

**CHURCH OF THE COVENANT**  
**MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2013**

**ATTENDING:**

**CURRENT RULING ELDERS PRESENT:** April Betzner, Joyce Camlin, Donna Carlisle, Sue Denmead, Terri Grantz, Linda Grimm, Steve Johnson, Jackie Koman, Mark Murphy, Stacy Phillips, Gary Recktenwald, and Brian Teagarden

**CURRENT RULING ELDERS EXCUSED:** Chris Bury, Shirley Desmond, Debbie Evans, Elsie Hall, Sue Key, and David Taylor

**STAFF PRESENT:** Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg, Rev. Emily Miller, Camille Braun, Janet Nevin, and Don Nixon

**OPENING PRAYER AND DEVOTIONS**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Session of The Church of the Covenant was convened by the Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg, on Monday, September 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Dining Room. Dr. Broberg opened the meeting with a devotional reading from Luke 4:8 which is the focus scripture for “Mission IS Possible”.

**APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET**

The docket for this meeting was reviewed next. After a motion was made by Gary Recktenwald and seconded by Mark Murphy, the September 2013 Session docket was unanimously approved with a revision to add Camille Braun’s review of the security report for the Pre-School area.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2013 SESSION MEETINGS**

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the Session Meeting of August 5<sup>th</sup>, the Special Session Meeting of August 14<sup>th</sup>, and the Called Congregation Meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that there some revisions needed for the Called Congregation Meeting. The Session then unanimously approved these minutes, including the revised minutes from the Called Congregation Meeting.

**NOTES FROM DR. BROBERG**

Dr. Broberg reviewed an upcoming baptism with the Session (Vera Beth Culpepper, infant daughter of **Emily** and Adam **Culpepper**) for the September 22, 2013 11:00 a.m. worship service. This baptism complies with the Church’s Baptism and Wedding policies; therefore, separate Session approval is not needed for this baptism.

Dr. Broberg noted that Pastor Emily will be presented to the Washington Presbytery for its approval as our Associate Pastor at the September Presbytery to be held on Tuesday afternoon, September 10<sup>th</sup>. She needs a ¾ vote by those present to be approved.

We held a Spiritual Kickoff service (including communion) for the “Mission IS Possible” program on Saturday morning, September 7, 2013, in the Chapel. 35 people attended.

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK**

### **BAPTISMS**

**Nicholas Joseph DiPietro**, infant son of **Joseph and Lauren (Barletta) DiPietro** and the grandson of **Lou and JoEllyn Barletta**, was baptized in the sanctuary at the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, August 11, 2013 with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.

### **FUNERALS**

**Patricia B. Weston** died on Wednesday, August 7, 2013. A graveside ceremony was held on Tuesday, August 20, 2013, with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D, Broberg officiating.

**Charles Richard Coen** died on Saturday, August 10, 2013. His funeral service was held in the sanctuary of The Church of the Covenant on Wednesday, August 14, 2013, with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D, Broberg officiating. Interment was at the Washington Cemetery.

**Eleanor T. Dimmack** died on Saturday, August 10, 2013, in Meadville, PA. A memorial service was held in the chapel of The Church of the Covenant on Tuesday, August 20, 2013, with Don Nixon officiating.

**Gordon Allen Wilson** died on Wednesday, August 14, 2013, in Cary, NC. A memorial service was held in the chapel of The Church of the Covenant on Monday, August 19, 2013, with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D, Broberg officiating.

**Joseph Wesley “Wes” Warne** died on Saturday, August 17, 2013. His funeral service was held at the McIlvaine-Speakman Funeral Home in Houston, PA, on Friday, August 23, 2013, with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating. Interment was at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies.

## **SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR**

*Review and Approve the Focus Program for Fall 2013 – “Mission IS Possible”*

Janet Nevin reviewed the timeline and information for the Mission IS Possible fall 2013 Christian Education (CE) program. There were 43 children registered and 70 adults signed up for CE programs related to Mission IS Possible in the fall. There were 12 God in Action small groups for adults. At the end of this 6-week program, the adults will be asked to sign orange mission commitment cards, and Janet asked the Session to lead that effort for the congregation.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Finance Committee* – Brian Teagarden noted expenses have exceeded income by about \$21,000 so far but he recommended that the Session take a wait-and-see approach before anyone gets nervous about our finances. This was an end-of-summer report and giving normally picks in the fall and Advent periods. Brian also reported that he had reviewed the Maintenance Endowment concept with Sue Key, as recommended last month by the Session. Sue will talk to the standing Endowment Committee, and the Session will be provided with a report at a later date.

Next Brian presented his Committee’s review of funds we have invested with the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Fund (PILP). We invested money there over 15 years ago, and the returns

have been very low while funds around us have been doing much better. Recent investments made by the Endowment Committee, for example, have been returning at approx. 13.5%. The PILP funds can be cashed out at regular intervals and one such interval is approaching. The Finance Committee voted in July 2013 to cash out the approx. \$121,000 in our PILP account, and bring those funds back to The Church of the Covenant, using the funds as seed money for the Maintenance Endowment Fund. Mark Murphy moved to cash out our PILP funds at the earliest opportunity, and to have the Endowment Committee figure out the best way to invest those funds. If the Maintenance Endowment Fund becomes a reality after Brian and Sue report back to the Session, then the Endowment Committee can help use those dollars to create that fund. Steve Johnson seconded that motion, and the Session it passed unanimously without discussion.

*Personnel Committee* – Gary Recktenwald, Chairperson – Gary noted that this Committee met and approved the new hire for the afternoon janitor position. That person will be hired once he passes the required clearance checks. This position is part-time for 20 hours per week, including Saturdays as needed.

*OAR Committee* – Donna Carlisle, Chairperson – Donna referred all to her Committee's minutes. Donna led a good review of Involvement Day (September 22<sup>nd</sup>). She reviewed what will be happening on that day. Joyce Camlin asked how the Church will follow up with homebound people or people who cannot attend that day.

*Stewardship Committee* – Debbie Evans, Chairperson – Debbie was away, and Dr. Broberg reported for her.

*Mission Committee* – Steve Johnson, Chairperson – Steve referred everyone to his Committee's minutes, and reminded all that Outreach Weekend will take place on October 4, 5 and 6. He said that he has received letters from local mission groups requesting assistance for that weekend. Steve also said that Operation Christmas Child would like to host a celebration event on Sunday, October 17, 2013. A recipient of Operation Christmas Child shoebox from Honduras will be at our Church on that Sunday. Steve moved to hold this event, Terri Grantz seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

*Worship and Music Committee* – Joyce Camlin, Chairperson – Joyce noted that attendance to date in 2013 was slightly above last year during the same period. She also said that her Committee is asking the Personnel Committee to consider providing funding for a half-time position for a Communication Specialist, focusing on coordination of all activities related to websites and social media as well as external PR work. The Committee voted to have a dinner for Charter Members after the 11:00 worship service on April 27, 2014. Also the Committee voted to ask all veterans to attend a special service on Memorial Day in 2014; a different service will likely be held at a later date for fireman, police and EMT's.

*Christian Education Committee* – Shirley Desmond, Chairperson – Camille Braun briefly reviewed the completed Security Report done in summer 2013 for the Pre-School program. She noted that the report's recommendations have largely been implemented, including establishing safe havens on campus and across the street at Washington and Jefferson. Some physical work

is being done at this time. Mark Murphy moved to receive Camille's synopsis of the report, and April Betzner seconded the motion. Discussion followed, centering around does our insurance carrier need to be informed about this report (NO), and are teachers carrying their cell phones so they can be notified in an emergency (YES). The Session then unanimously approved the synopsis as given by Camille.

Stacy Phillips reviewed the new children's curriculum. Session voted unanimously to approve this material for use.

Janet Nevin advised the Session that a three-Presbyterian-church group (Faith U.P., 1<sup>st</sup> 1793 U.P., and our Church) will hold a family event on October 13, 2013 at Faith U.P. It will be a progressive-type dinner to educate all about the church year, culminating in a bonfire.

*Nominating Committee* – Elsie Hall, Chairperson – Elsie was away, and Dr. Broberg reported for her, noting that Elsie will give a full report at the October 2013 Session meeting..

*Building and Grounds Committee* – Mark Murphy, Chairperson – Mark referred to his Committee's minutes, and noted that the tenant had moved out of our 35 North Avenue property.

*Administration Committee* – Jonathan Pachter, Chairperson – no report. Dr. Broberg thanked the many donors who had given second mile gifts in 2013.

*Endowment Committee and Memorial Committee* – no report.

*Ministry Team*– no report.

#### **DATES OF NOTE**

The next scheduled Communion will be held on Sunday, October 6, 2013. The next regular Session meeting will be on Monday, October 7, 2013, starting at 7:00 p.m. The next Stated Presbytery Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 starting at 4:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Finleyville, PA, with Charlie Bowers and Donna Carlisle scheduled to attend.

#### **ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER**

After a motion by Donna Carlisle with a second from April Betzner, Session unanimously approved a motion to adjourn. The meeting was closed with a prayer at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jonathan*

Jonathan M. Pachter  
Clerk of Session