

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, MAY 2, 2016

ATTENDING:

ELDERS PRESENT: Pat Boyer, Joel Braun, George Camlin, Gordon Core, Jerry Davison, Cindy Garlisi, Dan Halulko, Jessica Hickman, Jim Little, Steve Marriner, Joan McCrory, Dennis Myers, Katie Wichterman

ELDERS EXCUSED: Crystal Miles, Chuck Neff, Kim O'Donnell, David Taylor

ELDER RESIGNED: Ashley Bashioum

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg, Don Nixon, 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, May 2, 2016 at 7:05 p.m. in the Dining Room. Dr. Broberg's devotion was from Philippians 4, and addressed "the peace that passeth all understanding". Dr. Broberg then led the group in prayer to open the May Session meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET AND MINUTES

The docket for this meeting was reviewed next. After a motion was made by Pat Boyer and seconded by Cindy Garlisi, the May 2016 Session docket was unanimously approved with three minor revisions. After a motion was made by George Camlin and seconded by Dan Halulko, the minutes from the April 11, 2016 regular Session meeting and the April 18, 2016 called special Session meeting (to address Stacy Phillips's resignation request) were unanimously approved.

JUNE 6, 2016 CALLED SESSION MEETING

Dr. Broberg asked the Session to approve calling a special Session meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 6, 2016, to receive the 2016 Confirmation Class into the life of The Church of the Covenant. After a motion was made by Katie Wichterman and seconded by Joel Braun, the Session unanimously approved holding this special Session meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK

There were no baptisms, weddings, or funerals to report.

Jonathan Pachter reported that our Session Minutes passed muster at the Washington Presbytery's annual review of the minutes of all Sessions in the Presbytery. He also asked the Building and Grounds Committee to provide the Session with an official report of its review of the Church's insurance, as recommended at the review of the minutes meeting by the Stated Clerk of the Washington Presbytery.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

Discussion related to establishment of new Christian Education (CE) Positions

Cindy Garlisi led a discussion about job descriptions for three positions to address the CE needs resulting from Stacy Phillips' resignation. These positions include: 1) a part-time Designated

Director of CE; 2) a full-time Minister of CE (a called position); and, 3) a full-time Director of Spiritual Development. Don Nixon already fills the Director of Spiritual Development position, so there is no change or new hire needed for that role. Cindy and Dr. Broberg stated that they feel we need to move quickly to fill the other two positions. Dr. Broberg added that he feels these new positions and the process fit our Church's identity; i.e., we emphasize CE. Position Descriptions were provided to the Session to review. He would like to fill both positions in time for the start of Vacation Bible School in July. He said that he expects we can fill both roles for less than \$70,000.

He said that they have already contacted the Washington Presbytery for information about potential candidates for these two positions. He also called many of his contacts in the region to solicit their opinions about potential highest-quality candidates. He has already short-listed 4-5 people for each of the two positions. A new ad-hoc committee will be convened to work on the two hirings, and would include 3 people from CE (Sue Denmead, Brandi Frazee and Andy Kluczan), and 3 from Personnel (Pat Boyer, Cindy Garlisi, and Gary Recktenwald).

The Minister of CE would be an ordained minister. The Minister of CE would manage the overall CE program, and the Director of CE and the Director of Spiritual Development would report to this position. The Minister of CE would provide some pastoral help for Dr. Broberg, such as visitation, funerals, and some limited preaching. The position will be a Temporary Stated Supply Pastor, which does not require the congregation to elect a Nominating Committee nor go through the usual 2-3 year calling process. Instead, it is a search process through the Personnel Committee and the Session, as per the Book of Order. For a Temporary Stated Supply Pastor, supplying benefits are not mandatory. Dr. Broberg envisions that this position would be kept as "Temporary" indefinitely, with an information letter provided annually to the Washington Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. Dr. Broberg noted that the majority of pastors in the Washington Presbytery are Temporary Stated Supply Pastors.

The part-time Director of CE would be responsible for all activities related to specific Children's Ministries activities such as (but not limited to) God's Garden, Vacation Bible School, Punkin Patch, Rally Day, Christmas Festival Sunday, and would share responsibility for Palm Sunday and the Christmas Eve family service. The part-time director of CE also coordinate all the many volunteers who would be needed for these activities.

Cindy noted that CE will be seeking volunteers for Sunday School superintendent and an assistant Sunday School superintendent.

Dr. Broberg asked the Session for comments and questions. There were many of each. Steve Marriner, chairperson of the Finance Committee noted that we need to finalize terms before we hire anyone. Steve also cautioned that we need to carefully consider how we fund these positions. He said that The Finance Committee will gladly work on this matter, but needs details from CE and Personnel. Several people said that this plan was a win-win for the congregation,

and that we need to move forward quickly to keep the momentum we have built in CE. In general, the Session concurred with the plan. A motion was made by Jerry Davison and seconded by Katie Wichterman to bring a Temporary Stated Supply Pastor on board as the full-time Minister of CE, with responsibilities as described above. The Session voted unanimously to approve that motion. A motion was made by George Camlin and seconded by Gordon Core to hire a part-time Director of CE, as described above. The Session unanimously approved this second motion.

Dr. Broberg thanked the Session for its approvals. He agreed with Joan McCrory's thought that we need to inform the congregation about these actions and ask for their support. He noted that the congregation has stepped up in the past to fund these critical positions, such as when Janet Nevin was hired and when Randy Boyer was kept on staff after we had already hired Dr. Broberg.

Dr. Broberg asked the Session to endorse the entire proposal and process. Dan Halulko so moved, Katie Wichterman seconded that motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Steve Marriner noted that currently we are barely meeting our pledged income budget. He also noted that we are way behind budget on loose offering and unpledged income. Overall, we are down compared to budget.

Personnel Committee

Cindy Garlisi noted that the Personnel and CE Committees will jointly hold a picnic honoring Stacy Phillips for her excellent service to the Church on May 22, 2016, after the conclusion of the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

Dr. Broberg then reviewed some of the highlights of Stacy's tenure managing the Church's CE efforts. Session members then also shared their thoughts and thanked Stacy for her work. Stacy thanked everyone for their kind words and their support, Dr. Broberg gave a prayer of thanks for Stacy, and for God to keep her in His path.

OAR Committee

Jim Little said that work to produce a new Phone Directory for the Church is well underway. The portrait-taking is going well, and make-up photography dates will be announced soon.

Stewardship Committee

Gordon Core said that his Committee will present its Fall 2016 Stewardship Campaign at the June Session meeting. He asked the Session to carefully review that plan when it is presented, and to give comments to his Committee.

Mission Committee

No report.

Worship and Music Committee

George Camlin had no information to report.

Christian Education Committee

Jessica Hickman stated that the CE Committee is setting up the fall schedule. The Confirmation Class will be received in June. Vacation Bible School has been scheduled for July 20, 21 and 22, with VBS Sunday to follow.

Nominating Committee

Pat Boyer had no report but said that the Committee continues to work on the slate of officers.

Building and Grounds Committee

Jerry Davison said that the Committee has received new property appraisals, and the Committee members will try to reduce our assessments. He hopes to sign a roofing contract for 35 North soon. Funds are starting to become available for work on the parking lot. New lights have been installed above the organ.

Administration Committee

Dr. Broberg asked the Administration Committee to meet and plan to hold a “conclave” at the Church. This conclave would bring the Session together to discuss funding issues.

Endowment Committee

Steve Marriner said that the Endowment Dinner will be held after the conclusion of the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 15, 2016. Our various endowments will be explained at that time. Sign-up sheets will be placed in the Welcome Center on Sunday, May 8.

Memorial Committee

No report.

PASTORAL CARE REPORT

Dr. Broberg provided a “thinkpiece” to the Session describing how our Pastors will carry out the high expectations that this Church has for Pastoral Care, while maintaining the confidentiality of the persons being cared for. He noted that the Deacons are providing great help for visitations; he still does about 1 each day on average. Jim Little moved to approve the thinkpiece, Pat Boyer seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

Joel Braun said that Camille Braun thanked the Session for its great support of the Pre-School’s recent Texas Roadhouse fund-raiser. Over \$6,000 was raised.

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Gordon Core said that over \$14,000 was raised for the Organ Repair Fund. Any extra dollars (not needed for the current repair effort) will be placed into a new Organ Repair Endowment Fund.

DATES OF NOTE

The next communion will be held on Sunday, June 5, 2016. The next regular Session meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 6, 2016. The next Washington Presbytery meeting will be held at the Hewitt Presbyterian Church, Rices Landing, PA, starting at 7:00 p.m., with Charles Bowers and Cindy Garlisi scheduled to attend.

ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

Jerry Davison moved to adjourn and Pat Boyer seconded that motion. Session approved the motion unanimously. Don Nixon closed the meeting with a prayer at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Pachter

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session