

Called Session Meeting

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Athens

Sept. 11, 2022

A called meeting of the Covenant Session was held Sept. 11, 2022, 2:00 at the church.

Members Present: Kay Brooks, Katy Aurora, Chris Wilson, Bert Ballard-Myer, Abby Horvath, Don Bower, Clayton Adams, Valerie Stone, Brian Striggow, Jennifer Frey, and Linda Koehler.

Others Present: Rev. Dana Waters and Katy Terry, acting clerk.

The meeting was opened in prayer and a devotion by Rev. Dana Waters on resolving issues faithfully using Matthew 18:15-20 as a guide. Jesus encourages us to talk with one another in a spirit of mutual humility and persist in love, even in challenging situations.

An opportunity was given for the session members to share their views and views from the congregation that they may had heard from.

There was a segment for the session to:

1. Clarify the issue and to define it:
 1. Is it Covenant's mission to support our homeless neighbors by allowing them to physically stay on the property?
2. Set goals on how to address the issue.
 1. Develop a Session-approved proposal to resolve the issue that satisfies the most members of the Session, with healthy boundaries
 2. Acknowledge facts vs. opinions
 3. Gain a better understanding of the needs and resources of our community
 4. Recognize/quantify limitations and sustainability
 5. Maintain timely goals
 6. Maintain transparent communications with congregation
3. To establish a process and a timeline to meet the goal.

There was an information sharing time where the Session heard from several session members of what they learned from other local churches who also face some of the same issues as Covenant.

Session members who will gather facts to share at the next meeting are:

Brian Striggow – how many volunteer hours are being used to keep the campus cleaned up; how many overnight guests are currently receiving shelter on campus

Chris Wilson – who are the volunteers

Clayton and Bert- will gather knowledge and needs resources from an upcoming Habitat meeting and look at long range plans, resources available in the community

The next Called meeting, to continue the above conversation, will be Tuesday, Oct. 4th at 7:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Dana Waters _____

Katy Terry (substitute clerk) _____