to the budget because of our planned transfer of endowment funds.

He said that one-third of the way through 2015, pledged income is tracking well with budget, but unplanned income is below budget. Brian requested that the Stewardship Committee help out.

Brian also said that the Finance Committee and the Stewardship Committee will meet on May 26, 2015, to discuss electronic giving. These Committees will report back to Session at the June Session meeting.

Session Meeting,

May 4, 2015

Page 3

It was noted that we are current with all bills, and that our mission gifts have been disbursed from the Endowment Funds already, the earliest ever.

Personnel Committee - Sue Denmead, Chairperson - Cindy Garlisi reviewed this Committee's information, since Sue Denmead was excused and not present at this meeting. Cindy said the job descriptions are being reviewed, and that staff reviews will be held in June.

OAR Committee - Linda Grimm, Chairperson - Linda said that there was nothing additional to report and referred all to her Committee's meeting minutes. She did note that Thursday May 17 is the National Day of Prayer. Don Nixon provided the Session with a preview of the events of that day.

Stewardship Committee – Terri Grantz, Chairperson – Gordon Core reported for the excused Terri Grantz. Gordon said there was nothing new to report. He pointed out that the Stewardship Committee sent a letter to unpledged donors around Eastertime, asking them to consider providing donations to the Church.

Mission Committee – David Taylor, Chairperson – Pastor Emily spoke for this Committee. She said that a new God In Action team had been created, to help Joyce Ellis who asked us to work with other churches in town. Ms. Ellis wants the churches to work together to prepare lunches for children who had been receiving free lunch during the school year but during the summer months had no lunches given to them. The lunches will be distributed at designated locations in the city of Washington.

Dr. Broberg thanked the Session and the Personnel Committee for allowing him to go to Haiti, for the first time in 25 years, as part of our Church's Mission team. It was a wonderful experience and our group, working with Pastor Pierre's New Testament Mission, are helping to make a big difference.

Worship and Music Committee – Jackie Koman, Chairperson - Jackie noted that this Committee did not meet in April, and that she had no report.

Christian Education Committee – Jessica Hickman, Chairperson – Vacation Bible School will be held July 13-17, 2015. The Youth Home Mission Trip will be held June 21-25, 2015.

Jessica noted that Mary Jo Podgurski had reviewed our proposed Child Protection Policy, and suggested some minor changes as a result of PA's new law. The CE Committee will bring a revised policy back to the Session for its consideration at the June Session meeting.

Don Nixon thanked everyone who helped with the Build A Sandwich fundraiser.

The Texas Roadhouse fundraiser for the Pre-School raised approximately \$4,000, exceeding the goal. It was noted that the Pre-School spring programs were wonderful.

Nominating Committee – Joel Braun, Chairperson – Joel said that this Committee met on April 27, 2015, and they are starting to fill out the 2015-2016 slate of nominations. He referred everyone to his Committee's minutes for additional information.

Session Meeting, May 4, 2015, Page 3

Session Meeting

May 4, 2015

Page 4

Building and Grounds Committee – Jerry Davison, Chairperson – no report.

Administration Committee – Jonathan Pachter, Chairperson – Jonathan repeated what he had told the Session in the April meeting, 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 5th, starting at 7:00 p.m. The Committee will not be asking for donations, but simply is providing a time to share and listen to reports.

Memorial Committee - No report.

Ministry Team and Pastoral Care – Pastor Emily reported that 17 people helped with in-house communion in April. She encouraged everyone to help with this very meaningful activity.

DATES OF NOTE

The next communion will be held on Sunday, June 7, 2015.

A called Session meeting will be held on June 1, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Dining Room to receive the Confirmation Class. The next regular Session will be held on Monday, June 1, 2015, starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Dining Room. A called session meeting will be held on June 28th at 10:30 a.m. in the Dining Room to receive new members.

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

April Betzner moved, Crystal Miles seconded, and the Session unanimously approved a motion to adjourn. The meeting was closed with a prayer by Pastor Emily at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Pachter

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session