

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2016

ATTENDING:

ELDERS PRESENT: Pat Boyer, Joel Braun, George Camlin, Gordon Core, Jerry Davison, Cindy Garlisi, Dan Halulko, Jim Little, Steve Marriner, Joan McCrory, Crystal Miles, Chuck Neff, and David Taylor

ELDERS EXCUSED: Dennis Myers, Kim O'Donnell, and Katie Wichterman

ELDER RESIGNED: Ashley Bashioum and Jessica Hickman

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg, Rev. Kay Balderose, and Don Nixon

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, August 8, 2016 at 7:08 p.m. in the Dining Room. Dr. Broberg's devotion was from 1 Peter 5. Dr. Broberg then led the group in prayer to open the August 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 Jim Little, the August 2016 Session docket was unanimously approved with one revision (to review Stacy Phillips' request for endorsing for commissioned ruling elder training).

After a motion was made by George Camlin and seconded by Jerry Davison, the minutes from the July 2016 regular Session meeting were unanimously approved with one minor revision.

SEPTEMBER 12, 2016 REGULAR MONTHLY SESSION MEETING

Dr. Broberg reminded the Session that the September 2016 Session meeting will be held on Monday, September 12th.

ATTEND THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2016 PRESBYTERY MEETING

Dr. Broberg asked the Session members to attend the September 13th Washington Presbytery meeting along with others from our Church to show support for Rev. Balderose when she is examined by the Presbytery for our Minister of Christian Education.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK

Edward Miller requested that his membership be removed from the active roll of The Church of the Covenant. Gordon Core moved, Pat Boyer seconded, and the Session unanimously approved the motion to approve his request.

Baptisms

Arabella Claire Buri, born March 10, 2016, infant daughter of Travis and **Shannon Buri** was baptized Sunday, July 31, 2016 at the 9:43 worship service, with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.

Weddings

None to report in July

Funerals

Harry R. Broberg died on Sunday, July 10, 2016. The funeral service was held on Thursday July 14, 2016 at The Church of the Covenant with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating. Interment was at the Brush Run Cemetery, Venetia, PA.

Elizabeth S. Downing died on Tuesday, July 19, 2016. The funeral service was held on Saturday, July 23rd at William G. Neal Funeral Home with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating. Interment was held at the Washington Cemetery.

Ethel Louise Redd Brookman died on Wednesday, July 20, 2016. The funeral service was held on Monday, July 25th at William G. Neal Funeral Home with Pastor Gary Gibson officiating. Interment followed at the Washington Cemetery

Stacy Phillips' Request for Endorsement for A Washington Presbytery Course

Stacy Phillips requested that the Session endorse her as a candidate to take a course at the Washington Presbytery for Commissioned Ruling Elder training. Stacy remarked that everything that has happened to date with her family has led her to where she is now in her faith journey. Joan McCrory moved to endorse Stacy for this course, Chuck Neff seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

Washington Presbytery Committee on Ministry Letter Regarding The Process for Called and Installed Associate Pastor

The Washington Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (CoM) sent a letter dated July 7, 2016 to the Clerk of Session. In that letter, the CoM approved Rev. Kay Balderose to serve as Minister of Christian Education for one year, effective July 15, 2016. The CoM asked that The Church of the Covenant go through the formal Associate Pastor nominating process, including a full nationwide search. Dr. Broberg recounted his recent meeting with the Committee on Ministry regarding that letter. The CoM was invited to attend tonight's meeting to discuss this letter but no one was present from the CoM.

Dr. Broberg asked the Clerk to send a letter as soon as possible to the CoM asking three clarifying questions: 1) Will Rev. Balderose be allowed in one year to apply for the position referenced in the CoM's 7/7/16 letter; 2) Will the CoM appoint someone to assist our Church to accomplish their two-year-completion goal for this process; and, 3) Does the CoM understand that this process could cost our congregation about \$100,000? The Clerk will compile that letter, get it reviewed by Dr. Broberg and the Personnel Committee, and then send it to the CoM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration Committee

Jonathan Pachter reported on the meeting held on July 30, 2016 attended by Dr. Broberg, Pat Boyer, and him along with Ms. Charlesetta McKinney, parliamentarian, to initiate a Session-approved effort to examine and modify (as needed) our by-laws. She noted quite a few inconsistencies in her initial review, and we agreed that we need to meet again for a longer meeting.

Stewardship Committee

Gordon Core (chairperson) noted that 53 givers had donated \$5,095 in 21 days in the Summer Stewardship Campaign, exceeding the \$5,000 goal and allowing the \$5,000 matching grant to kick in. That approx. \$10,000 will resolve some salary issues related to recent CE hirings. Gordon said that another \$5,000 matching grant has been offered, and that the Stewardship Committee is working through that matter.

Gordon stated that tonight marked the beginning of the fall stewardship campaign's "quiet" phase. This phase involves the Session and Deacons; Gordon wants to be able to tell the congregation that all of our Church's leaders have pledged. He passed out pledge cards to the Session, and asked that the pledge cards be returned at the September 12, 2016, Session meeting. Gordon wants the Session and the Deacons to help influence others to give through our actions.

He said that a \$10,000 matching grant has already been given for 2017. He reiterated our goal for the fall campaign will be to raise \$600,000 with a 60% participation goal for all giving units (300 of 500). That will mean we need 85 more pledges than we received in 2015.

Finance Committee

Steve Marriner (chairperson) advised the Session that Dr. Broberg had successfully raised enough money in July to lower the Finance Committee's budget worries from "red" to "yellow", or caution. The Committee will continue to review budget issues at least every month. It has asked all Committees to continue to spend money only for essentials until told otherwise. He noted that no Committee has yet been told to cut its budget. Steve also stated that the Finance Committee is changing the monthly financial reports, and that restricted endowment fund accounting will be done by November 1, so all Committees will have this information for their annual budgeting efforts.

Steve moved that Section 7.2 of the Endowment By-Laws be deleted to remove any conflict with the wishes of the Esther Hart Endowment, per when it was set up by Mrs. Hart. The motion came from Committee so no second was needed, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

Personnel Committee

Cindy Garlisi (chairperson) handed out copies of the Temporary Pastoral Supply agreement for Rev. Balderose to the Session for its review. There were no comments on the agreement. Pat Boyer moved to approve the agreement, Gordon Core, seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

OAR Committee

Jim Little said that the Prayer Summit will begin on September 11. Don Nixon said that the Prayer Pittsburgh event will be held in Point State Park on Friday, September 9.

Mission Committee

Chairperson Chuck Neff told the Session that, at the last Mission Committee meeting, his Committee discussed holding a Mission Emphasis weekend starting on October 2, 2016. They envision having a guest speaker for the worship services on Sunday, October 2, followed by a small dinner afterwards. Chuck also noted that the Haiti spaghetti dinner fundraiser will be held on Tuesday, October 4, 2016.

Worship and Music Committee

George Camlin had no information to report.

Christian Education Committee

Rev. Balderose had no formal report. She noted that Sunday School programs have been lined up. The CE Committee is looking for someone to assist Lois Core in teaching the children's class that will be held during the 9:43 worship service. Don Nixon said that the fall youth program is shaping up nicely.

Nominating Committee

Pat Boyer (chairperson) told the Session that the Committee continues to work on the slate of officers, with only one position left to fill. That slate will be done in time for the September 12, 2016 Session meeting.

Building and Grounds Committee

Jerry Davison (chairperson) said that the parking lot repairs will be completed by the start of the new pre-school year in September. He thanked all the volunteers who help Ralph Farabee with the many tasks that need to be accomplished big and small.

Endowment Committee

No additional information.

Memorial Committee

No report.

PASTORAL CARE REPORT

Dr. Broberg, Rev. Balderose and Don Nixon told the Session about the several folks who needed caring over the past month, including Joe Donham, Ben Hardy, the family of Jim Little's nephew, and the Conner Jardine family. Jim thanked everyone for their prayers and support during this difficult period after the death of his five-year-old nephew.

DATES OF NOTE

The next communion will be held on Sunday, September 4, 2016. The next regular Session meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 12, 2016. The next Washington Presbytery meeting will be held at the Presbyterian Church of Charleroi, Charleroi, PA, starting at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 13, 2016, with Charles Bowers and Gordon Core scheduled to attend.

ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

Jim Little moved to adjourn and George Camlin seconded that motion. Session approved the motion unanimously. Rev. Balderose closed the meeting with a prayer at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Pachter

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session