

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Athens, Ga.

Stated Session Meeting

June 28, 2022

A stated session meeting, called according to the Book of Order, was held at Covenant Presbyterian Church and via Zoom on June 28, 2022. Moderator Dana Waters welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Elders present: Bert Ballard-Myer, Don Bower, Kay Brooks, Linda Koehler, Brian Striggow and Chris Wilson.

Elders on Zoom: Clayton Adams, Kathy Boardman and Abby Horvath

Elders absent: Katy Arora, Jennifer Frey and Valerie Stone

Others present: Dana Waters and Luanne Rigsby

Devotional

Kay Brooks read “A Prayer for the Hard Times” from an article in *Presbyterian Today* on “Our Kids and Mental Health”. The prayer encourages us to ask God to walk with us during difficult times because He is the God who walked on water and calmed the storm. Kay opened the meeting with prayer.

Review of Minutes

The minutes from the May 24, 2022, stated meeting were reviewed. Kay Brooks moved and Clayton Adams seconded that the minutes be accepted. **Motion passed.**

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Chris Wilson and seconded by Linda Koehler to approve the agenda as amended with two additional items for discussion added. **Motion passed.**

Financial Report

Clayton Adams and Dana Waters reviewed the financial summary for May, 2022, as well as the detailed financial report for the month. Pledges are coming in as anticipated and we have a surplus for the year of about \$45,000. Clayton reported that the budget for 2022 - 2023 is in a holding pattern, waiting for the Personnel Committee to make decisions on staffing needs and priorities. He anticipates that Finance Ministry Team will have a budget to present at the August meeting.

Clerk's Report

Luanne Rigsby read a letter from Donna Rigsby, Administrative Officer of Friendship Presbyterian Church, requesting transfer of membership for Caren Snook. Brian Striggow moved and Kay Brooks seconded the transfer be approved. **Motion passed.**

Motion from Finance Committee

Clayton Adams, co-chair, presented a motion from the Finance Ministry Team to continue operating at 2021-22 budget levels until the new budget is approved. No second was needed. After discussion, **motion passed.**

Motion from Valerie Stone

Chris Wilson, on behalf of Valerie Stone, moved to approve collecting a special offering on Sunday, August 7, for the Olomouc Church to support their Ukrainian refugee work. Bert Ballard-Myer seconded the motion. Following discussion, **motion passed.**

Motion from Congregational Care

On behalf of Congregational Care Ministry Team, Linda Koehler, chair, moved to increase the amount of money available for seminary candidates receiving assistance from the Bowden Vocation Fund to \$2500/year and that the fund be administered by the Congregational Care Ministry Team. The stipend was originally set at \$1200 per student per year and was to be administered by two members of Congregational Care and the ministers. The amount in the fund is now able to support two people for 3 years at \$2500/year. No second needed. After discussion, **motion passed.**

Presbytery Commissioners for August 20, 2022 Meeting

Covenant's four commissioners at the August 20, 2022, Presbytery meeting, held at Athens First Presbyterian Church will be Jennifer Frey, Chris Wilson, Linda Koehler and Clayton Adams.

Holy Cow Survey Results

Dana led a discussion on the results of the Congregational Assessment Tool survey from Holy Cow Consulting and how to best share the information with the congregation. All agreed that the oral interpretation of the survey by Susan Czolgosz, clinical psychologist from Holy Cow Consulting, proved to be invaluable to the Session. Bert Ballard-Myer moved and Chris Wilson seconded we contract with Susan to provide a 5 – 6 page written interpretation of the survey and that we allocate up to \$500 for her services. The interpretation, as well as the full results of the survey, will be made available to the congregation as soon as possible. After discussion, **motion passed.** The Mission Study Task Force will facilitate planning a pot luck dinner on a Sunday evening in the coming month for discussion of the survey results with the congregation. Nursery will be provided so young families can attend.

Bert Ballard-Myer told the Session about a two-year program for churches entitled "What is a Thriving Congregation?" It is sponsored by grants from Eli Lilly with 4 meetings held at Montreat. The program was created to help churches grow and flourish. Bert will contact Montreat to find more about the program and report back to the Session.

Announcements from Ministry Teams

B & G - Brian Striggow asked for clarification about what happens to money in temporary restricted funds at the end of the fiscal year. He will check with Karen about that.

Personnel Committee - The Personnel Committee meets next week. Don Bower, co-chair, asked ministry teams to let the PC know of any thoughts/ideas they have about future staffing needs.

Fellowship - Prior to the meeting, the Fellowship Ministry Team sent the Session a report on activities planned for June and July (game nights, punch and cookies after worship), as well as other ideas being considered (BRAS event and Coffee house). The date for Rally Day is being determined by Worship and Christian Education MT.

Missions - Bert Ballard-Myer announced that 1978 individuals, 374 under the age of 18 and 270 over the age of 65, were fed by the Food Pantry during the month of May. Bert stated that the new hours for food distribution will be Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. and emphasized that we need to increase our number of volunteers from 3 to 10 for the months of July and August because of UGA students being gone for the summer. She has written other nearby churches asking for volunteers. Our Daily Bread also needs additional volunteers.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, Linda Koehler moved and Kay Brooks seconded the meeting be adjourned. **Motion passed.** Dana closed with prayer at 8:30 p.m.

NEXT STATED MEETING: July 26, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Brian Striggow presents devotional

Dana Waters, Moderator

Luanne Rigsby, Clerk