

**CHURCH OF THE COVENANT**  
**MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2016**

**ATTENDING:**

ELDERS PRESENT: Pat Boyer, George Camlin, Gordon Core, Jerry Davison, Jim Little, Steve Marriner, Joan McCrory, Dennis Myers, Chuck Neff, Kim O'Donnell, and David Taylor

ELDERS EXCUSED: Joel Braun, Cindy Garlisi, Dan Halulko, Crystal Miles and Katie Wichterman

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

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg, Rev. Kay Balderose, 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, November 7, 2016 at 7:06 p.m. in the Dining Room. Dr. Broberg reviewed Philippians 4:4 with the group. Dr. Broberg then led the group in prayer to open the November 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 Dennis Myers, the November 2016 Session docket was unanimously approved. Dr. Broberg advised the Session that the meeting will also include time to go into executive session to review a letter to the Clerk from the Washington Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (CoM).

After a motion was made by Chuck Neff and seconded by Kim O'Donnell, the minutes from the October 2016 regular Session meeting were unanimously approved. After a motion was made by George Camlin and seconded by Joan McCrory, the minutes from the October 2016 special Session meeting (the annual congregational meeting to elect officers) were unanimously approved.

**NEXT REGULAR SESSION MEETING – DECEMBER 5, 2016**

Dr. Broberg reminded the Session that the next Session meeting will be held on Monday, December 5, 2016, starting at 7:00 p.m. He asked the Session to approve holding a Christmas meeting at his home for the December 2016 meeting. Gordon Core so moved, Kim O'Donnell seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion to hold the December 2016 regular Session meeting at Dr. Broberg's home.

**APPROVAL OF BAPTISMS**

All requests for approval of baptisms complied with our baptism policy, and therefore did not also require the Session's approval tonight. George Camlin noted that the Worship and Music Committee had approved the registration of the Fergus baptism as performed by Rev Bert Campbell outside of a church. This matter had been previously discussed with the Session. Gordon Core moved that the Session concur with the Worship and Music Committee's approval, George Camlin seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CLERK**

*Baptisms*

On Sunday, October 23, 2016 at the 9:43 worship service in the Covenant Center, Henry Charles Dille, infant son of Jason Scott and Amy Marie (Smith) Dille was baptized. He was born on February 12, 2016. The Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiated.

#### *Weddings*

**Dayne Warren** (member) and Britni Kress were married in the sanctuary on Saturday, October 15, 2016, with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.

#### *Funerals*

There were no funerals to report for October 2016.

### **SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR**

#### *Executive Session*

Dr. Broberg asked the Session to go into executive session at this time to discuss the aforementioned letter from the CoM of the Washington Presbytery. Kim O'Donnell moved to go into executive session, Jim Little seconded the motion, and the Session unanimously approved that motion. After 20 minutes, Dennis Myers moved to exit executive session, Pat Boyer seconded that motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion. The Session exited out of executive session at this time.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS (all chairpersons referred the Session to their committee reports)**

#### *Finance Committee*

##### 2017 Budget Discussions

Steve Marriner (chairperson) passed out the draft 2017 budget worksheets that he had prepared for this meeting. He reviewed the worksheets with the Session. Steve said that the budget goals of the Finance Committee include clarifying the budgeting process, achieving more budget transparency, and providing for balanced budgets. There was much discussion about "permanent" funds and how they are disbursed. All agreed that we do not want to "invade" the principal in any permanent funds, as stated in our Endowment bylaws.

Steve noted that there needs to be reductions in projected 2017 expenses by as much as \$43,000 in order to balance the 2017 budget. There was a great deal of discussion about various aspects of the potential 2017 Building and Grounds Committee budget, including a recommendation from the Building and Grounds Committee and the Finance Committee to demolish the Campbell House.

Steve had two requests: 1) That each Committee re-examine their proposed 2017 Budgets; and, 2) that the Finance Committee re-examine the overall 2017 Budget at its late November meeting. Each Committee needs to determine the best way that it can cut expenses in 2017, if needed, to help achieve a balanced budget. He also noted that we need to continue assessing the financial viability of continuing to rent properties for housing.

##### 2016 Budget Discussions

Steve said that we should be in a position to balance our 2016 budget at the end of the year. He also relayed the Finance Committee's commitment that we should be pay out half of the 2016

Mission budget now and, at the end of 2016, assess how to pay out the remainder of the 2016 Mission budget.

At this point, the Session engaged in a general discussion about the Mission budget. Some members said that we need to stick to the 10% of pledged income promise in terms of Mission payout. Dr. Broberg said that we need to balance our budget in 2017 and not exceed our budget like we did in 2015. He said we need to work to avoid the cash flow crunch that we experienced in early 2016 as a result of exceeding our 2015 budget at the end of 2015. Gordon Core said that we need to develop ways to better structure our budgets to account for program needs like the Mission budget.

#### *Personnel Committee*

Pat Boyer filled in for the excused Cindy Garlisi, chairperson. She advised the Session that 2017 Board of Pensions costs will increase above the 2016 levels. She also pointed out the changes in federal overtime rules will affect Ralph Farabee, and that we may have to bump his pay by approximately \$17,000 to avoid paying him overtime pay to get the same amount of work done.

#### *OAR Committee*

Jim Little said that his Committee has re-organized the Ministry Team. There will be a new Bible Study soon. The Blue Christmas service will be held on December 11, 2016.

#### *Stewardship Committee*

Gordon Core (chairperson) updated the Session on the status of the 2017 stewardship campaign. As of today, approximately \$419,000 had been pledged, coming from 161 pledges. Our goals are to receive pledges in the amount of \$600,000 from 300 pledging units. Gordon noted that 17 of the folks at the College of Elders meeting had pledged approximately \$51,000. He also said that 75% of our elders and deacons (and other officers) had pledged approximately \$205,000. .

#### *Mission Committee*

David Taylor said the Washington chapter of the Family Promise is closing, and will not use the Campbell House anymore. He said we need to figure out what is the best use of the Campbell House. David said that the 2017 Mission Budget is \$55,000, and was set at 10% of the pledged income, which he was told would be \$550,000

#### *Worship and Music Committee*

George Camlin (chairperson) said that his Committee moved that the Blue Christmas service be held on December 11, 2016. The motion came from Committee, therefore no second was needed. The Session unanimously approved the motion.

#### *Christian Education Committee*

Pastor Kay gave this Committee's report for the excused Katie Wichterman (chairperson). Pastor Kay said that the Committee was finalizing details for the Church's November 11, 2016 Thanksgiving dinner. She said that there will be a Christmas Eve play presented by our children at the early Christmas Eve service. Don Nixon told the Session that the youth group had an energetic and thoughtful discussion about the elections at the latest meeting of that group.

*Nominating Committee*

Pat Boyer (chairperson) had no report.

*Building and Grounds Committee*

Jerry Davison (chairperson) reviewed the Committee's recommendation to demolish the Campbell House. He is trying to move this along quickly so that he can get contractors lined up and scheduled for 2017. He would like to get that work done by June 30, 2017. There is an agreement with the Family Promise group that they will remove their property by December 31, 2016. Jerry asked the Session to approve this process. Some Session members asked why this needs to be done so quickly. Others asked what would be done with the space after the demolition is done. Some asked what would be done to help Tom Hickman, who now lives in that building. Jerry moved from Committee that the Building and Grounds Committee be given the authority to move forward with demolition of the Campbell House. There was no second needed since the motion came from the Committee.

At this point there was much discussion about the motion. It was generally agreed that the Committee needs to provide some financial information regarding the cost of this project. It was felt that the Session needs to take Tom Hickman's situation into account since he is sick, and that his health needs should be considered in this process. Dr. Broberg recommended that we table the motion until the Committee provides financial information about the cost and should get that information from bids, that Tom Hickman's situation be considered and a resolution developed, and that Session is advised about where the money will come from for demolishing the Campbell House. Jim Little moved to table the motion until the noted information is provided, and Pat Boyer seconded the motion. The Session voted by a 9 Yes 2 NO margin to table Jerry's motion to a time certain, namely the January 2017 regular Session meeting.

*Administration Committee, Endowment Committee, and Memorial Committee and Pastoral Care*  
No reports.

**DATES OF NOTE**

The next communion will be held on Sunday, December 4, 2016. The next Stated Session meeting will be held on Monday, December 5, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Dr. Broberg's home. The next Stated Presbytery Meeting will be held on November 8, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. at the Taylorstown United Presbyterian Church. Charles Bowers and Cindy Garlisi or George Camlin are scheduled to attend that Presbytery meeting.

**ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER**

David Taylor moved to adjourn and Pat Boyer seconded that motion. Session approved the motion unanimously. Rev. Balderose closed the meeting with a prayer at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jonathan M. Pachter*

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session