

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

RULING ELDERS PRESENT: April Betzner, Joel Braun, Gordon Core, Jerry Davison, Sue Denmead, Cindy Garlisi, Terri Grantz, Jessica Hickman, Jim Little, Crystal Miles, Dennis Myers, and Brian Teagarden

RULING ELDERS EXCUSED: Pat Boyer, Linda Grimm, Jackie Koman, and Steve Marriner, and David Taylor

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg

OPENING PRAYER AND DEVOTIONS

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Session of The Church of the Covenant was convened with prayer and devotions by the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, on Monday, September 14, 2015 at 7:06 p.m. in the Dining Room.

APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET

After a motion was made by Crystal Miles and seconded by Jessica Hickman, the docket for tonight's meeting was unanimously approved by the Session with additions to allow some non-Session members to speak to the Session, and to discuss allowing a person to use the sanctuary to record a guitar piece.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2015

After a motion was made by Terri Grantz and seconded by Sue Denmead, the minutes from the regular August 2015 Session meeting and the special called Session meeting of September 4, 2015, were unanimously approved by the Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:13 p.m. the Session unanimously approved a motion by Jim Little and seconded by April Betzner to go into Executive Session. At 8:37 p.m., Brian Teagarden moved and April Betzner seconded a motion to come out of Executive Session, and that motion passed unanimously. Then Sue Denmead moved and April seconded the following motion:

- It is noted that the Session is gathering information on a request received during Executive Session. The Session will hear a report at its regular October 2015 Session meeting that designs a process to respond to this request. Furthermore, the Session directs its moderator, Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, to communicate these actions directly back to the party making the request.

After discussion, the motion passed unanimously

DISCUSSION OF CHURCH POLICY RELATED TO ALCOHOL ON OUR CAMPUS

Several members raised the point that church policy prohibits any alcohol from being present on our campus. After some discussion, the folks organizing the upcoming Spaghetti Dinner Chinese Auction fundraiser will be notified of this policy, that they should not include alcoholic beverages in the materials to be auctioned off.

DISCUSSIONS RELATED TO THE RESIGNATION LETTER FROM OF PASTOR EMILY

Sue Denmead, chairperson of the Personnel Committee, addressed the Session and offered the following three motions:

1. The Church of the Covenant will extend the Board of Pensions contribution for Pastor Emily Miller through October 2015 if she does not have coverage before then, either through new employment or if her family is not eligible for coverage under her husband's policy at his workplace.
2. The next Messenger and next Bulletin will contain a notice stating that farewell contributions to honor Pastor Emily should be made payable to The Church of the Covenant and designated for the Lemoyne Community Center.
3. The Ministry Team will be re-established, at Dr. Broberg's request. The Ministry Team will consist of no more than five volunteers who would augment the visitation role of the pastor through additional visits to the homebound, new members and other pastoral visitations as directed by the Pastor. The Team would assist in worship leadership and other roles. The members would be open to attending Commissioned Ruling Elder Training Class (through the Presbytery) and to become commissioned.

These motions came from Committee and needed no seconds. The motions were discussed, then unanimously approved by the Session.

APPROVAL OF THREE WEDDINGS

Dr. Broberg presented three exceptions to the church's wedding policy that needed to be approved by the Session. They are as follows:

- Bethany Knicely and Maclain Eardley requested that Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiate their wedding on Saturday, August 14, 2016, which will be held offsite at The Morning Glory Inn, 2119 Sarah St., Pittsburgh, PA 15203. (Offsite exception – Dr. Broberg is available)
- **Dayne Warren** (member) and Britni Kress requested to be married in the sanctuary on Saturday, October 15, 2016, and that the Rev. Noah McIntee (not on our staff) is invited to officiate.
- Vincent Finelli (brother of member **Jennifer Barletta**) and Brittany Bell request that Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiate their wedding on Saturday, December 12, 2016 at Heinz Chapel in Pittsburgh. (Offsite exception – Dr. Broberg is available)

It was noted that the Worship and Music Committee has met and approved these exceptions, forwarding them to the Session for its final approval. After a motion was made by Jim Little and seconded by April Betzner, the Session unanimously approved these weddings.

DISCUSSION OF USING THE SANCTUARY FOR A SCHOOL RECORDING

Dr. Broberg stated that he has received a request to use our sanctuary to videotape a person playing "Holy Holy Holy" on guitar. Gordon Core moved and Dennis Myers seconded a motion to approve that videotaping. There was some discussion, focusing on reviewing our Building Use Policy to be sure it is all right to do this, and to find out whether or not the project was a

commercial venture or a school project. Dr. Broberg will check into these. The Session approved the request.

NEW CHURCH PICTURE DIRECTORY

The OAR Committee announced that it will be compiling a new church picture directory in 2016. Per usual practice, OAR noted that the pictures will be taken for free for us in the directory, but members can buy separate and additional copies of the pictures if they so choose. OAR will send a request to the Finance Committee for its approval before OAR moves forward with the process.

ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

After a motion by April Betzner and a second by Jerry Davison, the Session unanimously approved the motion to adjourn. The meeting was closed with a prayer by the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Pachter

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session