

**Covenant Presbyterian Church, Athens, GA**  
**Stated Session Meeting**  
**April 25, 2023**

A stated Session meeting, called according to the Book of Order, was held at Covenant Presbyterian Church and by Zoom on April 25, 2023. Moderator Dana Waters welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

Elders absent: Katy Arora, Jennifer Frey and Ansley Tweedell

Others present: Pam Knox, Luanne Rigsby and Dana Waters

### **Devotional**

Carolyn Hatfield presented a devotional based on her “me file” of musings of things in life about which she is sometimes conflicted or confused. These include such questions as: What is good or bad? How to best help others? Can we give enough? Why it is hard to grow in wisdom and faith? Carolyn opened the meeting with prayer.

### **Review of Minutes**

The minutes from the March 28, 2023, stated Session meeting and the April 23, 2023, called Congregational Meeting were reviewed. Clayton Adams moved and Valerie Stone seconded that the minutes be accepted as presented. **Motion carried.**

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Several items were added to the agenda. A motion was made by Dick Zimdars and seconded by Clayton Adams to approve the agenda as amended. Following discussion, the **motion carried.**

### **Clerk’s Report - Luanne Rigsby**

Covenant has received a letter requesting transfer of membership for Steve Rathbun to Eatonton Presbyterian Church. New membership total 231 -1= 230. Donny Whitehead moved and Linda Koehler seconded to approve this action. **Motion carried.**

### **Financial Report**

The Financial Summary for March, 2023, as well as the detailed financial report for the month was included in the Session packet for review. Clayton Adams, co-chair of Finance Ministry Team, reported that the pledge drive is going well. Only a few pledge units who pledged last year haven’t yet sent in a pledge for the upcoming year. Finance

Ministry team will follow up with emails and phone calls. The amount pledged is close to the proposed preliminary budget. Kathryn Fowler, co-chair, mentioned that it looks like we will come in about \$62,000 under budget this year due to generous giving, lower expenses and unfilled positions. The Financial Report was accepted into the minutes.

### **Commissioners for the Northeast Georgia Presbytery Meeting**

Kathryn Fowler and Bert Ballard-Myer will serve as two of Covenant's four commissioners to the Northeast Georgia Presbytery meeting which will be held at Covenant Presbyterian on Tuesday May 23, 2023. Two inactive elders will serve as the other commissioners and Clayton Adams and Carolyn Hatfield will serve as alternates

### **Motion from Worship Ministry Team**

Dick Zimdars, on behalf of the Worship Ministry Team, moved that worship time be changed to 10 a.m. beginning on June 4, 2023, and resuming at 11:00 a.m. on Rally Day in the fall. Coming from a committee, the motion needed no second. Following discussion, the **motion carried**.

### **Joy Village School Update – Bert Ballard-Myer**

Of the two schools which had expressed interest in renting space from Covenant, only the Joy Village School responded to Bert's email containing questions from the Session. Following an extensive discussion, there were more questions concerning taxes, non-profit status, liability, insurance, utilities, contracts and how renting space to the school fits into Covenant's mission. Bert and Kathryn Fowler volunteered to follow up on these issues and report to the Session at the next meeting. Abby Horvath will summarize the information we have so far, which is contained in several emails, for easier evaluation. A resource to contact is Young Harris Methodist which has housed Double Helix, a non-profit school, in their building for two years.

### **Announcements – Ministry Teams**

**Building and Grounds** - The issue of unhoused residents will be reviewed at the May Session meeting. Carolyn Hatfield, chair of B&G, reported that the electrical outlets on the back portico have been disabled full time awaiting being equipped with a timer. This has resulted in few unhoused persons staying on our campus.

**Mission Outreach** - The volunteer appreciation lunch is Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup>. Bert asked all the ministry team chairs to encourage their volunteers to RSVP by Thursday so she can provide the caterer an accurate number of meals.

**Fellowship** - Valerie Stone announced that the Strawberry Festival will be held May 6<sup>th</sup> rain or shine. Valerie hasn't received much information concerning existing small groups. She will meet with Rich Reaves to follow up on his ideas.

Dana will be on vacation for a week beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Motion to Adjourn**

There being no further business, Kathryn Fowler moved and Bert Ballard-Myer seconded that the meeting be adjourned. **Motion carried.** Dana closed with prayer at 8:36 p.m.

***Next Stated Meeting: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Donny Whitehead will present the devotional.***

---

Dana Waters, Moderator

---

Luanne Rigsby, Clerk