

Giving the Dead a Vote— But Not a Veto

by John E. Phelan Jr., p.65

1. The 1963 report entitled “Biblical Authority and Christian Freedom” is the basis for Jay Phelan’s column on differing opinions within the church. How can the terms “biblical authority” and “Christian freedom” align in today’s culture?
2. Biblical scholars disagree on many interpretations of Scripture. What guides you in determining how you read Scripture—and how you develop your own beliefs?
3. In many instances even today when a woman is called to pastor a congregation, the minority who disagree with having a woman in the pulpit leave that particular church. How can we respect the voice of the minority without causing them to leave the church?
4. Phelan believes that the church is richer for the inclusion of women in ministerial leadership. How have you seen the ordination of women adding to the life of our denomination?
5. What questions would you like to ask of the previous generations of Covenanters?