CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2019

RULING ELDERS PRESENT: John Artuso, Fred Boni, Charlie Bowers, Sue Denmead, Ben Evans, Helen Haines, Wayne Hunnell, Patty Mounts, Robynne Myers, Mark O’Donnell, Butch Richmond, Kelly Smith, Kathy Teagarden, and Jeremy Zajdel

RULING ELDERS EXCUSED: Jason Dille, Jim Hyland, Lucy Johnson, and Connie Simon

STAFF PRESENT: The Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg

GUESTS PRESENT: Joel Braun, Rev. Craig Kephart, Kathy Kephart

OPENING PRAYER AND DEVOTIONS
The Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, convened the regularly scheduled meeting of the Session of The Church of the Covenant with prayer and devotions (from Revelation 3:20) on Monday, March 4, 2019, at 7:04 p.m. in the Dining Room.

APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET
After a motion was made by Wayne Hunnell and seconded by Ben Evans, the Session unanimously approved the docket for tonight’s meeting with a minor revision.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 2019
After a motion was made by Mark O’Donnell and seconded by Patty Mounts, the minutes from the February 3, 2019 regular Session meeting were unanimously approved by the Session.

REQUEST FOR WEDDING APPROVAL
The Worship and Music Committee recommended that the Session approve the wedding of Brooke Kearns and Russell Roupe, to be held in the Rusch Chapel on Good Friday, April 19, 2019, with Dr. Broberg officiating. Dr. Broberg noted that this wedding is an exception to our Wedding Policy, which states that there should be no weddings in our Church during Holy Week. Dr. Broberg asked the Session to approve this exception, and there was no further discussion. Since the motion came from Committee, no second was needed. The Session unanimously approved the exception to the Wedding Policy.

REQUEST TO BE RESTORED TO ACTIVE STATUS
Michael and Brittany Digon have requested to be restored to active status. Sue Denmead moved and Kathy Teagarden seconded a motion to approve that request. There was no discussion of the motion, which the Session unanimously approved.

OFFICIAL 2019-20 SESSION PICTURE – taken at this time by Joel Braun.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK
Baptisms and Weddings - There were no baptisms nor any weddings to report in February.
Funerals
Barre Albert McClay, Sr., died on Wednesday, February 27, 2019. A memorial service is planned to be held at The Church of the Covenant on Friday, March 8, 2019 with The Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating. Interment will follow in Myrtle Beach, SC, at the convenience of the family.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR
2019 Leadership Directory
Dr. Broberg reviewed the latest version of the 2019 Leadership Directory with the Session. He asked each Committee to note any changes that need to be made. Robynne Myers moved to approve the Directory with changes as noted, Ben Evans seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

Discussion of the 2019 Ministry Planning Process
Dr. Broberg reviewed the process for developing the 2019 Session Ministry Plan. He said that the Committees should be working on their Plans now. They need to be forwarded to the Office one week in advance of the next Session meeting (which is scheduled for April 1, 2019). In his experience, most Committee Plans are approved the first time they are presented, and the April Session meeting in which the Plans are presented is the one of the shortest of the year.

Approval of the Samaritan Counseling Program
Kathy Kephart reviewed the Samaritan Counseling Program that has been presented previously to the Session. She said that staff members of this Program are excited to be coming to Washington County. She described how they would start with one counselor working on a by-appointment-only basis.

Ben Evans said that the Church's insurance company was fine with the proposed arrangements. He also said that the Building and Grounds Committee has twice reviewed this program, and has unanimously approved it using an office in our campus.

Dr. Broberg noted that this program is mainly for church people. Lots of support was voiced for this effort by the Session. Local pastors will be informed about this soon, which likely will start in May 2019. There was some discussion about security procedures, signage, and escorts. Sue Denmead moved to approve Samaritan Counseling working out of our building, Wayne Hunnell seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

CHURCH MEETING SCHEDULE
Dr. Broberg asked that the Committees to work with him in scheduling Committee meetings since he is now the only staff member assigned to Committees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
At 7:40 p.m., John Artuso moved to go into executive session. Ben Evans seconded that motion, and the motion was unanimously approved by the Session. At 7:52 p.m., Sue
Denmead moved to come out of executive session. Kelly Smith seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion. There were no actions taken while the Session was in executive session.

SESSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Jason Dille, Chairperson – Dr. Broberg reported for this Committee. He described the embezzlement matter (>1MM) that had occurred at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Upper St. Clair. Our Finance Committee has discussed steps that we need to consider to prevent such an event from happening at our Church, including more intentional auditing and using a third party to conduct financial reviews. The Finance Committee will finalize these steps and report to the Session.

Personnel Committee – Sue Denmead, Chairperson – Sue noted that the Transition Plan for Pastor Kay Balderose contained the correct dates vs. those shown in the minutes from January 2019. She thanked all for Pastor Kay’s wonderful send-off celebration.

Membership and Fellowship Committee – Lucy Johnson, Chairperson – Helen Haines reported and recommended that the Session approve the new Ministry Team roster that she presented. The roster can be divided into three parts: Worship Leadership, In-Home Communion, and Visitation. The motion came from Committee, and no second was needed. The Session unanimously approved the new Ministry Team roster.

Stewardship Committee – Butch Richmond, Chairperson – Butch reported that this Committee met in February. Butch summarized the 2019 campaign. He also said that the Committee will try to find new ways to raise awareness of the need to pledge.

Mission Committee – Robynne Myers, Chairperson – Robynne said that two mission trips will be held in 2019. There will be a mission trip to Ronceverte, WV in June, and a trip to the Menaul School in NM in September. Robynne said that there will be a Mission Committee table set up in the Commons on Easter Sunday to recruit people for these trips and for other Mission Committee efforts. She noted that Resurrection Power will be having a breakfast in April, and that the Mission Committee will be sponsoring a table with 10 seats. Robynne also said that a visitor from the Da’an Church in Taipei, Taiwan will be visiting our Church on March 10, 2019, to commemorate our joint history.

Worship and Music Committee – Charlie Bowers, Chairperson – Charlie referred the Session to his Committee’s written report. Charlie noted that that Rev. Craig Kephart will preach at the Maundy Thursday noon service on April 18. Charlie said that the window plaques for the Sanctuary stained glass windows have been completed.

Christian Education Committee – Kelly Smith, Chairperson - Kelly referred the Session to her Committee’s written report. Kelly said that a RENO Summit will be held on March 23 to review the Ministry Architects report. Dr. Broberg said that confirmation classes will be held in May and June. Confirmation Sunday will be held on June 23, at which time the Session will meet with the confirmands at a called Session meeting.
Nominating Committee – Charlie Bowers, Chairperson - No report.

Building and Grounds Committee – Ben Evans, Chairperson – Ben referred the Session to his Committee’s written report. Dr. Broberg pointed out that the parlor restoration project has been put on hold until a leak in the roof near the chimney that passes through the parlor is fixed.

Administration Committee – No report.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES/TASKGROUPS/PASTORIAL REPORTS

Endowment Committee and Memorial Committee - No reports.

Reports about Projects Funded by the Let There Be Light Campaign - Dr. Broberg advised that stained glass window project is moving along smoothly. He noted that the rose window task will begin soon and will be difficult. Nevertheless, the stained glass windows project will be completed when the rose window is done. We will dedicate the windows after that time. He also said that a small group of members will revise the brochure that describes the stained glass windows.

MINISTRY TEAM AND PASTORAL REPORT

Ben Evans thanked everyone who helped for the in-home communion effort on March 3, 2019. Nine of our members served communion at Strabane Trails to 45 people. The communion effort at Strabane Trails was very nice and much appreciated.

DATES OF NOTE

The next Stated Session meeting will be held on Monday, April 1, 2019, starting at 7:00 p.m. The next Communion is scheduled for Sunday, April 7, 2019. The next Stated Presbytery Meeting will be held on March 12, 2019, starting at 4:00 p.m. at the Cross Creek Presbyterian Church. Charles Bowers and John Artuso are scheduled to attend.

ADJOINING AND CLOSING PRAYER

After a motion by Jeremy Zajdel and a second by Ben Evans, the Session unanimously approved the motion to adjourn. Dr. Broberg led us in a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Pachter

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session