

**CHURCH OF THE COVENANT**  
**MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2017**

**ATTENDING:**

ELDERS PRESENT: Gordon Core, Jason Dille, Cindy Garlisi, Dan Halulko, Jim Hyland, Jim Little, Joan McCrory, Steve Marriner, Robynne Myers, Kim O'Donnell, and Jeremy Zajdel

ELDERS EXCUSED: Charles Bowers, Pat Boyer, George Camlin, Ben Evans, Chuck Neff, Connie Simon, and Katie Wichterman

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg, Rev. Kay Balderose, 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 (and prayer on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 8:07 p.m. in the Dining Room.

**APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET AND MINUTES**

The docket for this meeting was reviewed next. After a motion was made by Dan Halulko and seconded by Jeremy Zajdel, the September 2017 Session docket was unanimously approved by the Session. After a motion was made by Gordon Core and seconded by Jeremy Zajdel, the minutes from the August 2017 regular Session meeting were unanimously approved.

**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. More details will be forthcoming.

**CALL THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO ELECT OFFICERS - OCTOBER 22, 2017 AT NOON IN SANCTUARY**

Dr. Broberg asked that the Session call the annual congregational meeting for Sunday, October 22, 2017, starting at noon (or after the conclusion of the 11:00 a.m. worship service) to elect officers. Robynne Myers moved on that motion, and Jason Dille seconded that motion, which was unanimously approved by the Session.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK**

*Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals*

**Josephine Hart Saffell** was baptized on Sunday, August 20, 2017 at the 11:00 AM worship service, born May 19, 2017. She is the infant daughter of **Eric and Bonnie Saffell**, and granddaughter of Fred and Sherry Simpson. Rev. Kay Balderose officiated.

There were no weddings to report in August.

**James Dean Bedillion** (member) died on Friday, August 18, 2017. A funeral service was held at the William G. Neal Funeral Home on Wednesday, August 30, 2017 with Pastor Gary Gibson officiating.

### **SPECIAL REQUEST FROM BEN EVANS**

Dr. Broberg advised that Elder Ben Evans has requested that the Session approve him taking Commissioned Elder Training to become a Commissioned Ruling Elder. Joan McCrory so moved, Jeremy Zajdel seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

### **SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR**

#### *Visioning Day*

Kim O'Donnell and Dr. Broberg asked that all elders be present for Visioning Day, which will be held after the 11:00 a.m. worship service in the Covenant Center. The results of the APNC survey will be presented to the congregation at that time. Dr. Broberg said that the Session should be present at this meeting to hear the voice of God as spoken through the congregation.

#### *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.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### *Finance Committee*

Steve Marriner, chairperson, reviewed the monthly budget information with the Session. 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.

Steve noted that annual Committee budget estimates are due by September 13, 2017. The Mission Committee and the Building and Grounds Committee have already provided their budget estimates to him.

Steve said that the Committee has approved credit card pledging via the website, and presented information about that concept. He moved on behalf of his Committee that the proposal to the stewardship committee for PNC to process credit cards for contributions to the Church be approved and shall be signed by the officers of the corporation. Since the Committee moved it, no second was needed. The Session voted unanimously to approve the motion.

#### *Personnel Committee*

Cindy Garlisi, chairperson, advised the Session that the Committee had accepted Don Nixon's resignation with regrets, effective October 31, 2017. She provided the Session with a copy of his resignation letter, as well as copies of a letter that the Committee intended to send to the congregation. Cindy provided the Session with a timeline for a transition plan for activities that will take us to Don's retirement celebration on November 5, 2017. Cindy moved on behalf of her Committee to accept Don Nixon's resignation with regrets, and to approve the timeline. Since the Committee moved it, no second was needed. The Session voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Dr. Broberg then commended Don on his great work for The Church of the Covenant, noting how he had been an ambassador for our Church, and put our Church on the map for many folks

in the city of Washington. He thanked Don on behalf of the staff, the Session and the congregation. Dr. Broberg then led the Session in prayer for Don.

*OAR Committee*

No report.

*Stewardship Committee*

Gordon Core (chairperson) advised the Session about the status of the Covenant Fund. Eighteen pledges had been received to date from the Session and Committees of the Church. He has met with all but two (2) Committees. Joan McCrory will make the first presentation to the congregation on September 24, 2017, and three more will be made in October. A letter will be sent to the congregation during the first week of October.

*Mission Committee*

Joan McCrory (chairperson) said that her Committee is developing a form to be used by groups soliciting mission funds from our Church. The use of that form will help the Mission Committee in the future in its budgeting efforts. Joan noted that Mission Emphasis Weekend will be held the weekend of October 1<sup>st</sup>, and she described the plans that will be carried out at that time.

*Worship and Music Committee*

No report. Dr. Broberg told the Session that discussions have been held regarding changing the Sunday school times. He wants the Worship and Music Committee to meet with the Christian Education Committee to further discuss this issue, and then work on this matter will be assigned to a task force.

*Christian Education Committee*

Pastor Kay reviewed Rally Day plans with the Session. It was also noted that the transition plan for Don Nixon's retirement would be important for youth group and confirmation class efforts in the future.

*Nominating Committee*

Joan McCrory spoke on Pat Boyer's behalf. The slate of nominees for officers was presented to the Session as a courtesy. The congregation will vote on the slate at the previously approved annual congregational meeting, to be held on October 22, 2017. Joan thanked all members of the Nominating Committee for their hard work and persistence in developing this slate.

*Building and Grounds Committee*

No report. Dr. Broberg stated that the Campbell House demolition project has been completed, and that the grounds there have been graded and seeded.

*Administration Committee*

Jonathan Pachter (chairperson) said that the date for the second Intreat has been scheduled for September 19, 2017, starting at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Broberg said that the results of the first Intreat will be reviewed at this meeting, and that the Session will select its favorite items as derived from the first Intreat and the congregational survey. These "favorites" will then be presented to the congregation for its consideration.

*Endowment Committee, Memorial Committee, and APNC*

No additional reports for the Endowment Committee or the Memorial Committee. The APNC had already reported on the survey and on the Visioning Day to be held on September 10, 2017.

**PASTORAL CARE REPORT**

No report.

**DATES OF NOTE**

The next communion is scheduled for Sunday, October 1, 2017. The next regular Session meeting will be held on Monday, October 2, 2017. 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**

Kim O'Donnell moved and Jeremy Zajdel seconded a motion to adjourn, which the Session approved unanimously. Rev. Balderose closed the meeting with a prayer at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jonathan M. Pachter*

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session