

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016

RULING ELDERS PRESENT: Pat Boyer, George Camlin, Gordon Core, Cindy Garlisi, Jessica Hickman, Jim Little, Steve Marriner, Joan McCrory, Crystal Miles, Dennis Myers, Kim O'Donnell, and Katie Wichterman

RULING ELDERS EXCUSED: Ashley Bashioum, Joel Braun, Jerry Davison, Dan Halulko, Chuck Neff, and David Taylor

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, Camille Braun, Ralph Farabee, and Don Nixon and Stacy Phillips

OPENING PRAYER AND DEVOTIONS

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Session of The Church of the Covenant was convened by the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, on Monday, March 7, 2016, at 7:24 p.m. in the Dining Room. The prayer to open the meetings this night was done by Dr. Broberg at the New Members special Session meeting held just prior to this regular Session meeting. Dr. Broberg read from Mark 6:30 for our devotions for the regular Session meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET

Dr. Broberg suggested that the Session change the docket for tonight's meeting to postpone our Ministry Plan discussions due to the large number of excused Elders. He said that it is important that as many Elders as possible hear first-hand the Ministry Plan discussions. Dr. Broberg also asked that we add an additional Special Consideration Calendar item to address parking lot repairs. After a motion was made by Gordon Core and seconded by Dennis Myers, the docket for tonight's meeting was unanimously approved by the Session with changes as requested by Dr. Broberg.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 2016

After a motion was made by Pat Boyer and seconded by Crystal Miles, the minutes from the February 1, 2016 regular Session meeting were unanimously approved by the Session. After a motion was made by Katie Wichterman and seconded by George Camlin, the minutes from the February 21, 2016 annual congregational meeting were unanimously approved by the Session.

RE-SCHEDULE THE APRIL 2016 REGULAR SESSION MEETING

At this time, Dr. Broberg asked the Session to re-schedule the regular Session meeting from April 4, 2016 to April 11, 2016. He will be participating in the Church's mission trip to Haiti on April 4. Gordon Core made the motion as requested, Katie Wichterman seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS, COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK

Nita Burchett requested the baptism of her sons, Nathan Roland Burchett (born January 19, 2005) and Maxwell Robert Burchett (born August 12, 2011) on Sunday, March 20, 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

Abigail Ann Devenney, born January 6, 2016, infant daughter of Steven Paul Devenney and April Beighle Devenney, was baptized on February 21, 2016 with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.

Baptisms - no new weddings to report.

Funerals

William Koman (member) died on Sunday, January 31, 2016. The funeral service was held on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at The Church of the Covenant with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating. Interment followed at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies.

Estella Franks (member) died on Monday, February 22, 2016. The funeral service was held on Saturday, February 27, 2016 at Piatt and Barnhill Funeral Home, with Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating. Interment was at the Washington Cemetery.

Other Items

Joe Donham reported that six in-home communion teams served 29 people on Sunday, March 6, 2016.

Ashley Bashioum submitted a letter requesting that the Session approve her request to resign from the Session and related Committees. Kim O'Donnell moved to approve the request, and George Camlin seconded the request. There was no discussion. The Session then unanimously approved Ashley's request to resign. Jonathan Pachter was requested to advise Ashley that the Session had approved her request.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

Presentation by Linda Grimm about The Parish Nurse Program

Linda Grimm gave a presentation to the Session about Parish Nurse Program and the Health Ministry Workshop on Visitation, to be held on Saturday, May 7, 2016. The Parish Nurse Program was approved already by the Personnel Committee. Linda noted that she supplies her own liability insurance. She said that, if the Session approved, she would ease into the position over the next two months.

Dr. Broberg asked the Session to approve Linda for the Parish Nurse position and to develop a roll-out plan for the position. Cindy Garlisi volunteered the Personnel Committee to work on that roll-out plan. Jim Little moved to approve the request, Gordon Core seconded the request, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

Pastoral Care Think Piece

Dr. Broberg deferred discussion on this matter until the regular April Session meeting so that a complete copy of this document can be made available for the Session's review.

Parking Lot Information

Ralph Farabee provided the Session with a thorough review of the various Parking Lot options as developed to date for the Building and Ground Committee. The various options involved restoring different parts of the Church's parking lot areas. Each option has different pros and cons as well as different costs associated with them. Ralph noted that different parts of the parking lot can go a few more years without major repairs. Ralph will get bids from contractors for the options and provide those bids to the Finance Committee to help determine how to pay for the work. The Committee will then report back to Session and the congregation through the Building and Grounds Committee.

Other Building and Grounds Items

Ralph Farabee stated that the Building and Grounds Committee was evaluating different insurance carriers for the Church.

Organ repairs will begin after Easter and are expected to last about three months. Organcraft will conduct the repairs, primarily to replace the "leathers" on one complete section of pipes. The estimated cost of the work is \$10,000, with \$5,000 already received from the congregation for the work. An Organ Repair Fund has been set up for the work.

Dr. Broberg noted that things are moving ahead to develop a funding source for large projects - such as the parking lot work, roof repairs, and the organ repairs - without having to touch the operating budget. He said we need to be faithful and trust that God will be with us.

MINISTRY TEAM AND PASTORAL REPORT

Dr. Broberg reviewed several upcoming Lenten events, including a church-wide Easter dinner, two fish fry nights (by the Deacons), Palm Sunday events, Maundy Thursday events, and Easter Sunday. He also reviewed the April 9 God's Garden activities. About 50 people participated in the most recent church prayer summit, and a regional Prayer Leadership Training session will be held at the Church on Saturday morning, April 2, 2016.

Dr. Broberg advised the Session that he conducted 41 visits between February 1, 2016 and today, March 7, 2016. Coordination has increased with the Deacons and Ministry Team members. He

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thanked the many folks who have stepped up to help since Pastor Emily Miller's resignation as Associate Pastor last fall 2015.

DATES OF NOTE

The next communion will be held on Sunday, April 10, 2016. The next Stated Session meeting will be held on April 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. The next Stated Presbytery Meeting has been rescheduled for March 8, 2016 at Thomas Presbyterian Church, Thomas PA. Joel Braun and Charles Bowers are scheduled to attend.

ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

After a motion by Pat Boyer and a second by Cindy Garlisi, the Session unanimously approved the motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Don Nixon at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Pachter

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session