

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018

OPENING

The Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg called the annual congregational meeting of The Church of the Covenant to order at 12:08 p.m. in the Covenant Center on Sunday, January 28, 2018.

As moderator, Dr. Broberg declared a quorum present. Dr. Broberg then advised that the minutes from this meeting would be reviewed by Session and approved in advance at the end of the Congregational Meeting. It was moved by Pat Boyer and seconded by Fred Boni to approve the docket for this meeting and the approach to the minutes as outlined above. A vote was held, and the motion passed unanimously. Dr. Broberg reviewed the procedures for the meeting.

REVIEW OF THE CHURCH'S 2017 STATISTICAL REPORT

Jonathan Pachter, Clerk of Session, reviewed the 2017 Statistical Report. Our current membership is 758, vs. 811 at the end of 2017. That reduction is due to a number of people being taken off of the church's active roll, following the required review of the active roll by the OAR Committee. It is important to note that several different attempts were made to get in touch with people to persuade them to stay on the active roll, and some folks did decide to stay on as active.

THE CORPORATION MEETING

A motion was made by John Breitigan and seconded by George Jones to temporarily adjourn the ecclesiastical meeting in order to convene the corporation meeting, and that the President of the Corporation of The Church of the Covenant, Elder Chuck Neff, will preside at this meeting. The congregation unanimously approved the motion. Chuck Neff then presided over the corporate meeting.

RECEIVING THE SESSION-APPROVED 2018 OPERATING BUDGET

Mr. Neff asked Finance Committee Chairperson Steve Marriner to provide some analysis of the end-of-year 2017 finances, and to explain the 2018 Operating Budget (previously approved by Session at its January 15, 2018 Session meeting). Mr. Marriner noted that we came ended 2017 with a deficit of approximately \$20,000.

Mr. Marriner then reviewed the Session-approved 2018 Operating Budget, and described the steps taken by the Finance Committee and the Session to formalize this Budget. He noted that the Budget is the result of much discussion and review, because the recently concluded stewardship campaign came up a bit short of its goal. Because of the projected shortfall in pledging, the Session's Committees had to adjust their individual budgets to maintain a balanced overall operating budget.

It was moved by Jason Dille and seconded by Dennis Myers to receive the 2018 Operating Budget. Mr. Marriner and Dr. Broberg next answered questions that included:

- Why was there a difference between the total 2018 pledged amount shown in the Annual Report and the 12/31/17 reported amount? The 2018 amount reflects budget adjustments based on historic actual giving versus the amount pledged earlier in a year.
- How will the cuts in Mission budget affect our gifts to non-PC USA missions? The Mission Committee has prioritized its gifts to try to continue to give to organizations that rely most heavily on our gifts, versus ones that rely on a broader level of giving from the whole community.
- How will we get back to the 10% Mission pledging level? There is a schedule for growing back the Mission budget in 2019 and 2020 to the 10% level.
- Have the Endowment Fund dollars for Mission been affected? No, that is a separate funding source.

There being no additional questions or comments, the motion to approve the 2015 Operating Budget was approved by the congregation by a margin of 81 Yes, 2 No.

AUDIT REPORT

Steve Marriner read a letter to the congregation from the Audit Committee. In that letter, this Committee noted that each of our accounts were in good order, and that they had no recommendations for improving how we account for our finances. The church's financial audit report was approved as read by Mr. Marriner, and as written by the Audit Committee.

ADJOURN THE CORPORATION MEETING AND RECONVENE THE ECCLESIASTICAL PORTION OF THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A motion was made by Jason Dille and seconded by Fred Boni to adjourn the corporation meeting in order to reconvene the ecclesiastical meeting. There was no discussion. The congregation voted unanimously to approve the motion.

APPROVE THE PASTOR'S TERMS OF CALL

Dr. Broberg called on Jonathan Pachter to moderate the meeting now so Dr. Broberg's terms of call could be reviewed. Dr. Broberg left the room at this time. Mr. Pachter called on Sue Denmead of the Personnel Committee to address any questions about Dr. Broberg's terms of call. Ms. Denmead noted that the 2018 Personnel Committee Budget had been cut back to 2017 levels, consistent with the earlier discussion about the 2018 Operating Budget. A motion came from Committee to approve the terms of call; therefore, no second was needed. There were no questions or comments from the congregation, which then voted unanimously to approve the motion. Dr. Broberg returned to the Covenant Center and resumed his role as moderator, thanking the congregation for their confidence and their approval vote.

DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CONGREGATION

Dr. Broberg asked Ralph Farabee and Camille Braun to help him with a review of three 2018 projects identified by the Session during its 2017 Intreats. Dr. Broberg and Mr. Farabee first reviewed the work that needs to be done both short-term and long-term to maintain and repair the stained-glass windows in the sanctuary and the Rusch Chapel. Without proactive maintenance and repair, the Church could face extremely large replacement bills in future years. Recent estimates of replacement of the windows by experts totaled \$3.5 - \$4.0 million. Mr. Farabee will be receiving bids for a proactive window restoration and maintenance program that allows us to

spread out these costs, preserve our windows, and prevent the need to the degree practical for window replacement. He will report to the congregation regarding the costs and a recommended course of action.

Next, Dr. Broberg and Camille Braun next reviewed the concept of creating a Pre-School Endowment Fund. Dr. Broberg pointed out that our Pre-School was voted the best Pre-School in Washington County in 2017. Camille said that an endowment like this would help the Pre-School maintain its top-level position while helping to provide funds for scholarships and teacher professional growth.

Dr. Broberg and Mr. Farabee presented their thoughts on improving security in our Church campus. Over 6,500 people from outside our congregation used our Church last year for over 220 meetings. We need to be able to provide a more secure setting for everyone, especially considering the events of recent years at other churches across the country. Enhanced security will require improved wiring and more digital access all over the campus, all the while keeping a desired level of building accessibility.

RECEIVE ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dr. Broberg acknowledged the annual reports prepared by the Session's Committees. A motion was made by Charlie Bowers and seconded by John Artuso to receive the 2017 Annual Reports. No questions were raised about the reports. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE THE MINUTES PENDING SESSION APPROVAL

A motion was made by Joel Braun and seconded by Sue Denmead to approve the minutes of the congregational meeting, pending Session review and approval. There was no discussion and no questions, so a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNING THE MEETING

After a motion to adjourn was made by Ben Evans, seconded by Debbie Evans and then approved unanimously by those in attendance at this meeting, the meeting was adjourned with a prayer at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Pachter

Jonathan M. Pachter
Clerk of Session