

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Athens, GA
Stated Session Meeting
January 28, 2023

A stated Session meeting, called according to the Book of Order, was held at Founders Lodge, Rock Eagle 4-H Center, Eatonton, GA, on January 28, 2023. Moderator Dana Waters welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Elders present: Clayton Adams, Bert Ballard-Myer, Kathryn Fowler, Abby Horvath, Linda Koehler, Valerie Stone, Ansley Tweedell, Donny Whitehead and Dick Zimdars,

Elders absent: Katy Arora and Carolyn Hatfield

Others present: Luanne Rigsby and Dana Waters

Devotional

Luanne Rigsby began her devotional by reading John 13:34-35. She then shared practical tips for elders which she had learned from elder training by Rev. Jim Bowden. Luanne shared "Small Steps of Love" by Henri Nouwen and opened the meeting with prayer.

Review of Minutes

The minutes from the stated meeting on December 6, 2022, were reviewed. Abby Horvath moved and Kathryn Fowler seconded the minutes be accepted as written.

Motion carried.

Special Order Looking ahead at upcoming Session items in Spring 2023

- Rev. Dana Waters established that everyone agreed with the current Session meeting time of 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. with ZOOM option available but meeting in person preferable.
- Dana then reviewed how to make a motion, according to *Robert's Rules of Order* and made these suggestions for more efficient meetings:
 1. Send motion to Karen or Luanne before the meeting so it can be put into the agenda. This gives everyone time to think about the motion before the meeting.
 2. Motions should always be as clear and specific as possible. Put in the cost and which account the money will be taken from.
 3. Ask yourself if a motion is appropriate for the Session meeting or if it should first be considered and refined by a ministry team.

4. Send typed written minutes of Ministry Team meetings in to Karen or Luanne.

- At the February meeting we will circle back to the homeless issue. Valerie has created a document of what has been done so far. One unknown is the extent of Chris Wilson and Brian Striggow's future involvement.
- Please read and think about the document "Connections for Family Support", included in the packet so we can discuss it at the February meeting.
- Dana distributed the working document "Covenant's Areas to Work On" with current updates.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Valerie Stone and seconded by Clayton Adams to approve the agenda as modified. **Motion carried.**

Clerk's Report

Luanne Rigsby, Clerk, presented the following items for Session information and consideration:

- Letter of transfer request for Kathy Boardman to Madison Presbyterian Church, Madison GA
- Removal of Bob Smith from membership rolls (Bob passed away Jan. 14, 2023)
- Request for Charles Naveen Arora's baptism on Feb. 29, 2023
- Approve Covenant's 2022 church statistical report (Note that the change in membership reflects an incorrect beginning membership number as well as other reasons members have been deleted from the rolls.)
- Letter from Jim Newland - Grant from The CentralCovenant Endowment Fund of \$10,286.77 to be used at Session's discretion.
- Thank you letter from Family Promise

Clayton Adams moved and Bert Ballard-Myer seconded to accept the Clerk's Report into the minutes. Following discussion, **motion carried.**

Use of the Grant from The CentralCovenant Endowment Fund

Abby Horvath moved and Valerie Stone seconded that the grant from the Central Covenant Endowment Fund (\$10,286.77) be set aside for the Pastor Nominating Committee to be used for travel expenses for pastoral candidates. Following discussion, **motion carried.**

Financial Report

Dana asked that the Session review the Financial Summary for December, 2022, as well as the detailed financial report for the month. According to the report, everything looks to be on track financially. Clayton Adams, co-chair of the Finance Ministry Team, reminded the ministry team chairs that they should let Finance Ministry Team know whether to keep the restricted accounts under their teams or terminate them. Kathryn

Fowler, co-chair Finance Ministry Team, said that Pam Knox, Treasurer, has asked the ministry teams to send in the total dollar amount requested for their proposed budgets for next fiscal year by February. The goal is to have an approved budget by May. The Financial Report was accepted into the minutes.

Commissioners to Northeast Georgia Presbytery Meeting

Susan Parish, Randy Parish, Donny Whitehead and Dick Zimdars have agreed to be Covenant's commissioners for the February 25th Northeast Georgia Presbytery meeting at Belle Terrace Presbyterian Church in Augusta, GA. With the exception of Dick Zimdars, the same commissioners will be asked to serve as commissioners for the March 25th called Presbytery meeting on ZOOM. Kathryn Fowler will to serve as alternate for the Feb 25th meeting. Jennifer Frey moved and Bert Ballard-Myer seconded we approve these commissioners. Following discussion, the **motion carried**.

Covenant to host NEGA Presbytery Meeting

Kathryn Fowler moved and Donny Whitehead seconded that Covenant host the Northeast Georgia Presbytery meeting on Tuesday, May 23, 2023. Following discussion, **motion carried**. The lead person for organizing this event will be determined at the February meeting.

Election of Treasurer and Clerk of Session

Abby Horvath moved and Linda Koehler seconded that Pam Knox be elected as Church Treasurer and Luanne Rigsby as Clerk of the Session. Following discussion, **motion carried**. The Session expressed appreciation to Pam and Luanne for serving in these capacities in the past and for being willing to continue.

Partnership with Athens Free Clinic

Bert Ballard-Myer, on behalf of Mission Outreach Ministry Team, moved that Covenant partner with Athens Free Clinic. Coming from committee, the motion needed no second. Following discussion, **motion carried**. The Athens Free Clinic provides services for those who don't have health care. They will be using our space on three Mondays in February, March and April on a trial basis. Volunteers from Covenant will be needed for patient check-in.

Communion Schedule

Jennifer Frey moved and Valerie Stone seconded that in 2023, the Lord's Supper be served the first Sunday of every month and also on Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve. Following discussion, **motion carried**.

Mission and Outreach Ministry Team

Valerie Stone reported on the association with our partner congregation of the ECCB in Olomouc, Czech Republic. Rebecca Silver and Valerie are our two main contacts with the Olomouc church. Valerie has been sending a monthly newsletter to them to keep in contact. Covenant raised about \$5000.00 to send to the Olomouc congregation to aid in helping refugees from Ukraine. The church in Olomouc is hosting a conference for partner congregations the first week of in July. Hopefully Covenant will be sending a representative.

Bert Ballard-Myer reported on other activities of the Mission Outreach Ministry Team:

- The Food Pantry continues to go well, feeding more than 100 families per week.
- The Campus Kitchen and UGarden uses our kitchen to feed more than 600 people per week.
- There will be a volunteer appreciation event in April

Fellowship Ministry Team

Prior to the meeting, the Fellowship Ministry Team had sent the Session a written report on their recent activities including the Christmas Progressive Dinner and a punch and cookie reception after the Christmas choral worship service. Future activities include monthly game nights every third Friday evening and the annual Heart of Covenant Dinner, planned for February 11, 2023.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, Bert Ballard-Myer moved and Abby Horvath seconded the meeting be adjourned. **Motion carried.** Dana closed with prayer at 11:53 a.m.

Next Stated Meeting: Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Bert Ballard-Myer will present the devotional.

Dana Waters, Moderator

Luanne Rigsby, Clerk