Church of the Covenant
Minutes of the Session
August 16, 2017, 7:00pm

Call to Order
The regular meeting of the Session of the Church of the Covenant was called to order by Rev. Amy Starr Redwine and opened with prayer by Rev. Melanie Marsh Baum at 7:01 p.m. on Wednesday, August 16, 2017 in the office area.

Present
Barbara Clint; Jennifer Conner; David Finkenthal; Elizabeth Hagen; Mike Heines; Deni Horstman; Virginia Kallay; Suchi Nelson; Jim Tomaszewski; Rev. Melanie Marsh Baum; Rev. Amy Starr Redwine

Excused
Catherine Jarjisian; Chris Langmack; LaShawna Mitchell; Jim Smekal; Lou Stark

Guests
Kevin Lowry, Chaplain to Students; Keith Kallay, Trustees; Marjie Heines, Deacons; Rev. John Lentz.

Quorum
The Moderator attested that a quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda
The agenda was approved as distributed.

Approval of Consent Agenda
The minutes of the June 28 meeting were amended. The Consent Agenda was approved as amended.

Spiritual Development and Faith Formation: Deni Horstman

Visioning and Strategic thinking –
- Explanation of Greater Cleveland Congregations – Rev. John Lentz  
  - See website for information. www.greaterclevelandcongregations.org  
  - Change systems and structures by working together for social justice.
- All That We Share video and small group discussion  
  - We tend to box people by age. We need to work across generations. We need to talk to people, call them by name and join them in their box. We need to make personal relationships.

Business
- Ministry of Finance - mid-year financial report Keith Kallay, Treasurer, and David Finkenthal, Moderator, Ministry of Finance  
  - Presented current budget and interpreted current loss.  
  - Planning for next year’s budget has begun.
- Stewardship Committee – Mike Heines  
  - Reported on upcoming stewardship events.  
  - Will Klein talked about the upcoming Financial Peace University class.
• Ministry of Faith Formation –
MOTION: That session approve a six-week trial run of weekly Reformation Yoga classes in the fall, taught by Parish Associate Nancy Lynch, with financial support for equipment of up to $300.

DISCUSSION: Attendees will be asked to make a donation to pay the teacher. Other member yoga teachers could be asked to help lead classes. Students will be a target audience. Mike Heines volunteered to contribute the requested $300. Kevin Lowry volunteered that Covenant Student Ministries would match contributions up to $500. The motion was amended as follows.

MOTION: That session approve a six-week trial run of weekly Reformation Yoga classes in the fall, taught by Parish Associate Nancy Lynch, with the directed contribution by Mike Heines of $300.

Action: The motion was approved as amended.

• Discussion of amendments to the Ecclesiastical By-laws and Code of Civil Regulations.
MOTION: David Finkenthal moved that the amendments to the Ecclesiastical By-laws and Code of Civil Regulations be adopted as distributed.

Action: The motion was adopted.

• Discussion of amendments to the Friends of the McGaffin Carillon and the Church of the Covenant Memorandum of Understanding.
MOTION: Deni Horstman moved that the amendments to the Friends of the McGaffin Carillon and the Church of the Covenant Memorandum of Understanding be adopted as distributed.

Action: The motion was adopted.

• Calling a congregational meeting to vote on emeritus status for retired pastors and, if necessary, recommend changes to the bylaws.
MOTION: Elizabeth Hagan moved that a congregational meeting be called to vote on emeritus status for retired pastors and the recommend changes to the bylaws.

Action: The motion was adopted.

Information Sharing
• Clerk’s report: No report.
• Report from Rev. Melanie Marsh Baum –
  o New CE curriculum is starting in the fall.
  o There are five confirmands starting the confirmation process.
• Kevin Lowry distributed a written report.
• Report from Rev. Amy Starr Redwine –
  o Inju Heo is updating the church’s web site.
  o Mildred Russin is retiring. A celebration is scheduled for September 10.
  o The session retreat is scheduled for that weekend too.
  o Distributed report on goals for 2017. (Encl. #1)
The meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer at 8:48 p.m.

The next special meeting of session is the retreat with Rev. Ken McFayden and the Self Study Review Task Force and is scheduled for Friday, September 8 and Saturday, September 9.

The next regular meeting of Session is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the church office.

Will Klein, Clerk of Session

Enclosure