

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT

MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016

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

CURRENT RULING ELDERS EXCUSED: Linda Grimm and David Taylor

INCOMING ELDERS PRESENT: Ashley Bashioum, George Camlin, Dan Halulko, Joan McCrory, Chuck Neff, Kim O'Donnell, Katie Wichterman

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg and Stacy Phillips

OPENING PRAYER AND DEVOTIONS

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Session of The Church of the Covenant was convened with prayer and devotions (from Genesis 22:14) by the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, on Monday, January 11, 2016, at 7:01 p.m. in the Dining Room.

APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 2015

After a motion was made by Gordon Core and seconded by Sue Denmead, the minutes from the December 2015 Session meeting were unanimously approved by the Session.

APPROVAL OF BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS, COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK

There were no baptisms or weddings to consider, and there were no communications from the clerk.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL AND CORPORATE MEETING

Dr. Broberg asked the Session to approve the date and time of the annual congregational and corporate meeting. Jim Little moved and Jerry Davison seconded a motion to schedule this meeting for Sunday, January 24, 2016, starting after the conclusion of the 11:00 worship service. The Session unanimously approved this motion.

Chuck Neff, president of the corporation, will be unable to attend this meeting on January 24th. Dr. Broberg suggested that Joel Braun be appointed President Pro Tempore for this meeting. Terri Grantz moved to approve that appointment, Jessica Hickman seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

THANKS TO OUTGOING ELDERS AND WELCOME INCOMING ELDERS

Dr. Broberg thanked each outgoing elder (April Betzner, Sue Denmead, Terri Grantz, Linda Grimm, Jackie Koman, and Brian Teagarden) from the Class of 2015, and gave each of them a plaque. Each plaque contained a personalized message from Dr. Broberg.

Dr. Broberg welcomed and introduced the incoming elders (those present are noted above). Dr. Broberg voiced his confidence in the new elders' abilities to perform the needed work on the Session, and advised them they have big shoes to fill.

ELECTION OF CORPORATE OFFICERS

Dr. Broberg noted that the following people have agreed to be on the slate for corporate officers of the Church: President of the Corporation – Chuck Neff; Clerk of Session and Secretary of the Corporation – Jonathan Pachter; and, Treasurer of the Corporation – Steve Marriner. Pat Boyer moved to approve those people for the slate of corporate officers, April Betzner seconded the motion, and the motion was then unanimously approved by the Session. The congregation will vote on this slate at the upcoming congregational and corporate meeting.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

Review of 2015 Year-end Finances and 2016 Budget Projections

Brian Teagarden of the Finance Committee provided a spreadsheet that summarized the end-of-year financial information for 2015. He said that we did not finish the year as positively as hoped. Overall, we ended the year with an approx. \$20,000 deficit. Some Committees experienced overruns in expenses in their budgets, and neither pledged nor unpledged income met their goals. In addition, there was an unexpected approx. \$10,000 in insurance premiums.

Because of this budget situation, adjustments were made in Mission program payouts at the end of the year, per a prioritization plan previously authorized by the Session. In short, personnel expenses and fixed bills were paid out first, followed by unified mission and per capita costs, followed by requirement endowments, and finally Mission programs.

For 2016, Brian and Gordon Core reviewed the projected pledged income, unpledged income and budgets. Pledged income from the recent Stewardship campaign is less than 2015, resulting in cuts having to be made to the budget projections received earlier from the Committees. In the Personnel budget for 2016, the Associate Pastor position was eliminated, as was the part-time Information Technology position.

1% raises for all staff remained in the 2016 budget, as Cyndi Barney's well-deserved \$2,100 one-time salary increase. In sum, the 2016 budget proposed by the Finance Committee will be approx. \$15,000 less than the 2015 budget. Since the motion came from Committee, no second was needed.

There was some discussion about the proposed budget, including questions about how to estimate unpledged income, a discussion about the budget requirement for the Mission programs as required by our Bylaws, and the amount of the proposed Mission budget (\$83,000). The Session then unanimously approved the proposed 2016 Budget.

Approval of Committee Chairpersons

Dr. Broberg asked the Session to review a list of proposed Committee chairpersons for 2016, and to send any comments or thoughts on the list to Debi Nicolella. April Betzner moved to approve the list (subject to any Session comments), George Camlin seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

Examine the New Elders for Ordination and/or Installation

Dr. Broberg conducted the examination required by the Book of Order, and the Session was afforded the opportunity to ask questions. Pat Boyer moved to accept the results of the examination and to approve the incoming elders for ordination, and Jessica Hickman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The Session then unanimously approved the motion. Dr. Broberg stated that the Ordination/Installation service will be held during the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 17, 2016.

Dr. Broberg pointed out that the new elders need to attend Leadership Training at the Washington Presbytery's Leaderfest to be held at our Church on Saturday, February 6, 2016. That training will also include Session training and communion training for our Session members.

Discussion of Committee Recruitment

Dr. Broberg noted that the Session needs to bring two new members into the each of the standing Committees. Elders on those Committees need to meet with their staff representatives in January and supply the list of potential Committee members to the Session at the February Session meeting. This schedule will allow the Committees to work on their Ministry Plans in February and bring those Ministry Plans for the Session's approval to the March Session meeting.

SESSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Brian Teagarden, Chairperson – nothing more to discuss.

Personnel Committee – Sue Denmead, Chairperson – Sue said that the Committee is working with staff to distribute the Associate Pastor duties among the remaining staff. Sue also said that the annual staff appreciation dinner will held in January.

OAR Committee – Linda Grimm, Chairperson – Jim Little spoke for the Committee. Jim said that our Prayer Summit begins on January 17, 2016, and he asked the Session to help as spiritual leaders by agreeing to pray twice a month for an hour each time until May 2016.

Stewardship Committee – Terri Grantz, Chairperson - Terri noted that Consecration Sunday was held on November 15, 2015. To date, \$558,013 had been pledged by 214 people.

Mission Committee – David Taylor, Chairperson – Dr. Broberg said that David Taylor is very sick with a flu-like illness. There was no report.

Worship and Music Committee – Jackie Koman, Chairperson – No report.

Christian Education Committee – Jessica Hickman, Chairperson – Jessica reminded everyone that Lent begins on February 10 (Ash Wednesday), and that the CE program for Lent will be full.

Nominating Committee – Joel Braun, Chairperson – Joel thanked the members of this Committee for all their hard and prayerful work. Pat Boyer thanked Joel for his excellent leadership during tough circumstances.

Building and Grounds Committee – Jerry Davison, Chairperson – Jerry thanked the Session for its support of his Committee’s work in 2015. He reviewed the status of their major 2015 projects. Jerry advised that installation of air conditioning in the sanctuary is the Committee’s major 2016 project.

Administration Committee and Endowment Committee - no reports.

MINISTRY TEAM AND PASTORAL REPORT

Dr. Broberg said that the next in-home communion effort take place in March. He also said that in January, he visited 36 people in their homes or in the hospital. Dr. Broberg said that there are a number of people who need the Session to keep them in their prayers.

DATES OF NOTE

The next communion will be held on Sunday, February 7, 2016. The next Stated Session meeting will be held on February 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. The next Stated Presbytery Meeting will be held on January 23, 2016 at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Washington. Patricia Boyer and Charles Bowers are scheduled to attend.

ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

Dr. Broberg thanked the Session for all of their hard work and support in 2015. After a motion by April Betzner and a second by Terri Grantz, the Session unanimously approved the motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Dr. Broberg at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Pachter

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session