

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2016

ATTENDING:

ELDERS PRESENT: Pat Boyer, Joel Braun, George Camlin, Gordon Core, Jerry Davison, Dan Halulko, Jim Little, Steve Marriner, Joan McCrory, Dennis Myers, Chuck Neff, Kim O'Donnell, David Taylor, and Katie Wichterman

ELDERS EXCUSED: Cindy Garlisi and Crystal Miles

ELDER RESIGNED: Ashley Bashioum (resigned) and Jessica Hickman (now on staff)

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, October 3, 2016 at 7:04 p.m. in the Dining Room. Dr. Broberg reviewed our Church's Mission Statement ("*To know Christ and to make Him known to the next generation*") with the Session and discussed how we need to know Jesus Christ personally. Dr. Broberg then led the group in prayer to open the October 2016 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 George Camlin, the October 2016 Session docket was unanimously approved with a minor revision.

After a motion was made by Jim Little and seconded by Dan Halulko, the minutes from the September 2016 regular Session meeting were unanimously approved.

NEXT REGULAR SESSION MEETING – NOVEMBER 7, 2016

Dr. Broberg reminded the Session that the next Session meeting will be held on Monday, November 7, 2016, starting at 7:00 p.m.

REPORT FROM THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2016 PRESBYTERY MEETING

Gordon Core reported on the Washington Presbytery's September 13, 2016 meeting. He noted that our Church was well represented with 15 people in attendance to observe Rev. Kay Balderose getting received by the Presbytery - with minimal questioning.

APPROVAL OF BAPTISMS

There were no requests for approval of baptisms or weddings.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK

Baptisms and Weddings

There were no baptisms or weddings to report for September 2016.

Funerals

Ruth Hathaway Sharpnack (member) died Friday, September 2, 2016. Her memorial service was held on Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at The Church of the Covenant with The Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating. Interment was at the Washington Cemetery.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

Meet with The Washington Presbytery' Committee on Ministry Representatives

Rev. Jeff Schooley and Rev. Bill Youmans, members of the Washington Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM), met with the Session to discuss the approach we used to fill our Director, Christian Education position; i.e., by hiring as a Temporary Pastoral position. Dr. Broberg and members of the Session described our process as very open to the congregation. Some Session members stated that we felt we needed to move quickly to maintain our positive momentum in CE, especially for our children's programs, as Vacation Bible School and Rally Day approached. Members stated that we are very pleased with our decision to hire Rev. Kay Balderose.

Next the group reviewed the letters sent to the Session by the COM. In that letter, the COM stated that the Church would need to go through a full Associate Pastor search process, including forming an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and the needed Ministry Information Form (which the COM would approve before a call could be issued). Session members asked if Rev. Balderose would be allowed to apply for the Associate Pastor position required by the COM's letter. Rev. Schooley said yes, she would be able to apply.

The Session asked if the COM would help our Church work through this process, and the two representatives said they would if we asked them to do so. The COM could provide us with a person to assist us. They suggested that we obtain a copy of the COM's search guidelines and then provide the COM with a plan, which they felt could reduce the time and cost of this search. The COM representatives felt that this process assures that the denomination's and the Presbytery's historic principles of fairness, reasonableness and integrity are followed and that the congregation elects its leaders for a permanent called position – which they were adamant that this needs to be done at our Church.

Following this discussion, Dr. Broberg and the Session thanked Rev. Schooley and Rev. Youmans for meeting with the Session, and the COM representatives left the Session meeting. The Session then worked through a long discussion about the conversation with those two pastors. See below in the Personnel report for more information on this topic.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (all chairpersons referred the Session to their committee reports)

Finance Committee

Steve Marriner (chairperson) advised the Session that the budget still is in the "yellow" state, but moving toward green. The budget will be closely watched for the remainder of 2016. Future financial reports will be more detailed and understandable.

Steve said that the Finance Committee will meet next on Tuesday October 25 at 6:00 p.m., followed by a meeting of the Finance Committee with all Committee chairpersons. Committee

chairpersons needs to provide the Finance Committee with their 2017 Budgets as soon as they can. The Finance Committee will meet also on Tuesday evening, November 1, 2016. Dr. Broberg asked that this meeting could be moved to a Wednesday night to not interfere with a John Guest class.

Personnel Committee

Dr. Broberg and the Session reviewed the main discussion points from the meeting with Rev. Schooley and Rev. Youmans at this time. It was decided to refer this matter to the Personnel Committee so that Committee could tee up a complete staffing plan which would include the next steps in the process outlined by the COM. This would be worked on at the Personnel Committee's November 2016 meeting.

It was decided to refer to the incoming Nominating Committee to develop plans to elect a new Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. This action would require that a congregational meeting would be held in the latter part of the 1st quarter 2017.

The Session (through the Clerk) will write a letter to the COM outlining the Session's thanks for meeting with the Session as well as a general plan for working through the process outlined by the COM.

OAR Committee

Jim Little said that his Committee is looking for new members to broaden the Committee's outlook and capabilities. Jim also noted that the Committee is trying to establish a new Young Adult Men's Ministry, and are looking for ways to develop new bible studies.

Stewardship Committee

Gordon Core (chairperson) updated the Session on the status of three pledge efforts. First, the congregation gave \$5,815 during the summer CE match. The match goal was \$5,000. The total given therefore was \$10,815 to be used in 2016.

Second, at the recent get-together of the College of Elders, 45 people were sent a note asking for pledges for 2017. So far, 10 people have replied for a pledge amount (to date) of about \$40,000.

Third, to date, members of the various Committees (including our Elders and Deacons), have pledged approximately \$180,664. for an average pledge of approximately \$3,700. That is a 65% response rate., or 49 out of 75 potential giving units Stewardship hopes to keep that pledge average throughout the fall campaign.

For 2017, that equates to about \$221,000 pledged so far going into the general appeal part of the fall campaign. Two new mailings were sent out today, according to Gordon.

Mission Committee

David Taylor felt that the Mission Emphasis weekend that started on October 2, 2016, went very well. He remarked about the many tables in the Commons, the good participation at the dinner after worship on October 2nd, and the sermon and presence of Ambassador Stephens from Sierra

Leone. Ambassador Stephens asked Mr. Taylor if our church could consider doing mission work in his country.

David thanked everyone, especially Abe Key, for the wonderful work done to compile the Mission brochures. He also reminded the Session about the upcoming spaghetti dinner to benefit our Haiti mission effort, to be held on Tuesday evening, October 4th.

Worship and Music Committee

George Camlin (chairperson) said that his Committee had no Session action items. He noted that the Session will need to approve a new small Christmas service to assist those who are sad, maybe depressed and possibly grieving during the Advent season. He would bring that request to the Session once the OAR Committee provides details to the Worship and Music Committee.

Christian Education Committee

Pastor Kay gave this Committee's report for Katie Wichterman (chairperson), who had to leave earlier in the meeting. Pastor Kay said that the events of the fall since Rally Day have gone very well. Rally Day was energetic and included lots of people of all ages. Dr. Broberg said everyone is doing a great job and he is thrilled about where we are at this point in the CE year.

Nominating Committee

Pat Boyer (chairperson) reminded the Session that the slate for elections at the upcoming congregational meeting is complete, and that she had no further report except that the Committee will be meeting on October 23rd.

Building and Grounds Committee

Jerry Davison (chairperson) said that the Committee is feeling pretty good about things at this time and is in a maintenance mode.

Administration Committee, Endowment Committee, and Memorial Committee

No report.

PASTORAL CARE REPORT

Pastor Kay told the Session that since the Session last met in September, Dr. Broberg and she have made 4 hospital visitations, 6 home visitations, and held 3 support meetings. Pastor Kay circulated a sign-up sheet for in-home communion, to be performed on Sunday, November 7th. Dr. Broberg said that John Guest will provide his class after the spaghetti dinner on October 4th.

DATES OF NOTE

The next communion will be held on Sunday, November 6, 2016. The next Stated Session meeting will be held on Monday, November 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. The next Stated Presbytery Meeting will be held on November 8, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. at the Taylorstown United Presbyterian Church. Charles Bowers and Cindy Garlisi or George Camlin are scheduled to attend that Presbytery meeting.

ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

Pat Boyer moved to adjourn and Joan McCrory seconded that motion. Session approved the motion unanimously. Rev. Balderose closed the meeting with a prayer at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Pachter

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session