

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT

MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2016

RULING ELDERS PRESENT: Ashley Bashioum, Joel Braun, George Camlin, Gordon Core, Jerry Davison, Cindy Garlisi, Dan Halulko, Jim Little, Joan McCrory, Steve Marriner, Dennis Myers, and Katie Wichterman

RULING ELDERS EXCUSED: Pat Boyer, Jessica Hickman, Crystal Miles, Chuck Neff, Kim O'Donnell, and David Taylor

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, 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 and devotions (from Lamentations 3:22-24) by the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, on Monday, February 1, 2016, at 7:06 p.m. in the Dining Room.

APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 2016

After a motion was made by George Camlin and seconded by Dan Halulko, the minutes from the January 2016 regular Session meeting and the January 24, 2016 annual congregational meeting (that was postponed because there was no quorum) were unanimously approved by the Session.

At this time, Dr. Broberg asked the Session to re-schedule the annual congregational meeting for February 21, 2016, starting after the conclusion of the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Gordon Core made that motion, Ashley Bashioum seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS, COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK

Steve and April Devenney requested the baptism of their child on Sunday, February 21, 2016 at the 11:00 am worship service, with the Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg officiating. This request complies with the Church's baptism policy, therefore separate Session approval was not needed.

COMMUNICATIONS

*Baptisms and Weddings*

There were no baptisms or weddings to report for the period since the January 2016 Session meeting.

*Funerals*

**Virginia L. Canan** (member) died on Friday, January 15, 2016. The funeral service was held on

Monday, January 18, 2016 at the William G. Neal Funeral Home with Pastor Gary Gibson officiating. Private interment followed at the Claysville Cemetery in Claysville, PA.

**Ronald Robert Cochran** (member) died on Friday, January 15, 2016. The funeral service was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at The Church of the Covenant with Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating. Interment was at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies.

Dr. Broberg advised the Session that elder Kurt Koman's father and elder Jackie Koman's father-in-law, Bill Koman, passed away on Sunday, January 31, 2016. The funeral service will be held on Thursday February 4, 2016, at the Church.

#### REQUESTS FROM DR. BROBERG

Dr. Broberg asked the Session to approve holding communion for the new officer training in the sanctuary on Saturday, February 6, 2016. George Camlin moved to approve that communion, Joel Braun seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

Dr. Broberg asked the Session to call a special Session meeting to receive new members at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 7, 2016, before the regular March Session meeting starts. Dennis Myers made that motion, it was seconded by Ashley Bashioum, and unanimously approved by the Session.

Dr. Broberg asked the Session to approve installing George Camlin and Dan Halulko as elders during the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, February 14, 2016. Dennis Myers made that motion, it was seconded by Jim Little, and unanimously approved by the Session.

#### SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

##### *2016 Mission Budget*

The 2016 Mission Budget was presented to the Session. Joel Braun moved to approve the Mission Budget, and Katie Wichterman seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Session. Dr. Broberg reviewed the history of our Mission Budget (10% of pledged income), how it is included in our Bylaws, and how it complies with Biblical tithing principles.

Steve Marriner noted that we need to carefully watch spending in other Committees especially Buildings and Grounds, because future needs on that Committee could impact what we can spend on Missions. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the need to separately fund large Buildings and Grounds projects such as the repair of the parking lots. Dr. Broberg noted that we would be hard-pressed to fund these large projects through the annual operating budget, but may need a new Light the Fire-type campaign.

##### *Ministry Planning Process for 2016*

Dr. Broberg reviewed the annual ministry planning process. He said that the Committees need to do that work at their Committee meetings in February 2016, and be ready to report their 3-5 most

important ministry goals at the March Session meeting. Each Committee chair will present these goals for Session approval. Some may be deferred to the April meeting if the Session doesn't approve them at the March Session meeting. Minor revisions may be needed for some plans, and those will be reviewed and approved by the Session at the April Session meeting. Per Dr. Broberg, these ministry plans empower the Committees to do their work.

#### *Memorials Wish List*

Dr. Broberg noted that the ideas that the Session takes to the Memorials Committee come out of the Ministry Planning process. That process will identify the funds that would be needed for various projects that couldn't be handled by the annual operating budget. An example of this kind of project is the major repairs to our exterior doors, a project beyond the scope of the annual operating budget but do-able through the Memorial Committee and the Light the Fire Campaign.

#### SESSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Finance Committee* – Steve Marriner, Chairperson – Steve asked all Committee chairpersons to be sure to come to the Session before over-running any approved Committee budget.

*Personnel Committee* – Cindy Garlisi, Chairperson – no report.

*OAR Committee* – Jim Little, Chairperson – Jim said that the new Church Directory will start to be produced starting in April, 2016. Don Nixon reviewed the attendance at the prayer summit events, and asked the Session to participate in the next event on February 7, 2016.

*Stewardship Committee* – Gordon Core, Chairperson - Gordon stated that he wants to bring more people into the work of this Committee, and hopes the Session can provide some names for him.

*Mission Committee* – David Taylor, Chairperson - no report.

*Worship and Music Committee* – George Camlin, Chairperson – George asked the Finance Committee to help find the funds needed to repair the organ. Many of the pipes need to be rebuilt and other work needs to be done. Apparently \$5,000 has been promised for this work but another \$5,000 is needed. Gordon Core said that the Stewardship Committee would like to be involved in this process. Dr. Broberg pointed out that this project could be included in the Ministry Planning process.

*Christian Education Committee* – Jessica Hickman, Chairperson – Stacy Phillips gave the report (Jessica Hickman was excused and home with sick children). She asked the Session members to review the Committee's written report. She described the upcoming CE events for the Lenten season, including a special Ash Wednesday program to help families to learn more about that day.

*Nominating Committee* – Joel Braun, Chairperson – Joel said that his Committee had no report, but would start organizing in February 2016.

Building and Grounds Committee – Jerry Davison, Chairperson – Jerry reviewed the progress made in funding the projects performed by the Committee in the last couple of years.

*Administration Committee* - no report.

*Memorial Committee* - no report.

*Endowment Committee* - Steve Marriner said that the Dessert for Donors is now a full meal, and would (tentatively) be held on April 15, 2016. He also plans to try to place Endowment envelopes in the pews in the spring of 2016.

#### MINISTRY TEAM AND PASTORAL REPORT

Dr. Broberg said that the next in-home communion effort will take place on March 6, 2016. He circulated a sign-up sheet for the Session members. He noted that there are about 30 people to visit after church. Dr. Broberg noted that he has made 23 in-home or hospital visits since the January Session meeting. He thanked everyone who helped him for these visits.

#### DATES OF NOTE

The next communion will be held on Sunday, March 6, 2016. The next Stated Session meeting will be held on March 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. The next Stated Presbytery Meeting has been rescheduled for February 13, 2016 at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Washington. Patricia Boyer and Charles Bowers are scheduled to attend.

#### ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

After a motion by Dan Halulko and a second by George Camlin, the Session unanimously approved the motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Dr. Broberg at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jonathan M. Pachter*

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session