

**CHURCH OF THE COVENANT**  
**MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, JULY 11, 2016**

**ATTENDING:**

ELDERS PRESENT: Pat Boyer, Joel Braun, George Camlin, Gordon Core, Jerry Davison, Dan Halulko, Cindy Garlisi, Steve Marriner, Crystal Miles, Joan McCrory, Dennis Myers, Chuck Neff, Kim O'Donnell, and Katie Wichterman

ELDERS EXCUSED: Jim Little and David Taylor

ELDERS RESIGNED: Ashley Bashioum, Jessica Hickman (now on staff)

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg, Jessica Hickman, 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 D. Broberg, on Monday, July 11, 2016 at 7:02 p.m. in the Dining Room. Dr. Broberg led the group in prayer to open the July Session meeting. He also thanked the Session and the congregation for their expressions of concern over the recent passing of his father. His devotion was from 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4.

**APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET AND MINUTES**

The docket for this meeting was reviewed next. After a motion was made by Jerry Davison and seconded by Pat Boyer, the July 2016 Session docket was unanimously approved with one minor revision. After a motion was made by Dan Halulko and seconded by George Camlin, four sets of minutes from the June 6, 2016 regular Session meeting and three special Session meetings (held June 6<sup>th</sup>, June 14<sup>th</sup>, and June 26<sup>th</sup>) were unanimously approved.

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A BAPTISM**

Approval of Baptisms – Dr. Broberg advised the Session that an upcoming baptism request complies with the Church's baptism policy and does not need to be approved by the Session. **Shannon Buri** (member) and her husband, Travis Buri, requested that their daughter, Arabella Claire Buri, be baptized on Sunday, July 31, 2016, at the 9:43 worship service.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK**

Jami Simon Maleski requested approval of a letter of transfer from The Church of the Covenant to Faith United Presbyterian Church, Washington PA. George Camlin moved to approve that request, Kim O'Donnell seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

Dr. Broberg reviewed a letter received from the Washington Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (CoM) regarding our hiring of Rev. Kay Balderose as our Minister of Christian Education. Dr. Broberg felt that the letter was a request by the CoM for more information about our process, and that we should consider the CoM's position on this matter. Dr. Broberg recommended that we invite the members of the CoM to our August 8, regular Session meeting to discuss the matter. The Session agreed with his recommendation, and Jonathan Pachter was directed as Clerk of Session to draft such a letter and send it to the CoM after review by Dr. Broberg and Cindy Garlisi, chairperson of the Personnel Committee.

*Baptisms*

Session Meeting,

July 11, 2016

Page 2

**Hailey Kathleen McCarter**, daughter of Katherine Jones McCarter and daughter of Patrick McCarter, born July 20, 2012, was baptized on Sunday, June 12, 2016, during the 9:43 worship service. The Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiated.

**Colton Clingermanstang**, born April 18, 2001, and son of Kristin Clingerman and Robin Stang, was baptized as an adult, on Sunday, June 12, 2016, during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiated.

**Owen Robert Meerdo**, son of Elizabeth (McDaniel) and Robert Meerdo III, born January 9, 2016, was baptized on Sunday, June 19, 2016, during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. He is the grandson of Craig and Susan McDaniel and the great-grandson of Virginia Tichnel. The Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiated.

### *Weddings*

On Saturday, June 18, 2016 **Laura Smith and Paul Phillips** (members) were married in the sanctuary of The Church of the Covenant with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.

### *Funerals*

**Marilyn Crawford** (member) died Thursday, June 9, 2016. Her memorial service was held on Saturday, June 25, 2016 at The Church of the Covenant with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.

## **SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR**

### *A. Light the Fire Campaign Wrap Up Report*

Steve Marriner and Dr. Broberg provided the Session with a wrap up report about the Light the Fire campaign. This wrap up report was result of conversations held during the June 2016 Session meeting. Steve provided the Session members with a written report (copy attached for the records), and thanked Dr. Broberg, Anthony Nicolella and Jonathan Pachter for their assistance in providing the data used in the report. Steve then asked for questions and comments. Joan McCrory noted that we need to figure out how to provide this information to the congregation. Steve promised that the report would be sent out to the congregation. Pat Boyer commended those responsible for compiling the report. Gordon Core moved to approve the report, Pat Boyer seconded the motion, and the Session then unanimously voted to approve the motion.

### *B. Discussion of the Day of Sharing*

George Camlin reviewed the plans for the Day of Sharing, to be held on Saturday, September 10, 2016. We will have a Task Force that will develop plans to do mission activities that weekend. These mission plans will correlate to the National Day of Service called for by President Obama to commemorate September 11, 2001 (a.k.a. 9/11). There will be multiple mission locations across the city of Washington, and the groups involved could have their own table (with brochures and cookies) at each location. George noted that the folks at Washington and Jefferson may be interested in working with us on this project.

### *C. 9/11 and Rally Day Planning*

Dr. Broberg said that he feels the Church is turning itself around and moving away from feelings of lethargy and negativism toward a more forward-looking and positive attitude. The fall of

Session Meeting,

July 11, 2016

Page 3

2016 will be a fresh start! He asked the Session to take the lead in creating plans to help everything come together in a positive light. We have lots to relay to the congregation, including the organ repair project, new CE staff, and the great finish to the Light the Fire campaign.

As part of the message, we need to participate in the Regional Prayer event in Pittsburgh at Point State Park on Friday night, September 9, 2016. That will be followed by the Day of Sharing on September 10, and special events on September 11.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### *Finance Committee*

Steve Marriner, chairperson, referred all to his Committee's report. He noted that our finances have mainly righted themselves thanks to Dr. Broberg's fundraising efforts. We also have implemented measures to conserve spending, sent out letters to improve both pledged and unpledged giving, and add funds into our per capita requirements. Dr. Broberg's efforts resulted in challenge grant letters and enough income to take care of our new CE hires and some other needs. Steve thanked Dr. Broberg, and noted that his Committee will take stock of our finances at the end of August, and will report back to the Session in early September. Steve and Dr. Broberg requested that the Session Committee chairs meet together to discuss financial issues at 7:00 p.m. after the conclusion of the Finance Committee meeting on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### *Personnel Committee*

Cindy Garlisi, chairperson, thanked everyone for their prayers and assistance during her recovery from her recent medical issues. She asked Pat Boyer to let the Session what has been happening with the Personnel Committee while Cindy was ill. Pat Boyer reviewed the recent Committee on Ministry meeting that she attended along others from the Church, in which Rev. Kay Balderose's hiring as our Minister of CE was considered. The CoM was concerned why we did not follow the usual long Nominating Committee route. They did concur with bringing Rev. Balderose on board. She asked us to attend the September 13, 2016 Presbytery meeting to be held in Charleroi, PA, in which Rev. Balderose will be questioned by the Presbytery.

### *OAR Committee*

Don Nixon reviewed the upcoming prayer summits, in Pittsburgh on Friday night, September 9, and at our Church on Sunday, September 11. He said that we will sponsor a group of folks to travel to Harrisburg, PA, on September 15, 2016, to hear Franklin Graham.

### *Stewardship Committee*

Gordon Core (chairperson) provided the Session with an outline of the fall stewardship campaign. He noted that a letter was recently sent to the congregation, advising them of our current financial state, and asking people to consider providing a special gift at this time. He said that someone has provided a \$5,000 matching grant that would go into effect if the congregation matches that number, making the total gift \$10,000. Gordon said that the goal for the fall campaign is \$600,000 plus 60% of all giving units (approximately 300 of 500). Dr. Broberg has already secured a pledge towards that fall goal.

According to Mr. Core, the fall campaign will consist of two phases. The first phase will be a quiet phase which will start with the Session at the August Session meeting. Each Session member will receive a pledge card that should be returned at the September 2016 Session

Session Meeting,

July 11, 2016

Page 4

meeting. The goal is for the Session to demonstrate a 100% pledging commitment. The Stewardship Committee will meet individually with the Chairs of the Committees. The second phase will be a more public phase, involving the whole congregation, and will begin no later than October 10, 2016 with letters to the people and testimony from the pulpit. The campaign will conclude in late November 2016.

#### *Mission Committee*

Chuck Neff (chairperson) referred everyone to the Committee's minutes from their last meeting. Chuck advised that Pastor Pierre will be at The Church of the Covenant in September 2016. He also noted that the Mission Committee had approved giving a donation to Resurrection Power of \$5,000 for their young adult efforts, as authorized by the Light the Fire campaign.

#### *Worship and Music Committee*

George Camlin (chairperson) advised that the pipe organ repair project is complete and paid for. But we need to start a new organ repair project, with the work to be done by folks from the Church. The air chamber bellows need to be repaired to fix many leaks, and that work will be done in August and early September 2016.

George also asked the Session to approve the baptism of a very ill friend of Ben Evans, a person who is not presently a member. The motion came from Committee to approve the baptism, and Pat Boyer seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously by the Session.

#### *Christian Education Committee*

Katie Wichterman (chairperson) stated that Rev. Kay Balderose will start her new job as Minister of CE on July 15, 2016. She also said that Jessica Hickman has hit the ground running in her new position, and is working on Vacation Bible School (VBS) plans. VBS runs from July 20 to July 22 in the morning. Katie said the Sunday school materials for fall 2016 are being reviewed, adult education classes are being lined up, and new confirmation class procedures are being considered. She also said that additional Nursery help is needed; people must have the appropriate clearances.

#### *Nominating Committee*

Pat Boyer (chairperson) said that her Committee is nearing completion of the new slate of officers.

#### *Building and Grounds Committee*

Jerry Davison (chairperson) advised the Session that today was a tough day for the Building and Grounds Committee. A water heater had to be replaced at a rental property, a refrigerator in the kitchen failed, and Ralph Farabee and his group of volunteers had to deal with several other issues as well. Jerry said that John Artuso has agreed to coordinate our efforts for the parking lot repairs and will start on that when he and his family returns from vacation. That project will also include repair of the parking lot drain near the Family Promise House.

#### *Administration Committee*

Jonathan Pachter (chairperson) reported that members of this Committee and Dr. Broberg will meet with Charlesetta McKinney in Pittsburgh on Saturday, July 30, to kick off the effort to revise our by-laws.

*Endowment Committee*

Steve Marriner requested that the folks working on revisions to the by-laws consider making changes regarding allocation of undesignated gifts. He feels that work needs to be done in 2016. He also noted that we need to define how much of our Endowment dollars need to go into our annual operating budgets. Steve also said that PNC will come this fall to discuss strategy for maximizing the return on our investments with them. He will let the Session chairs know about this meeting as soon as he lines up a date. Dan Halulko noted that he will need to recuse himself from any meetings with PNC since he is a PNC employee.

*Memorial Committee*

No report.

**PASTORAL CARE REPORT**

Dr. Broberg told the Session that Linda Grimm has been a real blessing to our congregation, and to him and his family, in her role as our Parish Nurse. She has made many home and hospital visitations. Cindy Garlisi and Joan McCrory concurred with Dr. Broberg. He noted that Don Nixon and the Ministry Team have also been helping with visitations and follow-up visits. The Deacons are also helping with visitations.

**DATES OF NOTE**

The next communion will be held on Sunday, August 7, 2016. The next Stated Session meeting will be held on Monday, August 8, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. The next Stated Presbytery Meeting will take place on September 13, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. Charles Bowers and Gordon Core are scheduled to attend.

**ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER**

Pat Boyer moved to adjourn and Cindy Garlisi seconded that motion. Session approved the motion unanimously. Don Nixon closed the meeting with a prayer at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jonathan M. Pachter*

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session