

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Athens, GA

Stated Session Meeting

December 6, 2022

A stated Session meeting, called according to the Book of Order, was held at Covenant Presbyterian Church and via Zoom on December 6, 2022. Moderator Dana Waters welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

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

Elders on Zoom: Katy Arora, Abby Horvath and Linda Koehler

Elders absent: Clayton Adams, Don Bower and Jennifer Frey

Others present: Karen Fowler, Carolyn Hatfield, Ansley Tweedell, Donny Whitehead, Dick Zimdars, Luanne Rigsby and Dana Waters,

Devotional

Katy Arora presented a timely devotional based on Acts 14:21-28, which says that in every place they visited, Paul and Barnabas would appoint leaders in each church, pray and fast together, and entrust them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe. Katy opened the meeting with prayer.

Review of Minutes

The minutes from the congregation meeting on October 2, 2022, the stated meeting on October 25, 2022, the called meeting on November 1, 2022 and the email vote on November 18, 2022, were reviewed. Katy Arora moved and Valerie Stone seconded that the minutes be accepted as corrected. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Katy Arora and seconded by Chris Wilson to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried.**

Clerk's Report

Luanne Rigsby, Clerk, read a letter from the UGA Presbyterian Student Center which requested that each church in the NEGA Presbytery consider making a pledge to the Next80 Campaign for renovation of the Presbyterian Student Center at UGA. The amount suggested was 0.5%-1.0% of our annual budget each year for the next 5 years, in addition to our regular support of the PSC. If that percentage does not work for the congregation, they asked that the Session consider pledging \$500/year for the next 5

years over our usual amount of support. Luanne also passed out the signup sheet for Session meeting devotional for the coming year.

Financial Report

Dana asked that the Session review the Financial Summary for November, 2022, as well as the detailed financial report for the month and contact Pam Knox, Treasurer, or Clayton Adams chair of the Finance Ministry Team with any questions. According to the report, everything looks to be on track. The Financial Report was accepted into the minutes.

Examination of New Elders

The Class of 2025 Elders, Karen Fowler, Carolyn Hatfield, Ansley Tweedell and Dick Zimdars, as well as Donny Whitehead, who is filling the unexpired term of Kathy Boardman, Class of 2023, was divided into two groups for their examination. The examination was conducted by the outgoing Class of 2022 Elders. Following the examination, the incoming elders were asked to briefly leave the room for the vote. Bert Ballard-Myer moved that we approve the examination of new elders. Chris Wilson seconded the motion. After discussion, the **motion carried**. The Session welcomed the new elders back into the room with applause.

Dana stated that the new elders will co-chair the following Ministry Teams:

Carolyn Hatfield - Building and Grounds

Karen Fowler - Finance

Ansley Tweedell - Congregational Care

Donny Whitehead - Christian Education

Dick Zimdars - Worship.

Dana and the Session also expressed sincere gratitude to the Class of 2022, Don Bower, Kay Brooks, Brian Striggow and Chris Wilson, who are rotating off of the Session in January.

Session Retreat

The date for the Session Retreat will be Friday and Saturday January 27-28, 2023. Dana and Luanne will work on finding a location for the retreat.

Mission Study Task Force Report

Prior to the meeting, the Session received a copy of the Mission Study Task Force report compiled by Bert Ballard-Myer, Abby Horvath, Linda Koehler and Chris Wilson and were asked to review it before the meeting.

Following discussion, the Session suggested the following changes be incorporated into the report:

1. Page. 8, Bullet #4 should read "median house or condo value..... and the Georgia median is..."
2. Add educational level of Covenant Presbyterian Church members to p. 5 under Membership.
3. Note that since Presbyterian Village opened, we have members there who are attending church online as well as those who attend in person.
4. Note that some of the parents of teenagers, who are attending the First Presbyterian youth group, haven't come back after Covid.
5. Under History of the Congregation, add Becher Mathes' long tenure as Associate Pastor of Covenant.

The Mission Study Task Force moved we approve the report with suggested changes. Coming from a committee, no second was needed. After discussion, the **motion carried**. Abby Horvath will announce to the congregation that the report will be sent to the NEGA Presbytery Committee on Ministry for approval and then presented to the congregation in January of February during a question/answer session. The Session approved a letter drafted by the Mission Study Task Force which will be sent to members who we haven't seen since Covid. A stamped postcard will be included for them to indicate if they will be coming back. This is an effort to establish an accurate number of active members for our pastor search committee.

Announcements

- Bert Ballard-Myer announced that there will be a volunteer recognition/ appreciation event on February 12, 2023.
- Valerie Stone stated that there are members of St. Gregory's Episcopal Church who are very willing to come and help with outreach activities such as the food bank, grounds pickup, etc.
- More volunteers are needed for Family Promise the week of December 11-18, 2022, which is Covenant's next week to host.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, Kay Brooks moved the meeting be adjourned. Chris Wilson seconded the motion. **Motion passed**. Dana closed with prayer at 8:35 p.m.

Next Stated Meeting: Session Retreat *January 27-28, 2023.*

Dana Waters, Moderator

Luanne Rigsby, Clerk