

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Athens, GA

Stated Session Meeting

April 26, 2022

A Stated Session meeting, called according to the *Book of Order*, was held at Covenant Presbyterian Church and via Zoom on April 26, 2022. Moderator Dana Waters welcomed all, declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Elders Present: Katy Arora, Bert Ballard-Myer, Don Bower, Jennifer Frey, Linda Koehler, Brian Striggow, Valerie Stone and Chris Wilson.

Elders Present on Zoom:

Elders Absent: Clayton Adams Kathy Boardman, Kay Brooks, Abby Horvath

Others present: Luanne Rigsby, and Dana Waters.

Devotional

Dana presented a devotional based on *W-3.0411: Offering* from the *Book of Order*. “We respond to Christ’s gift of grace with gratitude, offering him our lives, our spiritual gifts, and our material goods.” “The gifts we offer express our stewardship of creation, demonstrate our care for one another, support the ministries of the church, and provide for the needs of the poor” and are an act of Thanksgiving. Dana closed with prayer.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from the Stated Session Meeting held March 22, 2022, minutes from the email vote on March 31, 2022, as well as minutes from the Called Congregational Meeting held on April 24, 2022. were reviewed. Katy Arora moved and Jennifer Frey seconded the minutes be approved as written. After discussion, the motion carried.

Approval of the Agenda

No additional items were added to the agenda. Katy Arora moved and Jennifer Frey seconded that the agenda be approved as written. After discussion, the motion carried.

Financial Report

Dana Waters reviewed the financial summary for March, 2022, as well as the detailed financial report for the month. He reported that anticipated giving and actual giving are very close and that receipts are ahead of spending by about \$40,000 for the year. The stewardship drive is ongoing with numerous pledges received by the April 24th target date and others still trickling in. Finance Ministry Team meets in two weeks to work on modifying the proposed budget according to the amount of money pledged.

Continuing Education for Elders

The Moderator reviewed Chapters 9 -11, from the book, *Presbyterian Polity for Church Leaders* by Joan S. Gray and Joyce C. Tucker. Those chapters included the subjects of “Leading the Church in Mission”, “Presbytery, Synod, and The General Assembly”, and

“Stewardship, Finance and Property”. The Moderator and Session discussed each section as it pertains to Covenant. It was reiterated that the Session looks at the “big picture” while the Ministry Teams attend to the details. The Ministry Teams should be meeting quarterly, though some need to meet monthly. As homework for the May meeting, Dana asked everyone to read chapters 12-14. He also asked that each chair meet with their Ministry Team to review and respond to the following three documents and to email their responses to him by May 31st.

1. “Ministry Team Check-up List”
2. “The Purpose and Responsibilities” of their Ministry Team as listed in the Session Manual
3. “Session Ministry Teams and Subcommittees/Initiatives 2022 Duties” (compiled by Valerie Stone)

Reviewing Progress on “Covenant’s Areas to Work On”

Dana reviewed the revised document, “Covenant’s Areas to Work On”. Concerning area #4 in the document, Reflecting on Staffing Needs, Dana had two recommendations:

1. To assemble a Mission Study Task Force of four active elders whose job it will be to promote the congregational survey, to gather the information from the survey and to write the results up in such a way that will be helpful for the church. The Mission Study document is handed over to the Pastor Search Committee to aid in their search for a pastor. Dana suggested we try to get the survey completed before summer. Bert Ballard-Myer and Linda Koehler volunteered to serve on the Task Force with the two other members to be determined.

Chris Wilson moved and Bert Ballard-Myer seconded that the Session authorize up to \$1,000.00 for the purchase of a Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) from Holy Cow Consulting. The money will be taken from the \$40,000 excess funds for this fiscal year. After discussion, the motion carried.

2. Also concerning area #4, Dana announced that our Neighborhood Ministries Coordinator, Travis Williams’, last day will be May 27, 2022, leaving an additional staff position to fill. The Personnel Committee has been advertising for a music director for several months without much response. Dana recommended that before we begin any more hiring, we should ask the Personnel Committee to do an assessment of our current staffing structure in order to create a good plan for future staffing structure. Finance MT should be included in the process. Ministry Teams should give their current and future staffing needs to Personnel Committee as soon as possible after they discuss the results of the upcoming congregational survey.

Chris Wilson moved and Don Bower seconded that the Session approve tasking Personnel to do an assessment of our current staffing structure and our future staffing needs and bring their recommendations back to the Session by the July meeting. After discussion, the motion carried. It was

agreed that short term staffing needs (landscaping) can be done on temporary basis.

Clerk's Report

Luanne Rigsby read a letter from Piedmont Presbyterian Church in Piedmont, S.C. requesting transfer of membership of Nathan Weaver and Anje Kidd. Also, Bob Trouteaud has communicated that he would like to transfer his membership to Shallowford Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, GA. **Valerie Stone moved and Katy Arora seconded we approve these transfers of membership. Following discussion, the motion carried.**

Ministry Team Announcements

Missions - Bert Ballard-Myer encouraged all to attend the Lunch and Learn Chili Lunch on Sunday, May 1st. The Conference of ECCB and PCUSA is to be held at our sister church in Olomouc, Czech Republic, on July 9-13, 2023. The Missions Ministry Team needs someone to take over leadership of our partnership. Also, we have a visitor from Olomouc arriving in August.

Christian Education - There will be a second organizational meeting for parents and interested members on May 15th.

Congregational Care - Linda Koehler announced that a reception to honor our high school graduates will be after worship on May 15, 2022.

Fellowship - The Strawberry Festival will be held on Saturday, May 7th with strawberry picking on Friday, May 6th. Valerie Stone has created a master list of local activities for the calendar year and will keep it updated if Ministry Teams will send her their events.

B & G - Linda announced that the committee on reupholstering the pews has picked a fabric and job that will be accomplished soon.

Personnel - Don Bower announced that Julius Bostick has retired recently after serving for many years on our custodial team.

Worship - Sent the Session minutes of their April 22, 2022, meeting. Rev. Will Norman, pastor of the Presbyterian Student Center will be our guest preacher on May 1st.

Motion to Adjourn:

There being no further business, Katy Arora moved and Bert Ballard-Myer seconded that the meeting be adjourned. With no discussion, the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 9:11 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: May 24, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Don Bower will present the devotional.

Dana Waters, Moderator

Luanne Rigsby, Clerk