

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

CURRENT RULING ELDERS PRESENT: John Artuso, Charlie Bowers, George Camlin, Sue Denmead, Jason Dille, Ben Evans, Dan Halulko, Wayne Hunnell, Jim Hyland, Lucy Johnson, Patty Mounts, Chuck Neff, Kim O'Donnell, Butch Richmond, Connie Simon and Katie Wichterman

CURRENT RULING ELDERS EXCUSED: Robynne Myers and Jeremy Zajdel

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg, Rev. Kay Balderose, Camille Braun, Ralph Farabee, and Jessica Hickman

OPENING PRAYER AND DEVOTIONS

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Session of The Church of the Covenant was convened with prayer and devotions (from Proverbs 29:18) by The Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg on Monday, February 5, 2018, at 7:01 p.m. in the Dining Room.

APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET

After a motion was made by Jason Dille and seconded by George Camlin, the docket for tonight's meeting was unanimously approved by the Session.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 2018

After a motion was made by Chuck Neff and seconded by Jim Hyland, the minutes from the January 2018 Session meeting were unanimously approved by the Session with one change. The minutes from the annual congregational meeting, held in January 2018, were also approved as part of this motion.

APPROVAL OF BAPTISMS

Corey DiGiovanni (member) and his wife Jennifer requested the baptism of their infant daughter, **Serafina Elizabeth DiGiovanni**, on Sunday, March 18, 2018 at the 11:00 a.m. worship service with Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating. This complied with the Church's baptism policy, and no separate Session approval was needed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

There were no baptisms to report in December 2017. There were no baptisms or weddings to report in January 2018.

Lorrene A. Bowen (member) died on Monday, January 29, 2018. A funeral service was held at McIlvaine-Speakman Funeral Home on Friday, February 2, 2018, with The Rev. Stuart D. Broberg officiating. A private interment ceremony will be held at a to-be-determined date at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies.

WASHINGTON PRESBYTERY CELEBRATION DINNER

This dinner will be held at the Thomas Presbyterian Church on April 18, 2018, starting at 6:00 p.m. Our church hopes to sponsor three tables. Charlie Bowers and Dan Halulko lead our

congregation's part to support this dinner.

REPORT FROM JANUARY 20, 2018 WASHINGTON PRESBYTERY MEETING

Charlie Bowers provided a report about the January 20, 2018 meeting of the Washington Presbytery. He said that the worship service was the highlight of the meeting.

SESSION MEETING DATE CHANGES

Dr. Broberg asked the Session to approve moving the regular March Session meeting from March 5 to March 12. He also asked the Session to also approve moving the regular April Session meeting from April 2 to April 9. Charlie Bowers moved to approve Dr. Broberg's requests, Ben Evans seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

Ministry Architects Executive Summary Report

Pastor Kay Balderose and Jessica Hickman provided a summary of the report done for the congregation by the Ministry Architects. They showed a PowerPoint presentation then asked if there were any questions. The Session enthusiastically supported the work done by this group.

OAR Executive Summary – Holy Cow Survey

Dr. Broberg reviewed the results from the survey done by the Holy Cow consultants in the fall 2010. One of the conclusions from this report is that the OAR Committee needs to be reorganized to address the findings of this survey. Dr. Broberg wants the congregation to be fully aware and involved in this reorganization. He wants to tell the congregation, "This what you said, this what we heard, this is what we are doing to OAR as a result, and this is what you can do to get involved." Information related to this reorganization will be publicized regularly in the Commons.

Ministry Planning Sequence

Dr. Broberg asked each Committee to be ready to present its ministry plans at the April 9, 2018 regular Session meeting. The 2017 ministry plans should be used as guides for this year's work. It is important for each Session member to attend the April meeting.

SESSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Jason Dille, Chairperson – the reports from the Finance Committee to the Session will be presented in a new format, with more information provided.

Personnel Committee – Sue Denmead, Chairperson – Sue said that the annual staff appreciation dinner held on Wednesday, January 17, 2018, went very well. This Committee will need to meet very soon to finalize the 2018 Personnel budget and will do that soon in the light of the information provided in the Ministry Architects report.

OAR Committee – Kim O'Donnell, Chairperson – Kim had no additional information to present.

Stewardship Committee – Dan Halulko, Chairperson – Dan noted that this Committee had not yet met in 2018, therefore he had no report.

Mission Committee – Chuck Neff, Chairperson – Chuck noted that our 2018 per capita payment is \$35 per member of the congregation. That figure is based on our December 31, 2016 membership total.

Chuck also reviewed the 2018 Mission budget, which has been set at 3.3% of the overall stewardship pledge, or about \$39,000, which is less than half of the usual \$80,000 level. Jason Dille asked Chuck to provide the Finance Committee with a mission payout schedule.

Chuck provided the Session with a summary of the Mission requests for the capital campaign. Those requests have been estimated to be about \$286,000.

Next, Camille Braun went over the work of the Pre-School, which has been operating for 27 years. She asked the Session to approve the Endowment Fund for the Pre-School as noted in the Capital Campaign. Dr. Broberg noted that there is a likely \$20,000 “lead” donation for the Pre-School Endowment Fund and would like to get two (2) more donations at this same level.

Dr. Broberg said that he feels that the congregation is excited about the prospects for a new capital campaign. He expects that the Session will name a Capital Campaign Committee and update lead donors in April and May 2018. He hopes to receive approximately \$400,000 in lead gifts for the whole capital campaign.

The Mission Committee moved to approve this Capital Campaign progress report, especially as it pertained to the Mission Committee. Since the motion came from Committee, no second was needed. The Session unanimously approved the report.

Worship and Music Committee – George Camlin, Chairperson – George said that he had nothing that required Session action. He noted that Linda Marriner retired from the Committee. He commended her for her fine work reorganizing the usher teams.

Christian Education Committee – Katie Wichterman, Chairperson – Katie reminded the Session to sign up for the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner .

Nominating Committee – Charlie Bowers, Chairperson – This Committee has not met yet, and there was no report.

Building and Grounds Committee – Ben Evans, Chairperson – Ben reviewed the Committee’s capital campaign report with the Session. He noted that roof repairs will need to be made where the old building and the new building meet. Ben also pointed out that bids are arriving for the stained-glass window repair work. He moved that the Session approve this Committee’s Capital Campaign Report. Since the motion came from Committee, no second was needed. The Session unanimously approved the motion.

Ralph Farabee reviewed ongoing security improvement efforts for the Session. He said the entire church will be getting new locks and keys. He also pointed out that security cameras will be added and linked into approximate eight (8) mobile phones. Dr. Broberg asked the Session to think about whether or not it wanted the Committee to move forward with the overall security

plan. Ben Evans asked the Session to provide the Committee with its opinions and questions regarding the overall security plan.

Administration Committee – Jonathan Pachter, Chairperson – no report.

Endowment Committee and Memorial Committee - no reports.

MINISTRY TEAM AND PASTORAL REPORT

Dr. Broberg said that the in-home communion effort held on February 4, 2018., was successful. Five (5) two-person teams served 35 people on that day. 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, March 12, 2018, starting at 7:00 p.m. The next Communion is scheduled for Sunday, March 4, 2018. The next Stated Presbytery Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the West Alexander Presbyterian Church. Charles Bowers and Robynne Myers are scheduled to attend.

ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER

After a motion by George Camlin and a second by Charlie Bowers, the Session unanimously approved the motion to adjourn. Pastor Kay Balderose adjourned the meeting with a prayer at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Pachter

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session