

**CHURCH OF THE COVENANT**  
**MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2016**

**ATTENDING:**

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

ELDERS EXCUSED: Kim O'Donnell and David Taylor

ELDER RESIGNED: Ashley Bashioum and Jessica Hickman (now on staff)

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg, Rev. Kay Balderose, 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, September 12, 2016 at 7:04 p.m. in the Dining Room. Dr. Broberg reviewed our Church's Mission Statement with the Session, and read from Psalm 90, Matthew 25, and Matthew 28. Dr. Broberg then led the group in prayer to open the September 2016 Session meeting.

**APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET AND MINUTES**

The docket for this meeting was reviewed next. After a motion was made by Pat Boyer and seconded by Jerry Davison, the September 2016 Session docket was unanimously approved.

After a motion was made by Cindy Garlisi and seconded by Jim Little, the minutes from the August 2016 regular Session meeting were unanimously approved with two minor revisions.

**OCTOBER 3, 2016 REGULAR MONTHLY SESSION MEETING**

Dr. Broberg reminded the Session that the October 2016 Session meeting will be held on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**ATTEND THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2016 PRESBYTERY MEETING**

Dr. Broberg asked the Session members to attend the September 13<sup>th</sup> Washington Presbytery meeting along with others from our Church to show support for Rev. Balderose when she is examined by the Presbytery for our Minister of Christian Education. He expects Rev. Balderose to be approved.

**SEND LETTER OF INVITATION TO COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY FOR AN ORDER OF THE DAY AT OUR REGULAR OCTOBER SESSION MEETING AT 7:30 P.M.**

Dr. Broberg asked the Session to invite the Washington Presbytery's Committee on Ministry to attend the October 3, 2016 regular Session meeting. Dan Halulko moved that motion, Chuck Neff seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved it. Jonathan Pachter will send that letter, with writing help from Dr. Broberg.

### **APPROVAL OF BAPTISMS**

**Jason and Amy Dille** (members) requested the baptism of their infant son, Henry Charles Dille, born February 12, 2016, on Sunday, October 23, 2016 with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating. This baptism complies with our Baptism Policy and does not need to be approved by the Session.

Dr. Broberg told the Session that the Fergus family would like to have their granddaughter's baptism recorded in our Church's roll. That would require Session approval. This action was referred to the Worship and Music Committee for its consideration.

### **CONGREGATION MEETING**

Dr. Broberg requested that the Session approve holding a congregation meeting after the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, October 23, 2016. The purposes of this meeting will be to hear the report of the Nominating Committee, and to elect officers. Charlesetta McKinney will be the parliamentarian. Gordon Core moved to hold the congregation meeting as noted above on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Dennis Myers seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK**

**Edward and Helen Fae Dally**, along with their daughter **Amy Dally Rakosky**, request membership transfer to Roscoe Presbyterian Church in Roscoe, PA. Rev. Emily Miller has requested transfer of her family's memberships; husband **Edward**, and children **Maxwell, Macy, Malcom and Murphy Miller**, to First United Presbyterian Church in Houston, PA. Chuck Neff moved to approve these transfers, George Camlin seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion. Dr. Broberg said that he would advise the Session when Rev. Miller's installation service will be held at the Houston church.

#### *Baptisms and Weddings*

There were no baptisms or weddings to report for August 2016.

#### *Funerals*

**Wilma Fisher Beeghly** (member) died March 24, 2016. Her memorial service was held on Saturday, August 6, 2016 at The Church of the Covenant with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.

**Richard Clark "Dick" Foster** (member) died on Monday, August 8, 2016. The funeral service was held on Friday, August 12th at Warco-Falvo Funeral Home with Pastor Gary Gibson officiating. Interment followed at the North Buffalo Cemetery.

**Joseph A. Donham** (member) died on Sunday, August 14, 2016. The funeral service was held on Friday, August 19th at The Church of the Covenant with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating. Interment followed at Sylvan Heights Cemetery, Uniontown, PA.

## **SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR**

### *Annual Review with Jim Agnew*

Jim Agnew met with the Session and reviewed his current status. He is still under the care of the Washington Presbytery, as well as our care. In 2015, the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (CoM) approved him to seek a call. He will remain under care until he returns to be ordained at the Church. He has completed his field education and has worked at the Chartiers Hill United Presbyterian Church, but is no longer employed there. Jim noted that he has had issues with the CoM and is now finding it difficult to secure a job in this area. He said that he has been without a paycheck since August 1, 2016. Katie Wichterman promised to pass on his resume to a church in Belle Vernon where her grandfather served. The Session promised to pray for him and to advise if any possibilities could be found. Jim left the meeting at this time.

Dr. Broberg then advised the Session that he would propose to provide Jim with a financial gift to help him out until another door of opportunity opens for him. Use of that fund does not require Session approval, and the Session concurred with this action.

### *Rally Day Planning*

Katie Wichterman and Jessica Hickman described the activities that will take place on Rally Day, Sunday, September 18, 2016. She asked for help from the Session members in setting up, general assistance while the events are occurring, and cleaning up. They described the children's mission focus and how it ties into our Church's mission statement.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### *Finance Committee*

Steve Marriner (chairperson) advised the Session that the budget still is in the "yellow" state. He noted that employee benefits need to be kept "as is" for now. Committee 2017 budget estimates should be provided to the Finance Committee in October.

### *Personnel Committee*

Cindy Garlisi (chairperson) told the Session that Board of Pensions costs will increase in 2017, as the Board has changed the benefits package. Debi Nicolella reported to the Committee on this issue. There will be no change in the benefits that are provided to Dr. Broberg and to Rev. Balderose. But there will be changes to the benefits for the other staff members; i.e., Debi Nicolella, Don Nixon, Cindy Barney and Ralph Farabee. Personnel will submit the same plan of benefits for those four as in 2016, and will do so by the deadline of September 30, 2016. Personnel plans to evaluate other health care packages in 2017.

### *OAR Committee*

Jim Little said that the Prayer Summit began on September 11. Don Nixon said that the Prayer Pittsburgh event was held in Point State Park on Friday, September 9. Jim stated that the Committee has started an effort to try to improve Outreach to the congregation in advising people about all the various programs we offer.

*Stewardship Committee*

Gordon Core (chairperson) reviewed the basics of the fall 2016 stewardship campaign. He updated the Session on four points from that campaign. First, the congregation gave \$5,815 during the summer CE match. The match goal was \$5,000. The total given therefore was \$10,815.

Second, another \$5,000 matching grant has been offered for the last quarter of 2016. This pledge is felt to be a lead-in to the fall stewardship campaign.

Third, the quiet phase of the fall campaign has ended as all Committees met with members of the Stewardship Committee. To date, \$102,984 has been pledged by 28 members of the various Committees, for an average pledge of \$3,678. Stewardship hopes to keep that pledge average throughout the fall campaign.

Finally, a brief line regarding estate planning and naming the Church in personal estate plans was added to the 2016 pledge card. Four people of the 28 pledging to date checked that box. Gordon was very excited about that fact, and the potential for that extending to others. He asked that we quietly thank anyone that we become aware of who has decided to include the Church in their estate plans.

*Mission Committee*

Chuck Neff and Joan McCrory described the Mission Emphasis weekend starting on October 2, 2016. They envision having a guest speaker for the worship services on Sunday, October 2, followed by a small dinner afterwards. Chuck also noted that the Haiti spaghetti dinner fundraiser will be held on Tuesday, October 4, 2016. All those funds will be used for food in Haiti through the New Testament Ministry. There will also be a Silent Auction.

*Worship and Music Committee*

George Camlin (chairperson) reviewed the Day of Sharing activities. He said it went well, and 20 people participated. He also reviewed the 9/11 service. Everyone felt that service went very well. George pointed out that other major services will be held in October and November, including Family Sunday (10/16), Old Time Religion Sunday (10/23), and Remembrance Sunday (11/13).

*Christian Education Committee*

Katie Wichterman (chairperson) advised the Session that the CE Committee is seeking someone (with all required clearances) to volunteer as Sunday School Superintendent. She also noted Pre-School numbers are down a bit from 2015, but they are more than expected.

Katie also said that Miss JoAnn will celebrate her 25-year anniversary as a teacher in our Pre-School this fall. Jim Little moved that the Session thanks Miss JoAnn for her 25 years of service, Joel Braun seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved it. Dr. Broberg will send her a letter noting this motion, and thanking her for her service.

*Nominating Committee*

Pat Boyer (chairperson) told the Session that the slate for the class of 2019 is now complete. The slate also includes elders to be replaced for the class of 2018, and one deacon for the class of 2017. Dr. Broberg reminded the Session that the slate can only be approved by the congregation; we only pass it on to them.

*Building and Grounds Committee*

Jerry Davison (chairperson) said that the parking lot repairs are almost complete. Some painting and crack sealing still need to be done. The total for the work is \$52,790, including the \$44,690 for planned work, and the additional \$8,100 needed for unexpected back lot work and drain line work. Jerry also advised that a 3<sup>rd</sup> phone line will be provided to the Church at a cost of about \$300 per year

*Administration Committee, Endowment Committee, and Memorial Committee*

No report.

**PASTORAL CARE REPORT**

Dr. Broberg. He said that he is very glad that Rev. Balderose is on board; she has been a great help. He thanked Don Nixon for pastoral work, and that he has really stepped up. He advised that Linda Grimm has been doing an exceptional job as Parish Nurse.

**DATES OF NOTE**

The next communion will be held on Sunday, October 2, 2016. The next regular Session meeting will be held starting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 3, 2016. The next Washington Presbytery meeting will be held on November 8, 2016 starting at 7:00 p.m., at the Taylorstown Presbyterian Church with Charles Bowers and Cindy Garlisi scheduled to attend.

**ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER**

Pat Boyer moved to adjourn and Dan Halulko seconded that motion. Session approved the motion unanimously. Rev. Balderose closed the meeting with a prayer at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Jonathan M. Pachter](#)

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session