

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

**Stated Session Meeting**

**September 27, 2022**

A stated Session meeting, called according to the Book of Order, was held at Covenant Presbyterian Church and via Zoom on September 27, 2022. Moderator Dana Waters welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Abby Horvath opened the meeting with prayer.

Elders present: Bert Ballard-Myer, Kay Brooks, Abby Horvath, Linda Koehler, Brian Striggow, Valerie Stone and Chris Wilson.

Elders on Zoom: Katy Arora, Don Bower, Jennifer Frey

Elders absent: Clayton Adams,

Others present: Luanne Rigsby, and Dana Waters

**Devotional**

For her devotional, Jennifer Frey read a daily meditation by Richard Rohr describing the teachings of Saint Thérèse, a French Carmelite nun who described her simple childlike path to God as her "little way". It is a spirituality of imperfection. She wrote, "Perfection seems simple to me, I see it is sufficient to recognize one's nothingness and to abandon oneself as a child into God's arms." Rohr wrote that "perfection" is our ability to include, forgive, and accept our imperfection, and that we grow more spiritually by doing it wrong than by doing it right.

**Review of Minutes**

The minutes from the August 23, 2022, stated meeting, the September 11, 2022 called meeting and the September 18, 2022, email vote were reviewed. Abby Horvath moved and Katy Arora seconded that the minutes be accepted as written. Following discussion, the **motion carried**.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Dana asked that we add discussion on the offer made by Asher Hill to purchase technical equipment to the agenda. Linda Koehler moved and Valerie Stone seconded to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion carried**.

**Financial Report**

Dana Waters reviewed the financial summary for September 2022, as well as the detailed financial report for the month. He said that everything looks on track at this time

and encouraged the ministry team chairs to review their budgets on the report for accuracy. The Financial Report was accepted into the minutes.

### **Clerk's Report**

Luanne Rigsby read a thank you note to the Session from David Boardman. She also passed around an article entitled "Mysterious Pilgrimage" from the October, 1993, issue of *Presbyterian Survey*. Chuck Rosenberger had requested it be shared with the Session. She will send electronic copies to everyone.

### **Checking in on Session's Short-Term Goals**

Session's short-term goals were identified in the document, "Covenant's Areas to Work On". Dana led a discussion reviewing the progress that has been made on those goals in the past six months since the document was last reviewed. Much progress has been made on many of the items with some things still to be addressed. Dana emphasized the importance of the Mission Study Task Force's effort to make sure the membership roll is accurate and truly reflects who is actually here. This is necessary information for the Pastor Nominating Committee so they can accurately describe our congregation in the job announcement for a new pastor. Dana asked that this be done by the end of the year, if possible. Other items to be addressed include updating the Manual of Operations, continuing work on recreating faith formation opportunities, an all-church event to identify who will lead/support Covenant's various mission programs/events and connecting members' gifts with opportunities to use those gifts.

### **Update on Mission Study Task Force**

Bert Ballard-Myer reported that the Mission Study Task Force desires to gather a variety of perspectives of our church history to help answer some of the subjective information they are filling out in the task force outline. Members who would like to share their perspectives are asked to sign up for a 20-minute interview in October. The first eight people to sign up will be interviewed by the committee.

### **Motion from Worship Ministry Team Jennifer Frey**

On behalf of the Worship Ministry Team, Jennifer Frey moved to designate the portion of the World Communion Sunday offering that stays with Covenant (25%) be given to Project Safe. Coming from a committee, no second was required. Following discussion, the **motion carried**.

### **Commissioners to Northeast Georgia Presbytery Meeting**

Bert Ballard-Myer, Jennifer Frey, Chris Wilson, and Brian Striggow (alternate) volunteered to be Covenant's commissioners to the Northeast Georgia Presbytery meeting held October 24, 2022 at the Monticello Presbyterian Church. Dana and Luanne will work on a list of former Elders who might be willing to attend some of the upcoming Presbytery meetings.

## **Offer to Purchase Computer/technical equipment**

Prior to the meeting, the Session received a document outlining Asher Hill's offer to purchase a computer and some technical equipment that is no longer needed by the church. Chris Wilson moved and Valerie Stone seconded we sell the equipment to Asher Hill for \$2000 to be paid in four payments of \$500 each. The money will go into the general fund. After discussion, the **motion carried**.

## **Announcements**

**Personnel Committee** - Abby Horvath reported that the Personnel Committee interviewed a candidate for the CE/ Neighborhood Ministry part time position. Committee members had mixed opinions, and the candidate withdrew their application because it seemed that the job description emphasized the CE component more strongly than the outreach component. The Personnel Committee has decided to reassess the wording of the job description. The music search sub-committee interviewed an applicant for the accompanist position. No decision has been made.

**Worship Ministry Team** – Jennifer Frey stated that Building and Grounds Ministry Team has requested that Worship Ministry Team take over the sign-up roster for opening and closing the church on Sunday. The list will have to be revamped.

**Fellowship Ministry Team** – A written report was submitted prior to the meeting detailing fellowship activities for September and upcoming months. Kay Brooks asked for contributions of bread and grapes for the World Communion reception to be held on Sunday on October 2, 2022.

## **Motion to Adjourn**

There being no further business, Valerie Stone moved and Chris Wilson seconded the meeting be adjourned. **Motion passed**. Dana closed with prayer at 8:42 p.m.

**NEXT CALLED MEETING:** October 4, 2022 at 700 p.m.

**NEXT STATED MEETING:** September 27, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Linda Koehler will present the devotional.

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Dana Waters, Moderator

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Luanne Rigsby, Clerk