

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Athens, GA

Stated Session Meeting

October 25, 2022

A stated Session meeting, called according to the Book of Order, was held at Covenant Presbyterian Church and via Zoom on October 25, 2022. Moderator Dana Waters welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present and opened the meeting with prayer at 7:05 p.m.

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

Elders on Zoom: Clayton Adams, Katy Arora, Don Bower and Valerie Stone

Elders absent:

Others present: Luanne Rigsby, Dana Waters

Devotional

Linda Koehler read II Corinthians 10:13-15 and presented a devotional on limitations. As humans, we are inclined to push against limitations. As Christians, we should embrace our limits and, with humility, allow our limits to give us the freedom to live with God and to rely completely on Him.

Review of Minutes

The minutes from the September 27, 2022, stated meeting and the October 4, 2022, called meeting were reviewed. Abby Horvath moved and Jennifer Frey seconded that the minutes be accepted as written. **Motion passed.**

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Chris Wilson and seconded by Brian Striggow to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion passed.**

Financial Report

Clayton Adams reviewed the Financial Summary for September, 2022, as well as the detailed financial report for the month. All looks well for the month. Clayton also reported on the Financial Review done by retired CPA, Lucy Kiel, on the fiscal year which ended June 30, 2022. The Finance Ministry Team have thoroughly reviewed the report and are addressing the suggestions made by Lucy which include a review and determination of all restricted accounts by the ministry teams by the end of January. Lucy also encouraged updating the computer system that we use to do the financial record keeping. In her conclusion, Lucy observed that "the management of the church's

finances continues to be in competent hands." The Financial Report was accepted into the minutes.

Motion from Personnel Committee

Prior to the meeting, the Personnel Committee sent the Session a copy of the 12-month Interim/Transitional Pastor Covenant and Contract between Covenant Presbyterian Church and Rev. Dana Waters which began on December 1, 2021. On behalf of the Personnel Committee, Don Bower moved we renew the Interim/Transitional Pastor, Dana Waters', contract. Renew date is December 1, 2022, for 12 months with the same terms as the first contract. Coming from a committee, no second was needed. Dana excused himself from the room to allow for free discussion. Following discussion, the **motion carried.**

Motion from Personnel Committee

Prior to the meeting, the Personnel Committee sent the Session the revised job description for the position of Outreach Coordinator. Members of the Christian Education Ministry Team, Outreach Ministry Team and the Personnel Committee met and redrafted the job description together. Emphasis is being made on the outreach component of the job in order to attract young families to the church. Presently, with few children and youth attending activities, there are ample adult volunteers willing to work with children and youth on Christian Education activities. Don Bower, on behalf of the Personnel Committee, moved that the job description and advertisement be approved by the Session as written. Coming from a committee, no second was needed. Following discussion, the **motion carried.** Abby Horvath, Personnel Committee co-chair, will make an announcement in church and in *The Covenanter* explain to the congregation the rationale behind the changes in the job description.

Report from Commissioners to the Northeast Georgia Presbytery Meeting

Bert Ballard-Myer, Jennifer Frey, Chris Wilson and Brian Striggow served as Covenant's commissioners to the Northeast Georgia Presbytery meeting at the Monticello Presbyterian Church on October 25, 2022. Bert and Jennifer gave highlights of the meeting, which included the examination and reception of Rev. John McCrosky into the NEGA presbytery as interim pastor of Monticello Presbyterian Church. Rev. Otis Smith of the Black Presbyterian Caucus encouraged all to do our part in fighting systemic racism and suggested the book, *Being White*, by Paula Harris and Doug Schaupp. Rev. Hilary Shuford has returned from her sabbatical. Churches were encouraged to support the UGA Student Center's fund drive to raise \$500,000 for building renovation by contributing \$500.00/year, over what they are already contributing, for 5 years. The Presbytery will hold Prevention of Sexual Abuse Training for church employees.

Announcements

Fellowship – Kay Brooks announced that plans are in the works for the Christmas Progressive Dinner to held on Friday, December 2nd. Kay called for volunteers to host appetizer, entrée and dessert courses. Plans are also being made for a cookie reception to be held after the Christmas Choral Program.

December Stated Meeting Date and Examination of New Elders - Dana Waters announced that the November and December stated Session meetings will be combined into one meeting at 7:00 p.m. on December 6, 2022, during which the new class of elders will be examined.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, Kay Brooks moved and Chris Wilson seconded the meeting be adjourned. **Motion passed.** Dana closed with prayer at 8:02 p.m.

Next Called Meeting: Tuesday, November 1, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Next Stated Meeting: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Katy Arora presents devotional.

Dana Waters, Moderator

Luanne Rigsby, Clerk