

## **Covenant Presbyterian Church, Athens, Ga.**

### **Stated Session Meeting**

**May 24, 2022**

A stated session meeting called, according to the Book of Order, was held at Covenant Presbyterian Church and via Zoom on May 24, 2022. Moderator Dana Waters welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Elders present: Chris Wilson, Brian Striggow, Linda Kohler, Valerie Stone, Bert Ballard-Myer, Jennifer Frey, and Clayton Adams.

Elders on Zoom: Kathy Boardman and Abby Horvath

Elders absent: Don Bower, Kay Brooks, and Katy Arora

Others present: Dana Waters and Katy Terry (Unanimously given voice)

### **Devotional**

A devotional was presented by Valerie Stone. She read a poem from poet Rumi titled *Love Dogs*. The longing people have at times is the return message from God that seems like unanswered prayers. Valerie opened the meeting with prayer.

### **Review of Minutes**

A motion from Clayton Adams, second by Jennifer Frey that the minutes from the April 26, 2022 stated meeting be accepted as written. Motion passed.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

A motion was made by Jennifer Frey and second by Valerie Stone to add to Motion J the word “allocations” after Central-Covenant Endowment Fund. Passed.

### **Financial Report**

Clayton Adams gave a report on the budget. The proposed budget is \$471,605.00. The revised budget is \$425,892.00. There was an error of a double count on one pledge (someone sent in a card and called the church office with their pledge

amount). The correct pledge amount is \$378,000.00. There is a shortfall of almost \$50,000.00. It was suggested that a report of current standings be given to the congregation.

### **Continuing Education for Elders**

Dana Waters presented the last 3 chapters from the book *Presbyterian Polity for Church Leaders* written by Joan S. Tucker. Chapter 12 reminded that session meetings are open to all. It allows the congregation to be educated about church business. Chapter 13 reflected on conflict in the church and how to restore order. Proactive mediation and clarity in communications were two approaches mentioned. Chapter 14 stressed working together to bring unity to worship and also that the congregation cannot dictate what the pastor says, but that he/she should also be open to feedback.

### **Report from Presbytery Commissioners**

Valerie Stone presented a well written and descriptive account of the May 14, 2022 meeting. The theme was “Refresh. Reconnect. Rejoice.” The keynote speaker talked about the pandemic and the importance of the concept of Hope. The pandemic revealed problems across our churches, communities, and the world. Hope means that once you find a challenge, you can look for ways to make it an opportunity.

### **Mission Study Task Force**

A motion was made by Jennifer Frey and second by Valerie Stone to accept Bert Ballard-Myers, Linda Kohler, Abby Horvath, and Chris Wilson to serve on the Mission Study Task Force to work on compiling reports as generated by the CAT survey. Motion passed.

### **Motion from Buildings and Grounds**

Motion to approve a \$9,100.00 yearly item for mowing/upkeep of the church grounds to the annual budget under Buildings and Grounds. Service will be provided by a contract with Creek View Landscaping. They will be paid out of the remaining B&G funds until the new fiscal year begins when this becomes an annual budget line item. Motion from committee so no second needed. Motion passed.

### **Motion from Chris Wilson**

A motion was made by Chris Wilson with a second by Jennifer Frey to - Move the Central-Covenant Endowment allocations given to Covenant this year to - Restricted Fund – B&G Renovations #8290. Motion passed.

### **Motion from Personnel**

Personnel made a motion to approve revised job descriptions for the Director of Music Ministry and Piano Accompanist. After some discussion the salary increase requests will come from the Carol Wheeler fund in the amount of up to \$9,000.00 and for up to one year. Motion from committee doesn't require a second. Motion passed.

### **Announcements from Ministry Teams**

\*Brian Striggow reported on a Church Safety seminar that he recently attended. Some items mentioned were: security cameras, knowing who has keys to the building, no one working alone in the building, educate the congregation on active shooter protocols, and having an accurate inventory of church equipment.

\*Bert Ballard-Myer and Chris Wilson gave a report on gathering Personal Involvement Information from church members, which indicates who volunteers where and when on different activities of the church. They also spoke that the church plans to continue with the weekly food distribution on Thursdays even after Travis leaves his position to attend seminary.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Linda Kohler with a second by Bert Ballard-Myer to adjourn was made. Motion passed. Dana dismissed us with prayer at 9:07 p.m.

**EXTRA MEETING** – Thursday June 16 via Zoom for CAT

**NEXT STATED MEETING** – June 28, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Don Bower presents devotional.

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Dana Waters, Moderator

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Luanne Rigsby, Clerk