

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Athens, GA
Stated Session Meeting
March 26, 2024

A stated Session meeting, called according to the Book of Order, was held at Covenant Presbyterian Church and by Zoom on March 26, 2024. Moderator Dana Waters welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

Elders present on Zoom: Katy Arora

Elders absent: Valerie Stone

Others present: Jacob Douylliez and Dana Waters,

Devotional

Rebecca Silver presented an Easter devotional about using our gifts from God for God and opened the meeting with prayer.

Review of Minutes

The minutes from the February 27, 2024, Stated Session meeting were reviewed. Kathryn Fowler moved and Dennis Calbos seconded that the minutes be accepted as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Dennis Calbos and seconded by Bert Ballard-Myer to approve the agenda as written. **Motion carried.**

Clerk's Report

Ansley Land, acting Clerk, reported that following the loss of Georgiana Sumner, our new membership total is 214. The Clerk's report was received into the minutes.

Financial Report

Kathryn Fowler, Finance Ministry Team chair, reviewed the Financial Summary for February, 2024, as well as the detailed financial report for the month. Kathryn said we are well within budget and that pledges and non-pledged contributions are coming in higher than anticipated. That may even out by the end of the year. Our investments are in staggered funds so that payouts are not all at the same time. The Financial Report was accepted into the minutes.

Personnel Update

Abby Horvath, Personnel committee chair, reported that leadership training for staff was well received and is being pursued as planned.

For Information – Central-Covenant Endowment/Legacy Fund

“The Policy Statement of the Central-Covenant Legacy Fund of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Athens, GA” had been distributed to the Session prior to the meeting for first reading and review. Kathryn Fowler offered to have the Finance Ministry Team review the Endowment Committee’s policies and determine whether those should be housed under the new Financial Policies. Session will wait for a report from Finance Ministry Team on that before moving forward.

Pastoral Concern

Rev Dana Waters, Transitional Pastor, announced that he has accepted a call to serve as a Ministry Relations Officer with the Presbyterian Foundation and will be leaving Covenant Presbyterian in several weeks. His last Sunday will be April 21st and his last day in the office will be April 23rd. Since we have only 3 weeks to find a replacement interim pastor, Rev. Jacob Douylliez, chair of the Committee on Ministry for NEGA Presbytery, recommended that the Session serve as the Interim Pastor Screening Committee for the next transitional pastor. He recommended the committee first consider Rev. Teresa Franklin, who most recently served as transitional pastor at Nacoochee Presbyterian Church. Jacob assured the Session that this should not adversely affect the selections process for a permanent minister. Kathryn Fowler moved and Abby Horvath seconded that **Covenant’s Session serve as the Interim Pastor Screening Committee for the next transitional pastor**. Following discussion, **motion carried**. It was decided that Interim Pastor Screening Committee would meet immediately after Session meeting was adjourned.

Announcements

Rev. Ron Gilreath will fill in for Dana April 14th while he and his family are on vacation.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, Dick Zimdars moved and Bert Ballard-Myer seconded that the meeting be adjourned. **Motion carried**. Dana closed with prayer at 8:30 p.m.

Next Stated Meeting: Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Dick Zimdars will present the devotional.

Dana Waters, Moderator

Ansley Tweedell Land, acting Clerk