

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2018

CURRENT RULING ELDERS PRESENT: Charlie Bowers, George Camlin, Gordon Core, Jason Dille, Ben Evans, Dan Halulko, Jim Little, Steve Marriner, Joan McCrory, Robynne Myers, Chuck Neff, Kim O'Donnell, and Jeremy Zajdel

CURRENT RULING ELDERS EXCUSED: Pat Boyer, Cindy Garlisi, Jim Hyland, Connie Simon and Katie Wichterman

INCOMING ELDERS PRESENT: Sue Denmead, Lucy Johnson, and Butch Richmond

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg and Rev. Kay Balderose

OPENING PRAYER AND DEVOTIONS

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Session of The Church of the Covenant was convened with prayer and devotions (from Luke 19:17) by the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, on Monday, January 15, 2018, at 7:08 p.m. in the Dining Room.

APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET

After a motion was made by Charlie Bowers and seconded by Dan Halulko, the docket for tonight's meeting was unanimously approved by the Session.

WELCOME NEW ELDERS

Dr. Broberg welcomed and introduced the incoming elders (those present at this meeting are noted above). Dr. Broberg voiced his confidence in the new elders' abilities to perform the needed work on the Session, and advised them they have big shoes to fill.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 2017

After a motion was made by George Camlin and seconded by Ben Evans, the minutes from the December 2017 Session meeting were unanimously approved by the Session.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK

Belinda Brova asked for approval of her transfer to the Otterbein United Methodist Church in Greensburg, PA. Robynne Myers made that motion, Chuck Neff seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

There were no baptisms to report in December 2017.

On Saturday, December 2, 2017, **Kristina Baker and Stephen Martincsek** were married in the church sanctuary with Dr. Stuart Broberg officiating.

E. Jean Day died on Thursday, December 28, 2017. A funeral service was held at Nichol Funeral home on Wednesday, January 3, 2018 with Reverend Linda Mankey officiating.

APPROVAL OF ELDER AND DEACON TRAINING

Dr. Broberg asked the Session to approve elder and deacon training, to be held on Saturday morning, January 20, 2018. The Session must approve the communion to be held after this training is completed. Kim O'Donnell moved and Jeremy Zajdel seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Session.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL AND CORPORATE MEETING

Dr. Broberg asked the Session to approve the date and time of the annual congregational meeting, which includes both a corporate meeting and an ecclesiastical meeting. Ben Evans moved and Jim Little seconded a motion to schedule this meeting for Sunday, January 28, 2018, starting after the conclusion of the 11:00 worship service. The Session unanimously approved this motion.

THANKS TO OUTGOING ELDERS AND WELCOME INCOMING ELDERS

Dr. Broberg thanked each outgoing elders (Pat Boyer, Gordon Core, Cindy Garlisi, Jim Little, Steve Marriner, and Joan McCrory) from the Class of 2017, and gave each of them a plaque. Each plaque contained a personalized message from Dr. Broberg.

ELECTION OF CORPORATE OFFICERS

Dr. Broberg noted that the following people have agreed to be on the slate for corporate officers of the Church: President of the Corporation – Chuck Neff; Clerk of Session and Secretary of the Corporation – Jonathan Pachter; Treasurer of the Corporation – Jason Dille; and, Assistant Treasurer of the Corporation – Jim Hyland. Dan Halulko moved to approve those people for the slate of corporate officers, Joan McCrory seconded the motion, and the motion was then unanimously approved by the Session.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

Review of 2017 Year-end Finances and 2018 Budget Projections

Steve Marriner, chairperson of the Finance Committee, reviewed end-of-year financial information for 2017. He said that we did not finish the year as positively as hoped. Overall, we ended the year with an approx. \$20,000 deficit. The main reason was that our actual giving did not match the pledged amount from the proposed 2017 Budget.

For 2018, Steve reviewed the projected pledged income, unpledged income and budgets. Pledged income from the recent Stewardship campaign is less than 2017, resulting in budget cuts having to be made to the budget projections received earlier from the Committees. All proposed budget cuts were reviewed with Committees. The result is a balanced budget request of \$799,674.39. The proposed 2018 Operating Budget was made as a motion by the Finance Committee, therefore no second was needed. There was no discussion and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

Since the Mission budget was cut, it will not meet its policy-directed total of being 10% of the pledged income for 2018. That cut was made only after long discussions between the Finance Committee, the Mission Committee, and Dr. Broberg. It will be only 3.3% of pledged income in 2018. Kim O'Donnell moved and Ben Evans seconded a motion to raise this percentage to 6.6%

of pledged income in 2019, then back to the 10% level in 2020. This motion was unanimously approved by the Session.

Approval of Committee Chairpersons

Dr. Broberg asked the Session to review a list of proposed Committee chairpersons for 2018, and to send any comments or thoughts on the list to Debi Nicolella. The Nominating Committee had moved these appointments, therefore no second was needed. The Session unanimously approved the motion.

Review of Ministry Information Form

Kim O'Donnell reviewed the draft Ministry Information Form (MIF) for the Associate Pastor position. She noted that it has to be approved by the Session then sent to PC USA in Louisville where it will be posted for review by potential candidates for the position. The members of the Session read through the MIF. The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee moved to approve the MIF. No second was needed for the motion since it came from Committee. There was minimal discussion; only an e-mail address listed on the MIF needed to be corrected. The Session unanimously voted to approved the MIF.

Washington Presbytery Mission Celebration Dinner

This dinner has been rescheduled for April 18, 2018, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Thomas Presbyterian Church. Dr. Broberg hopes that we can fill two tables with elders and key church decision-makers.

SESSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Steve Marriner, Chairperson – nothing more to discuss.

Personnel Committee – Sue Denmead, Chairperson – Sue said that the annual staff appreciation luncheon will held on Wednesday, January 17, 2018. The Committee will need to meet very soon to finalize the 2018 Personnel budget, including the budget cuts just discussed.

OAR Committee – Jim Little, Chairperson – Jim said that Dr. Broberg will replace Don Nixon as the staff representative for this Committee. Jim asked the other Session Committees coordinate with the OAR Committee in identifying Sunday morning hospitality needs. Dr. Broberg said that now is the time to recruit new Committee members.

Stewardship Committee – Gordon Core, Chairperson - Gordon noted that, to date, \$538,160 had been pledged. That represented an approx. 12% reduction from the 2017 pledge. There were also fewer pledges than in 2017. The Committee will take a hard look at how this campaign was conducted. He did note that 100% of the Session pledged.

Mission Committee – Joan McCrory, Chairperson – Joan had no report. She thanked the Committee members for their hard work.

Worship and Music Committee – George Camlin, Chairperson – George said that there was no report from his Committee.

Christian Education Committee – Katie Wichterman, Chairperson – Pastor Kay gave the report for this Committee. She mentioned that there will be a meeting to report about the surveys and reviews done by Ministry Architects, the outside firm hired to review our Church’s children and youth ministries. The Session will be able to hear a preview of this report on Sunday, January 21, 2018 at 7:15 p.m. The congregation will be meeting with the Christian Education Committee and this firm on Tuesday evening, January 23, 2018, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Nominating Committee – No report.

Building and Grounds Committee – Ben Evans, Chairperson – Ben had no report, other than to note that the safe in which collections are now kept in the administration office will be moved soon to the staff office suite. The office suite can be locked and secured better than the administration office.

Administration Committee – Dr. Broberg reported that he continues to pursue 2018 Capital Campaign lead gifts. People seem to be open to the idea of providing large gifts in advance of the announcement of the main campaign. Such gifts would be used to kick off the Capital Campaign in a positive light. At the January 28th annual congregational meeting, he will report to the congregation about three items selected by the Session from the list prepared at the 2017 Intreats. These three items are the stained-glass windows, the Pre-School Endowment Fund, and enhanced security ideas. This presentation at the annual congregational meeting will provide the congregation with a preview of the 2018 Capital Campaign.

Endowment Committee and Memorial Committee - no reports.

MINISTRY TEAM AND PASTORAL REPORT

Dr. Broberg said that the next in-home communion effort will take place on February 4, 2018. He passed out a sign-up sheet for that event, and asked the Session members to help out if they have not done so before. Dr. Broberg said that there are a number of people who need the Session to keep them in their prayers.

DATES OF NOTE

The next Stated Session meeting will be held on Monday, February 5, 2018, starting at 7:00 p.m. The next Communion is scheduled for Sunday, February 4, 2018. The next Stated Presbytery Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the East Buffalo Presbyterian Church. Charles Bowers and Dan Halulko are scheduled to attend.

ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

After a motion by Chuck Neff and a second by Robynne Myers, the Session unanimously approved the motion to adjourn. Dr. Broberg adjourned the meeting with a prayer at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Pachter

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session