1. PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Christian Education Committee at The Church of the Covenant, PCUSA is to nurture the faith in and knowledge of God and Jesus Christ, as expressed in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. The Church of the Covenant, PCUSA will develop, provide, monitor, and evaluate a comprehensive program of classes, seminars, workshops, and disciple making ministries for children, youth, and adults. This effort will be led by the ordained and program staff of the church, its lay leadership, and volunteers. The committee provides and monitors opportunities for members to investigate, nurture, and deepen their Christian faith and adjusts these programs as needs change. The committee is also responsible to assist the church staff in leadership, recognizing the vitality and future of the church ‘family’ is dependent on this vision. Our purpose is in furtherance of the church vision statement – To know Christ and to make Him known to the next generation.

II. EVALUATION AND REVIEW

As the goals of our previous Ministry Plan were reviewed, several accomplishments are worth mentioning.

1. Purchased a 12 passenger van.
2. Established a permanent fund for booking speakers.
3. Increased adult education offerings.
4. Established small group ministries (Experiencing God and Becoming a Good Samaritan).
5. Instituted the mid-week speaker series – a vital venue for adult education.
6. Experienced growth in children’s programs – VBS (180+ kids; 80+ staff members); God’s Garden; Punkin’ Patch
7. Established vibrant youth opportunities with an emphasis on mission.
8. Programs and discipleship opportunities continue to touch the lives and hearts of children, youth, adults, and families.
GOALS FOR 2014-2015 – Year of Biblical Engagement

GOAL #1: Present a compelling vision for a full-time Christian Education position. Layout a plan to get to the next level.

GOAL #2: Present a Theme - Learning to love God/The Year of Biblical Engagement

1. Inductive approach – if we get people reading, they will ask questions.
2. WOW event – fill the Covenant Center – Big name speaker – Big Hoot ’n Nanny!
3. Plan out the year. Connect everything – avoid random events.
4. “Walk through the Bible” (New Testament) event – August 8-9 at Laurelville.

GOAL #3: Provide opportunities for youth in grades 6 to 12 that will most enable them to actively pursue a growing and vital relationship with Jesus Christ.

1. Experiences include, but are not limited to:
   A. Weekly Youth Group
   B. Camping
   C. Retreats
   D. Mission Trips
   E. Conferences
   F. Youth Sunday
   G. Small Groups
   H. Various Social Activities

2. Outcomes
   A. Completing the Confirmation process.
   B. Being able to articulate their faith to a peer.
   C. Regular personal devotions.
   D. Being able to pray in a group setting.
   E. Writing a second statement of faith before graduating from high school.
   F. Regular church/Sunday School/youth group attendance at least three times per month.
   G. Seeking fellowship with a church or Christ-centered fellowship group wherever they may be.

GOAL #4: Provide opportunities for children (age 3—5th grade) to grow toward active, vibrant adult Christians. Identify specific educational outcomes for children during this time. For example:

1. Bible Skills
   A. Bible Navigation and Overview
      1) Old/New Testament
      2) Book, chapter, verse
      3) Locate scripture
      4) Memorize books of the Bible
      5) Age appropriate practice of Bible navigation skills with major emphasis in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. Tools to achieve this may include, but are not limited to:
         a. Books of the Bible songs
         b. Flash cards
         c. Other curriculum
   B. Scripture Memorization- Memory verses will be provided every month to each Sunday school class. Scriptures will be determined by the staff and the Children’s Ministry team.
   C. Additional memorization in the upper grades may include:
      1) The Lord’s Prayer
2) The Apostle’s Creed

D. Demonstration of memorization will be shown through the following recitation methods:
   1) In class
   2) During the children’s message
   3) During chapel gathering time
   4) During the quarterly Sunday School Extravaganza
   5) During Rally Day

E. Prizes, ribbons, written awards, or other means of recognizing may be considered for outstanding achievement.

2. Establish a Children’s emphasis Sunday in conjunction with the Worship and Music committee.
3. Investigate establishing more family programs - ways to integrate young families. Use of means such as, but not limited to:
   A. Establishing a children’s program during 9:43 worship.
   B. Family movie nights.
   C. Pitch-in dinner with a “create and take” program.
   D. Parenting class run in conjunction with a children’s component for a 4-6 week period.
   E. Intergenerational mission project.
   F. Intentional activities for preschool parents, such as but not limited to:
      A. Monthly morning coffee program.
      B. Parents’ Christmas shopping day out.

4. Investigate the use of a Sunday School Superintendent – establishing set volunteer roles. This goal is in keeping with the current hours of the Christian Education Director, and in wanting to offer more volunteer opportunities for others. Responsibilities should be defined and volunteers given the tools and training to be successful.

5. Establish a plan to use the earmarked Light the Fire Campaign funds. There are funds set aside for youth lounge and Sunday school class improvements/renovations, as well as for nursery updates. Determine monies available. Work with Ralph and the Buildings and Grounds committee.

GOAL #5: Provide opportunities for adults to investigate, nurture, and deepen their faith and grow in the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ.

1. Continue growth of Sunday school and small group ministries.
2. Explore opportunities for on-line adult education.
3. Explore opportunities for college age ministry.
4. Explore opportunities for young married couples. Include child care.
5. Explore opportunities for women’s group ministries.
6. Continue the mid-week series with teaching as the focal point – lecture format.
7. Offer Bethel Bible, Alpha, or other Biblical emphasis/discipleship classes as determined by staff and the adult education ministry team.
8. Word/share/prayer – ask Monday Readers and other existing groups to use as a kickoff.

Respectfully submitted by the Christian Education Committee:
Jessica Hickman, Chairperson, elder representative
Sue Denmead, elder representative and secretary
Shirley Desmond
Terri Grantz
Kathy Kephart
Andy Kluczkan, Adult Education
Virginia McDade Foster, Preschool Representative
Kathy Nassar
Camille Braun, Pre School Director
Don Nixon, Director of Spiritual Development, staff liaison
Stacy Phillips, Designated Director of Christian Education, staff liaison