

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT

MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2015

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

RULING ELDERS EXCUSED: Jessica Hickman and Jackie Koman

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg, Rev. Emily Miller, 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 D. Broberg, on Monday, August 3, 2015 at 7:01 p.m. in the Dining Room.

APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM FOUR JUNE 2015 SESSION MEETINGS

After a motion was made by Pat Boyer and seconded by Linda Grimm, four sets of minutes from June 2015, including minutes from the regular Session meeting, were unanimously approved by the Session.

NOTIFICATIONS OF BAPTISMS

William R. and **Lisa M. (Lucas) Cole** requested that their infant daughter, Hailey Marie Cole, born May 27, 2015, be baptized on Sunday, August 9, 2015 at the 11:00am worship service and have requested that Dr. Stuart Broberg officiate.

Eric Robert and Julie von Ehrenkrook Densmore requested that their infant daughter, McKenna Beth Densmore, be baptized on Sunday, August 30, 2015 at the 11:00am worship service and have requested that Dr. Stuart Broberg officiate.

These baptisms did not require Session approval since they complied with the Church's wedding policy.

TRANSFER REQUESTS

Michelle Lemons has requested that her membership be transferred to First United Methodist Church, Waynesburg, PA. **Janice and Geoff Weinstock** have requested that their memberships be transferred to the East Buffalo Presbyterian Church, Washington, PA. Terri Grantz moved to approve these transfers, Sue Denmead seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved by the Session.

COMMUNICATIONS

Kimberly Graham has requested that she be restored to the Active Member roll, (she had been moved to Inactive status in March of 1999). Jerry Davison moved to approve the restoration, April Betzner seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved by the Session.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

Review and Approval of the Lease for Family Promise

Jerry Davison and Dr. Broberg provided a handout for consideration by the Session. They provided a list of short-term projects that will be done on the Family Promise building by October 18, 2015 (<\$100,000) by Family Promise, with supervision by the Building and Grounds Committee. There are also long-term projects to be done by the Family Promise group (>\$100,000) with no financial obligations for our Church. David Taylor moved to approve the lease, and Pat Boyer seconded the motion. Next, there was considerable discussion about the lease and the documents that had been handed out. Dr. Broberg stated that we need to be careful about taking in money from the lease so as not to be seen as a for-profit organization. Gordon Core suggested that the lease needs to be considered in terms of our objectives in the relationship with Family Promise, rather than as a commercial venture. All agreed we need to check with our insurance company about some of the insurance-related lease provisions.

Gordon Core moved to amend the paragraph 19 of the lease to add the following as the new last sentence of that paragraph, replacing the existing last sentence, "Tenant shall at its own expense, maintain a policy for General Liability Insurance to include these premises with a limit of \$500,000 per occurrence, and that the landlord shall be specified therein as an "additional named insured", and that a Certificate of Insurance be provided to the Landlord as proof of these coverages". Brian Teagarden seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the amendment. Brian Teagarden moved to amend paragraph 6.e. of the lease to specify that tenant-donated vehicles shall not be stored on Landlord parking facility over 10 days in one calendar year. Gordon Core seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the amendment.

Dr. Broberg noted that this is the 20th year we have hosted Family Promise in that house. He hopes we can say supportive and get long-term issues addressed - he urges the Session not to miss the bigger picture of mission. A vote was taken, with these results: Yes 12 No 3.

Dr. Broberg advised the Session that these changes must be incorporated into the lease and forwarded to the Family Promise Board for their consideration at their August 8, 2015 meeting. Chuck Neff will relay these documents to the Family Promise Board.

SESSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Brian Teagarden, Chairperson – Brian Teagarden noted that June was a poor month. Pledged giving remains strong and is where it should be per the budget on a year-to-date basis, but unpledged giving is down. We are \$17,000 below last year's unpledged giving at this point in the year. Expenses are up from 2014 year to date by about \$29,000.

Brian suggested that we need to craft a letter to send to the congregation asking them to increase their unpledged giving. He said that no church group has been asked to restrict spending yet.

Personnel Committee – Sue Denmead, Chairperson – Sue noted that the Committee interviewed staff in July, as part of its annual staff review process. Preparation of job descriptions will begin in September.

OAR Committee – Linda Grimm, Chairperson – Linda said that there was no additional information to report beyond the information contained in the minutes. Don Nixon mentioned that the Three Rivers Prayer Summit and Movement will be held in Pittsburgh on September 9 and 10, 2015.

Stewardship Committee – Terri Grantz said that her Committee had nothing to report, but would meet soon.

Mission Committee – David Taylor said that his Committee had nothing to report. Pastor Emily reported that the Lemoyne lunch program has gone well, with around 30 people helping on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings to prepare lunches for children during the summer.

Worship and Music Committee – Jackie Koman, Chairperson - Crystal Miles reported for Jackie Koman. Crystal said that there was no additional information to report beyond the information contained in the Committee's minutes. She noted that the Committee is concerned about declines in worship attendance they have seen in 2015. Dr Broberg said he agreed that the spring 2015 numbers seemed down, but the summer 2015 numbers seem to be higher than 2014.

Christian Education Committee – Jessica Hickman, Chairperson – Stacy Phillips reported that 192 children registered for Vacation Bible School in July. More than 80 adults and teenagers served as volunteers. It was a great week, there was lots of prayer, and the Sunday program and picnic were excellent.

Rally Day will be held on Sunday, September 13, 2015. Dr. Andrew Purvis will teach a class on Saturday evening, September 12.

Don Nixon described the Youth Home Mission trip held earlier this summer. Around 70 teens and 12 adults from five churches participated, working on 24 properties in Washington.

Nominating Committee – Joel Braun, Chairperson – Joel said that there was no additional information to report beyond the information contained in the Committee's minutes, except that this Committee is still working on the 2015-16 slate of officers, and expects to finish that work in August 2015.

Building and Grounds Committee – Jerry Davison, Chairperson – Jerry noted that all rental properties have been “rented”. The renovation of the sanctuary doors has been completed after three years of work. Next, the Committee plans to renovate the Covenant Center exterior doors. Permanent No Smoking signs are being installed soon.

Administration Committee – Jonathan Pachter, Chairperson – he reported on the five digital items reviewed in the recent Intreat. It was agreed that they need to be assigned to Committees for additional planning and work. The following bulleted items show which Committees agreed to take on these items:

- OAR, Worship and Music, and Buildings and Grounds - Record our worship services and put them on our website
- OAR - Place a daily or weekly devotion on the website and e-mail it to anyone who wants it
- CE - Stream an adult education class live, and also record it so it can be podcast
- CE - Develop an interactive children’s newsletter to be placed on the website and e-mailed to anyone who wants it
- Administration - Develop a app for the church, suitable for smart phones

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE - No report.

PASTORAL CARE

Pastor Emily noted that in-home communion will be held on August 9th, and asked the Session for help.

DATES OF NOTE

The next communion will be held on Sunday, September 6, 2015. The next Session Meeting will be held on Monday, September 14, 2015, starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Dining Room. The next Stated Presbytery Meeting will be held on September 8, 2015 at Center Presbyterian Church in McMurray PA, starting at 4:00 p.m. Charles Bowers and Brian Teagarden are scheduled to attend.

ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

Pat Boyer moved to adjourn, April Betzner seconded the motion, the Session unanimously approved the motion. The meeting was closed with a prayer by Pastor Emily at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Pachter

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session