

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2017

ATTENDING:

ELDERS PRESENT: Charlie Bowers, Pat Boyer, George Camlin, Gordon Core, Jason Dille, Cindy Garlisi, Jim Little, Steve Marriner, Joan McCrory, Robynne Myers, Chuck Neff, Connie Simon, Katie Wichterman, and Jeremy Zajdel

ELDERS EXCUSED: George Camlin, Ben Evans, Dan Halulko, and Jim Hyland

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, March 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Dining Room. Dr. Broberg's devotion was from Matthew 5, from the "Sermon on the Mount". He reviewed his thoughts on holding out for Jesus' blessings no matter what the circumstances, and how he experienced that idea during his recent Mission trip to Haiti. Dr. Broberg then led the group in prayer to open the March 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 March 2017 Session docket was unanimously approved by the Session with some very minor changes. After a motion was made by Robynne Myers and seconded by Katie Wichterman, the minutes from the February 2017 regular Session meeting was unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK

There were no baptisms or weddings to report for February 2017.

Shirley Lou Santee died on Tuesday, February 21, 2017. The funeral service was held on Saturday, February 25, 2017, at the William G. Neal Funeral Home. The officiator at the service was not listed in the obituary. Private interment took place at the Beallsville Cemetery, Beallsville PA.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

A. APNC Progress Report – Pat Boyer

Pat Boyer reviewed the Nominating Committee's progress in developing the slate for the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC). She handed out a list of nominees to the Session as a courtesy; the APNC will be approved by and will report to the congregation. That list included these people: Terri Grantz, Harriet Johnson, Andy Kluczan, Kim O'Donnell, Paul Phillips, Sara Smith, and Pat Sanders (alternate). Pat Boyer moved to hold a called congregational meeting to elect the APNC on Sunday March 26, 2017, in the sanctuary after the conclusion of the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Cindy Garlisi seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

At this time, Dr. Broberg recounted the letter from the Chairperson of the Washington Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (CoM). The CoM chairperson responded favorably to our letter advising the CoM about the status of our effort to select an APNC and move through the

process. In our letter, we suggested that the CoM could help us lead a Visioning Day, or that Rev. Bruce Stevens, our proposed transitioning consultant, could lead it for us. The CoM was fine with Rev. Stevens leading that Visioning Day meeting.

Dr. Broberg said that he felt it was a good thing to hold the Visioning Day and consult with the congregation. The Session agreed. He noted that the results of the Visioning Day would be used to write a new Mission Information Form and a new job description. The Session needs to listen carefully to the congregation.

He also noted that it would likely cost an additional \$1,000 (\$750 plus travel expenses of approx. \$250) for Rev. Stevens to come to our church and lead the Visioning Day, on top of the \$2,000 we have already contracted for with Rev. Stevens. Jim Little moved to modify our existing contract with Rev. Stevens to pay him a total of \$3,000 for his consulting services as our transition consultant, including work to lead our Visioning Day. Kim O'Donnell seconded the motion. Dr. Broberg asked if there were any questions regarding the motion. Dr. Broberg noted that \$5,000 had been allocated for the APNC to use. It was asked how the remaining \$2,000 in the APNC's budget would be used. Dr. Broberg said that the remaining \$2,000 could be used for candidate travel expenses and reprographic costs. There were no more questions and the vote on the motion was held. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Session Wish List (Stewardship) – Gordon Core

Gordon Core and Dr. Broberg led a discussion in which the Committee chairpersons were asked to bring to the regular April Session meeting a wish list of projects or concepts that their Committees will develop. This wish list should include projects that are outside of the scope of regular operating budget tasks. Gordon noted that donors often have their own wish list projects that could be items for extra commitment giving.

C. Per Capita Discussion (Mission) – Joan McCrory

Joan McCrory and Dr. Broberg reviewed how the Mission Committee is addressing their new responsibility of administering our per capita budget and the payout to the Washington Presbytery. Joan reviewed a letter that she was given by the Rev. Craig Kephart, executive presbyter of the Washington Presbytery, in which Rev. Kephart cited all the ways in which the Presbytery uses per capita funds for the greater good. The Session appreciated the letter, and Joan was asked to talk to Rev. Kephart to see if he would be willing to present this information to our congregation as a Minute for Mission on Sunday, March 19, and to provide an article for The Messenger.

Joan and Dr. Broberg reviewed the current manner in which our per capita funds are distributed. The members of the congregation now have an option for payout of their funds: 1) 100% to the Washington Presbytery; or, 2) a split of 73% to the Presbytery, 20% to the Synod and 7% to the PC USA. Pat Boyer moved that we continue to provide our members with the above-listed options, Jason Dille seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

The Mission Committee also moved to approve the plan to pass through whatever we collect for our per capita giving to the Washington Presbytery, with goal of providing at least 75% of the

approx. \$28,000 requested by the Presbytery. No second was needed since the motion came from Committee, and the Session passed the motion by a vote of 13Yes 1 No.

Many thanks were expressed to the Mission Committee for working to get information that could be passed onto the congregation on this matter. Dr. Broberg reiterated that the per capita budget is separate from the Unified Mission Budget.

REVIEW OF THE MINISTRY PLANS FOR EACH COMMITTEE

Dr. Broberg provided Session with some guidance on how to move through this process. He noted that Session will have main oversight responsibility to make sure each Committee follows through with implementation of its Plan. These Ministry Plans and this process will create a culture that moves the overall ministry of the Church of the Covenant forward. He said that it would be fine if the Session wants to pull out all or parts of any Committee's Ministry Plan; any pulled Plan would be discussed separately at another meeting.

Finance Committee

Steve Marriner presented his Committee's Ministry Plan goals, and moved that the Session approve his Committee's Ministry Plan. No second was needed since the motion came from Committee. Dr. Broberg asked if there were any questions about the Plan. Hearing none, the Session proceeded to vote and unanimously approved the Finance Committee's Ministry Plan.

Personnel Committee

Cindy Garlisi presented her Committee's Ministry Plan goals, and moved that the Session approve her Committee's Ministry Plan. No second was needed since the motion came from Committee. Dr. Broberg asked if there were any questions about the Plan. Hearing none, the Session proceeded to vote and unanimously approved the Personnel Committee's Ministry Plan.

OAR Committee

Jim Little presented his Committee's Ministry Plan goals, and moved that the Session approve his Committee's Ministry Plan. No second was needed since the motion came from Committee. Dr. Broberg asked if there were any questions about the Plan. Hearing none, the Session proceeded to vote and unanimously approved the OAR Committee's Ministry Plan.

Stewardship Committee

Gordon Core presented his Committee's Ministry Plan goals, and moved that the Session approve his Committee's Ministry Plan. No second was needed since the motion came from Committee. Dr. Broberg asked if there were any questions about the Plan. Hearing none, the Session proceeded to vote and unanimously approved the Stewardship Committee's Ministry Plan.

Mission Committee

Joan McCrory presented her Committee's Ministry Plan goals, and moved that the Session approve her Committee's Ministry Plan. No second was needed since the motion came from Committee. Dr. Broberg asked if there were any questions about the Plan. Hearing none, the Session proceeded to vote and unanimously approved the Mission Committee's Ministry Plan.

Worship and Music Committee

Charlie Bowers presented his Committee's Ministry Plan goals, and moved that the Session approve his Committee's Ministry Plan. No second was needed since the motion came from Committee. Dr. Broberg asked if there were any questions about the Plan. Hearing none, the Session proceeded to vote and unanimously approved the Worship and Music Committee's Ministry Plan.

Christian Education Committee

Katie Wichterman presented her Committee's Ministry Plan goals, and moved that the Session approve her Committee's Ministry Plan. No second was needed since the motion came from Committee. Dr. Broberg asked if there were any questions about the Plan. Hearing none, the Session proceeded to vote and unanimously approved the Christian Education Committee's Ministry Plan.

Katie also presented the Pre-School's Ministry Plan goals, and moved that the Session approve the Pre-School's Ministry Plan. No second was needed since the motion came from the Christian Education Committee. Dr. Broberg asked if there were any questions about the Plan. Hearing none, the Session proceeded to vote and unanimously approved the Pre-School's Ministry Plan.

Nominating Committee

Pat Boyer presented her Committee's Ministry Plan goals, and moved that the Session approve her Committee's Ministry Plan. No second was needed since the motion came from Committee. Dr. Broberg asked if there were any questions about the Plan. Hearing none, the Session proceeded to vote and unanimously approved the Nominating Committee's Ministry Plan.

Building and Grounds Committee

Connie Simon presented the Building and Grounds Committee's Ministry Plan goals, and moved that the Session approve her Committee's Ministry Plan. No second was needed since the motion came from Committee. Dr. Broberg asked if there were any questions about the Plan. Hearing none, the Session proceeded to vote and unanimously approved the Building and Grounds Committee's Ministry Plan. Connie also noted that the Church's insurance policies will be evaluated soon.

Administration Committee

There was no plan to review.

Endowment Committee

Steve Marriner presented his Committee's Ministry Plan goals, and moved that the Session approve his Committee's Ministry Plan. No second was needed since the motion came from Committee. Dr. Broberg asked if there were any questions about the Plan. Hearing none, the Session proceeded to vote and unanimously approved the Endowment Committee's Ministry Plan.

Deacons

Rev. Kay Balderose presented the Deacons' Ministry Plan goals, and moved that the Session approve the Deacons' Ministry Plan. No second was needed since the motion came from the Board of Deacons. Dr. Broberg asked if there were any questions about the Plan. Hearing none, the Session proceeded to vote and unanimously approved the Deacons' Ministry Plan.

Dr. Broberg commended the Session on its work, and reminded everyone that the Committees are now empowered by the Session to do the work presented in each approved Plan.

FINANCE REPORT

Steve Marriner moved as chairperson of the Finance Committee the following four motions:

1. *Open accounts in PNC for the Church.* No second was needed since the motion came from Committee. There was no discussion. The Session unanimously approved the motion.
2. *Add \$15,000 for repairs of the 35 North Avenue property and add \$10,000 for the sidewalk repairs to the Building and Grounds Committee budget.* No second was needed since the motion came from Committee. There was no discussion. The Session unanimously approved the motion.
3. *Add Anthony Nicolella as a signatory so that he can access data in the PNC accounts.* No second was needed since the motion came from Committee. There was no discussion. The Session unanimously approved the motion.
4. *The Finance Committee be authorized to choose and monitor our investment options in the PNC Endowments subaccount and for the checking and savings accounts for the General Fund.* No second was needed since the motion came from Committee. There was no discussion. The Session unanimously approved the motion.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

No report.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Cindy Garlisi moved on behalf of the Committee to give Anthony Nicolella a one-time payment of \$3,000 for his hard work. No second was needed since the motion came from Committee. During discussion on this motion, it was noted that Anthony is paid \$18,030 per year at this time. Cindy noted that he did not request this bonus. Dr. Broberg said that Anthony is tireless in helping manage our financial matters, and that he would be getting paid much more on the "open market". He also noted that no budget increase would be needed to cover this bonus, that our existing budget can handle this amount. After discussion, Charlie Bowers called for question on the motion, and a vote was held. The motion passed unanimously.

PASTORAL REPORT

Dr. Broberg and Rev. Balderose noted the names of several people who are sick and requested prayers for them.

DATES OF NOTE

The next communion will be held on Sunday, April 2, 2017. The next regular Session meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 2, 2017. The next Stated Presbytery meeting will be

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held on March 14, 2017, starting at 4:00 p.m. at the Laboratory Presbyterian Church, with Charlie Bowers and Jim Hyland scheduled to attend.

ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

The Session moved by consensus to adjourn, and the Session approved the motion unanimously. Rev. Balderose closed the meeting with a prayer at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Pachter

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session