

**CHURCH OF THE COVENANT**  
**MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2013**

**ATTENDING:**

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

**CURRENT RULING ELDERS EXCUSED:** Chris Bury, Elsie Hall, Jackie Koman, and David Taylor

**STAFF PRESENT:** Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg, Rev. Emily Miller, 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, November 4, 2013 at 7:06 p.m. in the Dining Room. Dr. Broberg opened the meeting with a devotional reading from Matthew 19:16 - "With God, all things are possible".

**APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET**

The docket for this meeting was reviewed next. After a motion was made by Mark Murphy and seconded by Shirley Desmond, the November 2013 Session docket was unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2013 SESSION MEETING**

The minutes from the October 2013 regular Session meeting and the annual congregation meeting were unanimously approved, with minor modifications as noted.

**NOTES FROM DR. BROBERG AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK**

**Matthew and Amanda Piatt** have requested to have their infant son, Blake Matthew Piatt, born September 20, 2013, baptized on Sunday, November 24, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. **Steven and April Devenney** have requested to have their infant son Jackson Devenney, born February 14, 2013 baptized on Sunday, December 8, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. **Sean and Rebecca Salisbury** have requested to have their infant daughter (we don't have full name yet) on Tuesday, December 24, 2013 at the 6:00 p.m. service. Dr. Broberg noted that all of these baptisms comply with the Church's Baptism Policy so additional Session approval is not needed. The information was provided to inform the Session.

Tamara McCrory Luchovick has transferred her letter of membership but also requested to be kept as an affiliate member here. Dr. Broberg explained the meaning of affiliate member status. After a motion was made by Mark Murphy and seconded by Linda Grimm, the Session unanimously approved affiliate member status for Mrs. McCrory.

Dr. Broberg then brought up Alex Miller to provide the Session with an update of his time at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and to summarize his ministry with homeless people in Pittsburgh. Alex gave a verbal status report and answered some questions.

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK**

### **Baptisms and Funerals**

There were no baptisms or funerals reported for October.

### **Weddings**

**Gabriella Brova** and Charles Selvoski were married in the sanctuary of The Church of the Covenant on Saturday, October 12, 2013, with Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.

## **SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR**

### ***2014 Budget Discussion***

Dr. Broberg and Brian Teagarden reviewed the progress made on the 2014 Church operating budget. Brian noted that all Committees have provided him with their proposed budget information. If revisions still need to be submitted then the Committees need to give those revisions to Debi Nicolella. Dr. Broberg advised that the initial budget numbers will be compared to the 2014 pledge amounts in the near future.

*Discussion of the Ministry Pledging Sequence and Recruitment of New Members for Committees*  
Debi Nicolella had given the Committee chairs their last Committee ministry plans. Dr. Broberg pointed out that the 2014 ministry planning sequence will begin in January 2014. Draft ministry plans for the 2014-2015 program year will be given by each Committee to the Session at the April 2014 regular Session meeting.

He also said that the Committee chairs need to seek out new members for their committees. That task needs to be done in November and December 2013, so follow-up discussions can occur early in 2014.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Finance Committee* – Brian Teagarden, chairperson - Brian reported that we are down about \$41,000 year-to-date when income and expenses are compared to budget. Unpledged income (giving not accounted for by other means) is unexpectedly down. Unpledged income has been a relatively constant amount from year to year. He said that letters will be sent to the congregation soon advising them of the situation. Brian said that he hopes to make up the difference by the end of 2013, and addressed questions on this matter.

*Personnel Committee* – Gary Recktenwald, Chairperson – Gary advised the Session that Janet Nevin, the Church's Director of Christian Education (DCE), has elected to retire at the end of 2013. He provided the Session with a memo that outlined important dates in the transition process for hiring a new Director. Janet Nevin then addressed the Session. There were many words of thanks and congratulations offered to Janet by the members of the Session.

Gary and Dr. Broberg told the Session that it needs to act on Mrs. Nevin's request to retire by the end of this year. Since the motion came from Committee, no second would be needed. The Session then unanimously approved Janet's retirement request. A letter will be sent to the congregation in the next few days.

Gary then reviewed the transition memo in detail with the Session. He reviewed the Designated DCE process, and said that the Personnel Committee has been working to fill that position. Stacy Phillips has stepped forward and said she wanted to be considered for that job. The Personnel Committee recommended her to the Session for the position of Designated DCE. Since the motion came from Committee, no second would be needed. The Session then unanimously approved Stacy Phillips as the Designated DCE, with her start date to be January 1, 2014. Janet and Stacy will be working together through the end of 2013 so that this transition is as easy as it can be. Janet said that she is not leaving our Church and that she will be around if consultations are needed.

The transition plan then calls for the Session to approve a Search Committee (mainly consisting of Personnel and CE Committee members) for a permanent DCE, with their work starting in January 2014. Stacy Phillips will be able to apply for the permanent DCE position.

*OAR Committee* –Donna Carlisle, Chairperson – Donna thanked everyone for supporting the spaghetti dinner. Donna also said that the congregation's participation in the Involvement Day was less than hoped for, and that ways to improve our involvement need to be developed. Don Nixon discussed training for the upcoming Billy Graham television event.

*Stewardship Committee* – Debbie Evans, Chairperson – Debbie reminded the Session that Consecration Sunday will be held on November 10th. Pledge cards will be filled out during the 11:00 a.m. worship service as well as the orange mission involvement cards.

*Mission Committee* – Steve Johnson, Chairperson – Steve said that the Mission Committee will be reviewing all the programs that we support with money, to help insure that our mission dollars are being spent in the best possible way.

*Worship and Music Committee* – Joyce Camlin, Chairperson – Joyce asked the Session to review her Committee's minutes. There was some discussion about encouraging the congregation to remain seated during the postlude at the end of the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

*Christian Education Committee* – Shirley Desmond, Chairperson – Shirley asked the Session to review the Committee's minutes. She thanked everyone for their help in supporting the Pumpkin Patch children event, held on October 26th. Janet Nevin noted that over 120 people had participated in the God in Action small groups.

*Nominating Committee* – Elsie Hall, Chairperson – Speaking for Elsie, Dr. Broberg said that each of the people elected at the October congregation meeting will be sent letters relaying the early 2014 schedule of activities for their new positions.

*Building and Grounds Committee* – Mark Murphy, Chairperson – there was much discussion about continuing the lease with Family Promise. The Committee is displeased with the way that Family Promise has not complied with some of the provisions of the lease. There are liability issues that need to be addressed. We need to work out these issues with the Family Promise group. The lease will be carefully evaluated.

*Endowment Committee, Administration Committee and Memorial Committee* – no reports.

*Ministry Team*

Pastor Emily reported that seven in-house communion teams served communion to 32 people on November 3rd. This program is greatly appreciated by our home-bound members. She also said that the healing service to be held later in the season will be tailored to needs for this time of year, when many people have special emotional concerns.

Dr. Broberg told the Session that David Olson, the gentlemen who played the bagpipes at the November 3, 2013 11:00 a.m. worship service, passed away that same day.

**DATES OF NOTE**

The next scheduled Communion will be held on Sunday, December 1, 2013. The next Stated Session meeting will be on December 3, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.; it will be the Session Christmas Party, held at "The Manse". The next stated meeting of the Washington Presbytery will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 330 p.m. at the Thomas United Presbyterian Church, Eighty Four PA; Linda Grimm and Charlie Bowers are scheduled to attend.

**ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER**

After a motion by Debbie Evans with a second from Shirley Desmond, Session unanimously approved a motion to adjourn. Dr. Broberg then closed the meeting with a prayer at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Jonathan**

Jonathan M. Pachter  
Clerk of Session