

**CHURCH OF THE COVENANT**  
**MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING: MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017**

**ATTENDING:**

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

CURRENT ELDERS EXCUSED: Cindy Garlisi, Crystal Miles, Kim O'Donnell, and David Taylor

CURRENT ELDERS RESIGNED: Ashley Bashioum (resigned) and Jessica Hickman (on staff)

INCOMING ELDERS PRESENT: Jason Dille, Ben Evans, Jim Hyland, Robynne Myers, Connie Simon, and Jeremy Zajdel

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, January 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Dining Room. Dr. Broberg reviewed Romans 11: 29 with the Session. He noted that our abilities and our call to serve are a gift from God. Dr. Broberg then led the group in prayer to open the January 2017 Session meeting. Please note that opening portion of this meeting also served as the joint meeting with the Deacons.

**INTRODUCTION OF INCOMING ELDERS**

Dr. Broberg asked the incoming Elders and Deacons to introduce themselves. Jim Little moved and Dan Halulko seconded a motion to approve that the required Examination of incoming Elders and Deacons had been held then "arrested", as required by the Book of Order. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Broberg pointed out that New Elder and Deacon training will be held on Saturday morning, January 14, 2017. Ordination (as needed) and installation will take place at the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 15, 2017. At this time, Dr. Broberg concluded the joint meeting - the Deacons left the room and went to their own meeting, while the Elders stayed in the Dining Room and started their 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 Chuck Neff, the January 2017 Session docket was unanimously approved with minor revisions. Please note that incoming Elders did not vote.

### **APPROVAL OF DOCKET ITEMS (NOS. 5, 6, 8, 9 AND 10)**

Upon Dr. Broberg's request, Gordon Core moved and George Camlin seconded a motion to approve the following docket items, Nos. 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10. These items are as follows:

5. Review and approval of minutes of December 2017 Session Meeting.
6. Approval of Wedding – **Amanda Kluczyn** (member) and William Scott request to be married in the church sanctuary on Saturday, October 14, 2017 with Dr. Stuart Broberg officiating.
8. Motion to remove Jim Agnew from church rolls (now an ordained Teaching Elder)
9. Motion to approve communion at Elder Deacon Training, Saturday, January 14, 2017
10. Call Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting for Sunday, January 29, 2017 at Noon.

There was no discussion regarding these items, and the motion was unanimously approved.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **Baptisms**

**Kasen Stephen Reihner**, born March 30, 2016, infant son of Stephen John and **Rachelle (Dickson) Reihner**, was baptized on November 27, 2016, at the 9:43 worship service, with the Rev. Kay Balderose officiating.

#### **Weddings**

On Saturday, November 19, 2016, Mackenzie McDowell and Craig "Buck" Gnagy were married in the church sanctuary with the Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg officiating.

#### **Funerals**

**Margaret Devitt Mooney** died on Wednesday, November 9, 2016. The funeral service was held on Monday, November 14, 2016 at The Church of the Covenant with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating. Interment was at Washington Cemetery, Washington, PA.

**Scott L. Bashoum** died on Thursday, November 10, 2016. The funeral service was held on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at The Church of the Covenant with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating. Interment was at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies.

**Mary Elizabeth "Betty" Donaldson** died on Friday, November 11, 2016. The funeral service was held on Saturday, November 19, 2016 at The Church of the Covenant with the Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating. Interment was private and to be at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies.

### **ELECTION OF THE CORPORATE SECRETARY, PRESIDENT AND TREASURER**

Dr. Broberg reviewed the slate of corporate officers that need to be approved by the Session. Jonathan Pachter agreed to continue on as Clerk and Corporate Secretary, Chuck Neff agreed to continue as Congregation President, and Steve Marriner agreed to continue as Treasurer and

Chair of the Finance Committee. Pat Boyer moved and Jim Little seconded a motion to approve this slate. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

### **SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CALENDAR**

#### *Discussion of Year End 2016 Finances*

Steve Marriner presented a summary of the year-end finances. Steve stated that there was surplus of approx. \$73,677 when comparing income to expenses. Steve gave credit for the surplus to Dr. Broberg and his work in bringing in needed income at a critical time during the year. Steve also credited careful budget watching by all Committees who reduced spending during the year.

Steve and Dr. Broberg lead a lengthy discussion regarding paying the per capita. Dr. Broberg said there are no clear statements about how much we have to pay the Washington Presbytery, but that it is discretionary and up to the Session. Some churches only pay what is received in to pay out for the per capita. Other churches pay the entire requested amount. It was also noted that both the per capita and the Unified Mission pledge are discretionary. Dan Halulko said that we had a great financial year, and it did not feel right to not pay the entire per capita amount. Charlie Bowers agreed with Dan. Others agreed with Charlie and Dan.

Dr. Broberg suggested that we refer to the Administration Committee to recommend which Session Committee would be the best to evaluate the per capita situation and then report back to the Session at the February 2017 Session meeting. George Camlin moved and Chuck Neff seconded a motion to do that, there was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### *Approval of 2017 Session Operating Budget*

Steve Marriner next reviewed the 2017 Operating Budget with the Session on an item-by-item basis. Steve said that the Finance Committee and the Session Committee Chairs had approved this budget minus \$3,735 from the Worship and Music Budget. The motion to approve the 2017 Operating Budget came from the Finance Committee, therefore no second was needed. There was no additional discussion, and the Session unanimously approved the Budget.

The Session would like to thank Steve Marriner for his hard work and persistence in working through the detailed Budget information presented to the Session.

#### *Setting of Mission Budget Totals*

Steve Marriner moved and Joel Braun seconded a motion to set the 2017 Mission budget at a minimum of 10% of the pledged income. There was no discussion of the motion, and the Session unanimously approved the motion, which would set the 2017 Mission budget at a minimum of \$53,000.

*Approval of Committee Chairs/ elder assignments*

Dr. Broberg passed around a list of Committee Chairpersons and 2nd Elders on each Committee. Jim Little moved to approve that list, and Pat Boyer seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously. Dr. Broberg asked all Committees to finalize their Committee's membership by the February 2017 Session meeting, making sure that current Committee members want to stay on, and to recruit new members as needed.

*Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC)*

Dr. Broberg told the Session that we need to formally open the Associate Pastor position, keeping in mind that the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry assured us that Pastor Kay can apply for the job. Pat Boyer moved to open the Associate Pastor position, Dennis Myers seconded the motion, there was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Broberg said that the next step will be for the Nominating Committee to work on securing nominees for the APNC. That slate must be approved by the congregation at a called congregational meeting. He said we need to hold that meeting by the end of March 2017. There were some additional questions for Dr. Broberg, such as how many people should serve on the APNC (his target would be 7 plus one alternate), will this affect normal Deacon and Elder functions (no, it will be independent), and can we do this on our own (he recommended that we hire a paid consultant like Bruce Stevens to help us through the process).

Pat Boyer moved that Dr. Broberg be empowered to find a high-powered person like Bruce Stevens to serve as our consultant through the APNC process, and Katie Wichterman seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Finance Committee*

Steve Marriner (chairperson) had nothing else to report beyond the information he already presented to the Session.

*Personnel Committee*

Pat Boyer (chairperson) reported that the staff get-together with the Personnel Committee will be held on January 23rd.

*OAR Committee*

Jim Little and Don Nixon mentioned that the Men's Breakfast will be held at the Church on Saturday morning, January 14, starting at 8:00 a.m.

*Stewardship Committee*

Gordon Core (chairperson) updated the Session on the status of the fall 2016 campaign. While pledge stragglers still are expected to slowly come in, to date there were 211 pledges totaling

\$575,610, for an average pledge of approx. \$2,725. That total pledge amount was provided to the Finance Committee. The pledges ranged from \$1 to \$30,000. 42% of all pledges were the same as in the past. 29 pledges came from people who did not pledge in the past.

*Mission Committee*

Joan McCorry said that we paid all of 2016 Mission pledges except for \$5,000 pledge to Bob Hedges' training effort. The Committee will prepare the 2017 Mission pledge information and present it to the Session in the February 2017 Session meeting.

*Worship and Music Committee*

George Camlin (chairperson) had no report.

*Christian Education Committee*

Katie Wichterman (chairperson) stated that the Pre-School is considering higher fees and more registrations for the 2017-2018 school year. Katie said that Vacation Bible School will be held from July 17-23. The Warriors' group has moved to Sunday nights.

*Nominating Committee*

Pat Boyer (chairperson) had no additional information to report.

*Building and Grounds Committee*

Jerry Davison (chairperson) reported as requested to the Session about the Campbell House. He noted that Family Promise had moved their headquarters to Crafton Heights. Jerry said that the cost to rehabilitate the building exceeded \$100,000, while the sole bid his Committee received for demolition of the structure, hauling away all demolished materials, and grading the site totaled \$16,500.

In response to questions, Jerry said the Committee will solicit more bids if the Session wants to move ahead with demolition. He also said that Ralph Farabee will carefully evaluate the contents of the building to see if there is anything of saleable value to help defray demolition costs. Next, a lengthy discussion ensued regarding Tom Hickman, who lives in this building.

Pat Boyer, speaking for the Personnel Committee, noted there are no documents formalizing any agreement with Tom being allowed to stay in the Campbell House. It was agreed that we need to help Tom find new lodging, especially considering his health concerns. It was agreed that we need to see if there are Veterans' Administration or other funding and housing sources for Tom to consider. The consensus was that we need to tear down the Campbell House, but not until we find a solution to Tom's housing problem.

Pat Boyer moved and Jim Little seconded a motion to agree to tear down the Campbell House contingent on resolving Tom Hickman's housing situation. During discussion of the motion, Pat

Boyer volunteered to talk to Tom, along with Ralph Farabee, and to report back to the Session. She would approach it from the perspective of her work background as a professional social worker. Some Session members felt that the issues of tearing down the Campbell House and dealing with Tom Hickman are separate issues, and should not be combined. Some folks felt we need to enlist professionals to better help Tom. After this discussion a vote was held. The motion passed by a 8 Yes 3 No 1 Abstain vote.

*Administration Committee, Endowment Committee, and Memorial Committee*  
No report.

### **PASTORAL CARE REPORT**

Dr. Broberg circulated a sign-up sheet for helping with in-home communion on Sunday, February 5, 2017. He also circulated information about the 2017 Leadership Training to be held by the Presbytery.

### **CONSERVATION REGARDING BUILDING SECURITY**

Chuck Neff raised several concerns about building security at the Church. The ease of access into the building, and the wide-openness of the facility were points echoed by others. It was agreed that we need to talk about this matter, assess the current security measures at the Church, and figure out if we need to do anything more. The issue was referred to the Administration Committee, who will provide the Session at the February 2017 Session meeting with a recommendation regarding which Committee should be assigned this task.

### **DATES OF NOTE**

The next Communion will be held on Sunday, February 5, 2017. The next Presbytery Meeting, will be held on Saturday, January 21, 2017 9:00 a.m. at Presbyterian Senior Care. Charles Bowers and Dan Halulko are scheduled to attend that Presbytery meeting. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2016. The next Session Meeting will be held on Monday, February 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., in the Dining Room.

### **ADJOURNING AND CLOSING PRAYER**

Jerry Davison moved to adjourn and Pat Boyer seconded that motion. Session approved the motion unanimously. Don Nixon closed the meeting with a prayer at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jonathan M. Pachter*

Jonathan M. Pachter, Clerk of Session