

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

**Called Session Meeting**

**November 1, 2022**

A called Session meeting was held at Covenant Presbyterian Church on November 1, 2022. Moderator Dana Waters welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order with prayer at 7:04 p.m.

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

Elders absent: Katy Arora, Jennifer Frey

Others present: Dana Waters and Luanne Rigsby

Dana led the Session in a discussion of the results of the recent survey sent to the congregation concerning its support of Covenant's current Overnight Guest Policy. One hundred sixteen people responded to the survey, which had two questions and then an opportunity to make comments. Several people mentioned that they appreciated that the congregation gave suggestions of how to improve the policy.

Abby Horvath moved and Chris Wilson seconded we make the following changes for a period of three months beginning November 6, 2022:

- Homeless persons can only be present on the church campus from 9:30 p.m. until 8:30 a.m.
- Construction of a 3-sided 6 ft. fence around the field to discourage people from cutting through the property.
- Place more lighting on the back portico area and adjust camera to show the door area rather than the driveway.
- Place a chain across the stairs to discourage camping there.
- No use of outlets for phone charging outside time period of 9:30p.m.- 8:30 a.m.
- Maintain the port-a-potty, sink and little food pantry.
- Place fence with unlocked gate around memorial garden.
- Clear out underbrush in the woods to discourage camping.

The costs incurred will be paid out of the 2022-2023 budget. Following discussion, the **motion passed.**

Discussions on how to sustainably enforce this policy are ongoing. Session will reevaluate on or around February 6, 2023.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 9:19 p.m.

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Dana Waters, Moderator

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Luanne Rigsby, Clerk