

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Athens, GA
Stated Session Meeting
March 23, 2021

A stated session meeting, called according to the Book of Order, was held by Zoom on March 23, 2021. Moderator Mark Harper welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Kathy Boardman presented a devotional based on Barbara Brown Taylor's book, *An Altar in the World*, emphasizing that prayer is movement – action in the body and in the spirit. Kathy concluded with prayer.

Elders present: Clayton Adams, Kathy Boardman, Don Bower, Kay Brooks, Paige Campbell, Jennifer Frey, Linda Koehler, Steve Rathbun, Rich Reaves, Sarah Shannon, Brian Striggow, and Chris Wilson

Elders absent:

Others present: Mark Harper, Rindy Trouteaud, Pam Knox, Travis Williams and Luanne Rigsby

Minutes and Financial Report

The minutes from the February 23, 2021, meeting were reviewed. Clayton Adams moved and Steve Rathbun seconded that the minutes be accepted as revised. The motion was passed unanimously.

Church Treasurer, Pam Knox, reviewed the Financial Summary for February 2021 and a detailed report for the month of February. She stated that we are ahead of pledged income in our receipts and pointed out a surplus of \$6,344.02 for the month and \$56,967.45 for the year to date. Pam commended the congregation for their faithful giving. Rich Reaves had three questions about details in the financial report which Pam will clarify with Karen Wetherington. Rich Reaves moved and Clayton Adams seconded to accept the financial reports as presented. The motion was passed unanimously. Pam reminded ministry team chairs to submit their budgets for the upcoming fiscal year and urged them to keep an eye on their team's balances on the financial statements as we near the end of this fiscal year. Pam then briefly reviewed the preliminary budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. She stated that Finance Ministry Team is also working on consolidating multiple banking accounts into one account.

Finance Ministry – Policy on Restricted Accounts

At the February Session meeting, on behalf of the Finance Ministry Team, Bob Trouteaud presented a proposed change on Covenant Policy on Restricted Accounts. This was the first reading of the policy change in order to give the session time to study the plan and to consult with their ministry teams. Paige Campbell reported that the

Finance Ministry Team is considering revising the policy statement to address concerns about the original policy. The second reading will be postponed until the April Session meeting.

Update on Unexpended Funds

Travis Williams, Neighborhood Ministries Coordinator, submitted a proposal (#9) for Covenant to host a summer camp for children, ages 8-12 in groups of 10, 2 weeks per group, for a total of 4 sessions. He proposed a budget of \$52,620.00 which included purchase of a 15-passenger church van to transport the children. The van could also be used by the church for other purposes. Steve Rathbun moved and Paige Campbell seconded to approve \$28,000.00 for the summer camp but to hold off on funding the purchase of a van. If the camp runs for a shorter period of time, the funding would be reduced proportionately. The motion was passed unanimously. Travis will investigate the cost of a van purchase versus van rental.

Kathy Boardman, Worship Ministry, submitted a proposal (#10) for the creation of a Content Lab where students would learn to film video, record audio and edit material. This could eventually lead to the creation of a new ministry team for technical production, create new ways of doing Christian Ed, expand youth ministry and outreach and be a new way of looking to the future. Since, the proposal would involve a full time Tech Director, Paige Campbell moved and Kay Brooks seconded the motion to table this idea for a month until we hear from Personnel Committee's recommendation on that matter. After discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

Clayton Adams updated the proposal (#8) on Eliminating Medical Debt via the national nonprofit organization RIP Medical Debt (RIP). He has discovered that unfortunately, RIP says it does not operate in Clarke County.

Clayton mentioned two ideas for scholarships for Athens Tech Students (proposal #11):

1. To set up scholarships for students from Cedar Shoals who are going to Athens Tech. There is a huge drop off in funding after the first year, so we could target second year students.
2. To identify 2-4 students at Athens Tech who are parents and provide them scholarships for child care.

Clayton said that we could possibly take some portion of our unexpended funds and use it as seed money for perpetual scholarships by investing in Athens Community Foundation. Clayton will present more detailed information on the scholarship idea at the April meeting.

Rich Reaves presented an update on proposal #4 for creating a Matching Fund for Solar Panels. Rich recently presented two Zoom presentations to congregational groups and had 10 pledging units to say that they would contribute to the capital campaign to raise money for the purchase of solar panels. Paige Campbell moved we set aside \$25,000.00 of unexpended funds as seed money to provide a 1:3 match for solar panel

donations. For example, the fund would provide \$1000.00 for every \$3000.00 pledged. Linda Koehler seconded the motion and after discussion, it was approved unanimously.

Mark Harper sent out information on the Athens-Clarke County Community Bail Initiative as a possible recipient (proposal #12) for some of our unexpended funds. Due to lack of time, Mark will present that information at the April Meeting.

Below is a summary of the proposals submitted thus far and the decisions made on their funding with total cost:

Proposal	Presented By	Cost	Funded?
1. Remote Control Front Door/ Main Door	B&G MT	\$ 1,671. 00	Yes
2. Worship Center Indoor Painting	B&G MT	\$12,280.00	Yes
3. Carpeting of Worship Center	B&G MT	\$17,595.00	Yes
4. Matching Fund for Solar Panels	B&G MT	\$25,000.00	Yes
5. Front Yard Bus Stop Shelter	B&G MT	\$ 7,500.00	
6. Raised Bed Garden Fence	B&G MT	\$ 3,010.00	
7. Worship Ctr. Video Recording Syst	Worship +Tech Team	\$11,928.63*	Yes
8. Eliminating Medical Debt	Clayton Adams	\$50,000.00	No
9. Summer Camp	Travis Williams	\$28,000.00	Yes
10. Content Lab	Worship	\$10,800.00	
11. Scholarships - Athens Tech Students	Clayton Adams		
12 Athens-Clarke Bail Initiative	Mark Harper		
Total cost approved		\$96,474.63	

*Plus cost of laptop and installation of cable

Ministry Team Reports – Building and Grounds submitted a written report summarizing the activities of their ministry team from January- March, 2021

There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Chris Wilson, seconded by Steve Rathbun and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 9:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: April 27, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Mark Harper, Moderator

Luanne Rigsby, Clerk