

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2017

ATTENDING:

ELDERS PRESENT: Pat Boyer, George Camlin, Gordon Core, Jason Dille, Ben Evans, Dan Halulko, Jim Hyland, Steve Marriner, Joan McCrory, Robynne Myers, Chuck Neff, Kim O'Donnell, Connie Simon, and Jeremy Zajdel

ELDERS EXCUSED: Charles Bowers, Cindy Garlisi, Jim Little and Katie Wichterman

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

OPENING PRAYER AND DEVOTIONS

The Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg convened the regularly scheduled meeting of the Session of The Church of the Covenant, with devotions (focusing on our Stained Glass Windows Video) and prayer on Monday, August 14, 2017 at 7:01 p.m. in the Dining Room. Dr. Broberg thanked Debi Nicolella for presenting the video to the group.

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 Dan Halulko, the August 2017 Session docket was unanimously approved with minor revisions by the Session. After a motion was made by George Camlin and seconded by Robynne Myers, the minutes from the June 2017 regular Session meeting and the June 25, 2017 called Session meeting (for the confirmation class) were unanimously approved.

BAPTISMS

Three baptisms were presented to the group; none required specific Session approval since they complied with the Church's baptism policy. These baptisms presented included:

- **Eric and Bonnie Saffell (members)** request to have their infant daughter, Josephine Hart Saffell, born on May 19, 2017, baptized on Sunday, August 20, 2017 at the 11:00 a.m. worship service with Rev. Kay Balderose officiating.
- Joseph and **Tara Dyer (member)** request to have their infant son, Matthew George Dyer, born July 8, 2017, baptized on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at the 11:00 a.m. worship service with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.
- Neil and Devon Fankhauser (daughter and son in law of **members Richard and Susie Wyatt**) request to have their infant Landry Bell Fankhauser, born May 26, 2017, baptized on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at the 11:00 a.m. worship service with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.

NEXT REGULAR SESSION MEETING

Dr. Broberg requested that the next regular Session meeting be held on Tuesday, September 5, 2017. The Session would meet at 6:00 p.m. to hear representatives from Holy Cow Consulting present the results of the congregational survey. The regular monthly Session meeting would begin at 7:30 p.m. Kim O'Donnell moved the motion, Dan Halulko seconded it, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

WASHINGTON PRESBYTERY DINNER, OCTOBER 11, 2017

Dan Halulko presented information to the Session about the dinner to be held by the Washington Presbytery at the Thomas Presbyterian Church on Monday evening, October 11, 2017. The funds raised at this dinner will support the Presbytery's Mission efforts. We will provide two items for the silent auction: a basket and a Christmas tree. More details will be forthcoming.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK

Membership Changes

Two people, Belinda Brova and Diane Meek, asked to have their names removed from the active roll because they have moved away from Washington. George Camlin moved to remove those names from the active roll, Pat Boyer seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

Lucy (Strosser) Kime asked to have her membership transferred to the North Buffalo Presbyterian Church. Ben Evans moved to approve the transfer, Robynne Myers seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

There were no baptisms or weddings to report for June or July 2017. There were two funerals held during that period.

Grace Wilson Roe (member) died on Sunday, June 4, 2017. A Memorial Service was held on Wednesday, June 6, 2017 at the Church with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating. Interment preceded the Memorial Service at Jefferson Memorial Park, West Mifflin, PA.

Mary Stewart (member) died on Tuesday, July 4, 2017. A Funeral Service was held on Friday, July 7, 2017 at the Church with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating. Interment followed the Funeral Service at Washington Cemetery, Washington, PA.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

Report from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC)

Kim O'Donnell provided an update on the work of the APNC. Kim said Holy Cow Consulting (HCC) had been hired to use their Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) to survey the congregation. As of today, August 14th, 113 surveys had been completed by the congregation, with an August 28th deadline to complete the surveys. Kim noted that the APNC hopes to get about 30% of the congregation to complete the surveys, or around 240 people. As noted earlier, the results of the CAT will be reviewed with the Session on September 5th, and then with the congregation on September 10th after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The Session was encouraged to attend that congregation presentation so they can see and hear how the congregation reacts to the results of the survey. Dr. Broberg said that he feels the congregation will represent the word of God for this process.

Rally Day, September 17, 2017

Dr. Broberg asked the Session to participate in Rally Day activities by wearing their red lanyards, walking around and talking to people. The Session should promote all Christian Education programs and help people feel welcomed. Session member should answer questions

from visitors or shepherd people to meet someone who might know the answers to questions that Session members do not know the answers. Dr. Broberg reviewed the right and wrong ways to greet visitors. Pastor Kay reviewed the Rally Day list of programs.

Endowment Prospectuses

Dr. Broberg brought up this concept since two of the ideas that came out of the Intreat dealt with long-term endowment concepts; i.e., taking care of both the organ and the stained glass windows. He said that we need to better understand how endowment building affects the future of the church. Dr. Broberg said a draft prospectus has been prepared and will be available for review. He noted that the stained glass windows had been appraised at \$8.3 million and the maximum insurance that we could get for such items is \$3 million. Replacement of the Lexan covers for the stained glass windows could cost more than \$135,000 (the cost estimated several years ago).

We need to develop ways to provide for large fund-raising efforts for huge repairs such as those for the windows and their Lexan covers. Such efforts could be based on one-time giving, or involve giving over time. Future Sessions would be authorized to approve how to use these funds. Providing multiple endowments could allow people to choose the ones to which they want to contribute, whether they be for building or program endowments (e.g., for the Pre-School). Dr. Broberg asked each Committee chairperson to work with their Committees to develop endowment ideas and present them at the second Intreat, to be held later in September.

Stewardship Committee Kickoff for the Campaign for Covenant Fund

Gordon Core described how the campaign links our name to Stewardship. He quoted from Jeremiah 31:33. Gordon asked everyone in the Session and all Committees to pledge. Last year, when all 13 Committees were asked to pledge, eight (8) pledged at 100% of their membership, while the remaining five (5) committees pledged with over 72% of the members pledging.

He hopes that 100% of all members in all Committees will pledge for this campaign, thus showing the congregation that the church leadership fully supports the campaign. He handed out pledge cards to the Session and asked them to return completed pledge cards to him at the next Session meeting in September. Gordon noted that one of the goals of the campaign is to have 50% of the available pledging units make a pledge – or about 250 pledges. The Stewardship Committee also hope to receive about \$650,000 in pledges.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Steve Marriner, chairperson, had the five following items to review with the Session. Steve also thanked Anthony and Debi Nicolella for their help in analyzing pledge information.

- 1) The monthly statement showed an approx. \$10,000 deficit but no one should be very concerned now since the summer is normally a low giving time. We have not yet taken the normal budgeted amount out of the Trust Fund, and other funds and income have not yet been spent.
- 2) Steve said that the usual monthly financials spreadsheet given to the Session is being revised to be more user-friendly and provide more explanation.

- 3) Committee budgets are due on September 13, 2017. Please give them to Debi Nicolella, if in paper form. If sending electronic budget information, please send such information to both Debi and to Steve.
- 4) Steve asked for a motion to cancel our participation in the Wallace Fund. We are one of 11 beneficiaries, and will receive about \$3,000 back from this fund that the bank wants to eliminate. Gordon Core so moved, George Camlin seconded, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.
- 5) Steve reported that the Endowment Committee advised that our PNC Endowment Fund totaled approx. \$1.235 million. We were seeing about 9.8% growth now.

Personnel Committee

Pat Boyer, speaking for Cindy Garlisi, said that this Committee had no report.

OAR Committee

No report.

Stewardship Committee

Gordon Core (chairperson) said that he had no information to present beyond that given earlier.

Mission Committee

Joan McCrory (chairperson) said that her Committee did not meet in July, and she had no report. Dr. Broberg noted that Mission Emphasis Weekend will be held during the first weekend in October. He will coordinate with the Worship and Music Committee to have a mission-focused speaker from our mission trips speak for about 5-10 minutes at each service.

Worship and Music Committee

George Camlin (chairperson) said that his Committee did not meet in July, and he had no report.

Christian Education Committee

Don Nixon reported on the success of Mission Washington for the youth, and on the successful confirmation classes imbedded within Mission Washington.

Nominating Committee

Pat Boyer (chairperson) said that as of today, only one (1) more person needs to accept being placed on the slate of officers to be represented to the congregation later in the fall. Then the slate will be complete.

Building and Grounds Committee

Ben Evans (chairperson) said that the Campbell House demolition is progressing well, and that Ralph Farabee has salvaged many items. Any money received from those salvaged items will be used to defray the demolition costs.

Administration Committee

Jonathan Pachter (chairperson) reviewed notes from the July Intreat. The date for the second Intreat has been scheduled for September 19, 2017, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Endowment Committee, Memorial Committee, and APNC

No additional reports for the Endowment Committee or the APNC. No report from the Memorial Committee.

PASTORAL CARE REPORT

Dr. Broberg discussed the latest in-home communion, held on August 13, 2017. In-home communion had been provided to Rev. Nat Roe. Dr. Broberg said that Rev. Roe had done in-home communion for countless people over the years. It was noted that more volunteers are needed for the in-home communion effort. A discussion followed about the importance of keeping the faith with long-term members to bring communion to them in times when they could not attend worship to receive communion at the Church.

Dr. Broberg also thanked Linda Grimm and Pastor Kay for helping with visitation. Their work is indispensable to our visitation work.

Pat Boyer and Dr. Broberg reviewed the mission trip to Ronceverte, WV. Pat called it a wonderful experience. Both told the Session that we all need to participate in such mission trips.

DATES OF NOTE

The next communion is scheduled for Sunday, September 3, 2017. The next regular Session meeting will be held on September 5, 2017. The next Intreat will be held on Tuesday, September 19, 2017, starting at 6:30 p.m. The next Stated Presbytery Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 23, 2017 at Pine Springs Camp, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., with Charles Bowers and Steve Marriner scheduled to attend.

ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

Pat Boyer moved and Ben Evans seconded a motion to adjourn, which the Session approved unanimously. Rev. Balderose closed the meeting with a prayer at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Pachter

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session