

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Athens, GA

Stated Session Meeting

May 19, 2024

A ~~S~~stated Session meeting, called according to the Book of Order, was held at Covenant Presbyterian Church on May 19, 2024. Moderator Teresa Franklin welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

Elders present: Bert Ballard-Myer, Bob Brewster, Dennis Calbos, Kathryn Fowler, Brian Herndon, Ansley Tweedell Land, Rebecca Silver, Valerie Stone, and Dick Zimdars

Elders present on Zoom: Carolyn Hatfield

Elders absent: Katy Arora and Abby Horvath

Others present: Teresa Franklin, Pam Knox, and Luanne Rigsby

Devotional

Ansley Tweedell Land presented a devotional based on a ~~childrens'~~children's sermon ~~by~~ Mark Harper ~~gave~~ when she visited his church last week. Everyone has different sides of themselves, but someone else may only know about one ~~dimension~~side of that person. All parts of us are important to God. Ansley then read a favorite passage from I Corinthians 12 about spiritual gifts.

Review of Minutes

The minutes from the April 23, 2024, Stated Session meeting were reviewed. Bert Ballard-Myer ~~—~~ moved and Brian Herndon seconded that the minutes be accepted as written. **Motion carried.** The minutes from the May 10, 2024, email vote were reviewed. Kathryn Fowler moved and Bob Brewster seconded that the minutes be accepted as written. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the Agenda

The Session approved the agenda as presented by consensus.

Clerk's Report

Luanne Rigsby, Clerk, reported that with the addition of Eli Stone upon his confirmation last Sunday, Covenant's total membership is 215.

Financial Report and Stewardship Drive Update

Pam Knox, Treasurer, reviewed the Financial Summary for April, 2024, as well as the detailed financial report for the month. Pam reported that pledges received have slightly exceeded what was anticipated. We haven't spent all the money that was budgeted, so we will most likely end the fiscal year in the black. She urged all Ministry Teams chairs

to check their accounts, including the restricted accounts under their team's budgets, and make sure they've made all needed expenditures by June 30, the end of the fiscal year. ~~June 30th~~. Finance Ministry Team plans to review all restricted accounts in the near future. They will evaluate the purpose for which the ~~y account was were~~ created, possibly consolidate some of the ~~accounts~~ and create a policy to be included in the Financial Policy Manual. Brian Striggow has tentatively agreed to take Pam's place as ~~C~~church ~~T~~reasurer after her term ends on December 31, ~~2024~~. Brian will be understudying Pam until the end of the year. The financial report was received into the minutes.

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

The revised budget ~~for the~~ 2024-2025 fiscal year, developed by the Finance Ministry Team, ~~was for the new fiscal year~~ sent to the Session prior to the meeting. Pam Knox, ~~T~~reasurer, and Kathryn Fowler, chair of Finance Ministry Team, reviewed the revised budget. Kathryn said that ~~pledges~~ fell short of the "dream budget" which was mailed to the congregation in the pledge packet, but ~~pledges~~ exceeded last year's pledges. The revised budget is \$469,809, an increase from last year's budget of \$450,507. Finance Ministry Team tried to partially fund ~~visionary~~ big increases requested by ministry teams. Some ~~ministry team budgets stayed the same as last year and the while cutting the~~ Christian Ed. Ministry Team budget ~~was cute a~~ bit because of fewer youth participating in activities. Kathryn Fowler, on behalf of the Finance Ministry Team, **moved that we approve the revised budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 as presented.** Coming from a committee, the motion needed no second. **Following discussion, the motion carried.**

Nominating Committee for Next Class of Elders.

Dick Zimdars, chair of the nominating committee for the next class of elders, is still working on finding an inactive elder to serve on the committee. If Dick finds someone before the June Session meeting, he may present that person for Session approval ~~by an~~ email vote ~~of approval~~. Those two committee members will ~~then~~ solicit nominations from the congregation for ~~at the non-elder third person, who is not an elder,~~ to ~~to~~ represent the congregation as the third member of ~~on~~ the committee. That individual will ~~That person will be elected at a Congregational meeting. be elected at a congregational meeting~~

Worship Ministry Team

Rev. Teresa Franklin would like for Worship Ministry Team to consider changing the way ~~we serve of serving~~ communion. We began using the plastic cups with the wafers in the lids during Covid, and they are difficult to use. Teresa feels that it is time to go to a more traditional way of serving communion. She will present this idea to Worship Ministry Team at their meeting on May 23rd. If the ~~Worship Ministry Team~~ eamy approves, she will ask if they believe they will be ready to make the change ~~the way communion is served~~ and if they will have the volunteers to support it so we can begin serving

~~communion a different way at by the~~ service on June 2nd. She ~~requested~~asked for Session approval should the Worship Ministry Team agree to that change. **Bert Ballard-Myer moved and Brian Herndon seconded that if Worship Ministry Team approves changing the way communion is served, Session approves their decision. Following discussion, the motion carried.**

Motion from Christian Education Ministry Team

On behalf of the Christian Education Ministry Team, Brian Herndon, co-chair, **moved that Rally Day will be held on August 18, 2024.** Coming from a ministry team, the motion needed no second. **Following discussion, motion carried.**

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Session Meeting Dates and Times

The Session decided on the ~~following dates~~revised schedule for ~~S~~stated and ~~C~~ongregational ~~M~~meetings:

Date	Meeting	Time (p.m.)	Devotional
June 23, 2024	Stated Session	12:15	Brian Herndon
July 25, 2024	Session Fellowship Cali 'N Titos	5:00 - 7:00	
August 18, 2024	Stated Session	1:15	Abby Horvath
September 22, 2024	Congregational	After worship	
September 22, 2024	Stated Session	1:30	Dennis Calbos
October 27, 2024	Stated Session	1:15	Katy Arora
December 8, 2024	Stated Session	1:15	Carolyn Hatfield

Announcements – Ministry Teams

Fellowship – Valerie reported that Fellowship MT is bringing back the Covenant Coffee House talent show on July 17th. Aaron Carter-Enyi and Linda Rogers are organizing the program.

Mission and Outreach Ministry Team – Bert reminded everyone that June is ~~Pride~~~~RIDE~~ month and asked for support of the Pride parade and resource fair being held on June 1st. Covenant marched in the ~~Pride~~ parade last year and was one of the few churches (the only?) that participated.

Personnel Committee – Dennis reported a 3.5% salary increase for staff in the new budget. There will be a staff recognition luncheon on May 24th at the Red Bowl.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, Dick Zimdars moved and Bert Ballard-Myer seconded that the meeting be adjourned. **Motion carried.** Teresa closed with prayer at 2:15 p.m.

Next Stated Meeting: Sunday, June 23, 2024, at 12:15 p.m. Brian Herndon will present the devotional.

Teresa Franklin, Moderator

Luanne Rigsby, Clerk

