

THE CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
Special Session Meeting
Friday, September 4, 2015

RULING ELDERS PRESENT: April Betzner, Pat Boyer, Gordon Core, Jerry Davison, Sue Denmead, Terri Grantz, Cindy Garlisi, Linda Grimm, Jessica Hickman, Steve Marriner, Dennis Myers, and Brian Teagarden

STAFF PRESENT: The Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg

GUEST PRESENT: Rev. Craig Kephart, Executive Presbyter - Washington Presbytery

A special meeting of the Session of The Church of the Covenant was held in the dining room on Friday, September 4, 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the notification in writing from Rev. Emily I. Miller to depart from ministry to The Church of the Covenant, effective September 30, 2015. The Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg called the meeting to order with a prayer at approximately 6:39 p.m. He then asked Sue Denmead, chairperson of the Personnel Committee, to review the matter with the Session.

Sue reviewed Pastor Emily's resignation letter with the Session. Sue noted that Pastor Emily seeks to dissolve her pastoral relationship with The Church of the Covenant. She noted that the Session needs to develop a path forward tonight. There was considerable discussion about the letter. Proper Book of Order procedures were also reviewed. It was decided, in concurrence with Pastor Emily's wishes (as expressed to Sue), to not hold a farewell reception but to ask the congregation to meet individually with her to convey their thanks for her ministry to us and to wish her the best in the future.

At this point, Steve Marriner moved to call a congregational meeting for September 27, 2015, to gain the congregation's concurrence with Pastor Emily's request to dissolve the pastoral relationship with The Church of the Covenant, effective September 30, 2015. Gordon Core seconded the motion. The Session had no questions nor was there any discussion about the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The congregation will vote at this congregational meeting to advise the Washington Presbytery of its concurrence with Rev. Emily I. Miller's request. Rev. Kephart noted that only the Presbytery can dissolve a pastoral relationship.

Sue Denmead will make the announcement of Pastor Emily's resignation at all three worship services on Sunday, September 6, 2015. On that Sunday, Rev. Kephart will review the purposes of the congregational meeting. Sue will also advise staff of the Session's action on Saturday, September 5, 2015, and will meet with staff at the next regular weekly staff meeting (to be held on Tuesday, September 5, 2015.) Sue (as chairperson of the Personnel Committee) and Jonathan Pachter (as clerk of Session) will send a letter to the congregation essentially repeating the message presented to the congregation on September 6.

Dr. Broberg asked everyone to pray about this matter and to pray for Pastor Emily and her family. Gordon Core moved and April Betzner seconded a motion to thank Pastor Emily for

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nearly three years of good work and ministry at The Church of the Covenant. That motion passed unanimously.

April Betzner moved and Gordon Core seconded a motion to adjourn this special Session meeting. There was no discussion and the congregation unanimously approved the motion.

Dr. Broberg closed the meeting with prayer at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Pachter

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session