

**Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Meeting of Session  
Monday, April 10, 2017  
7:00pm  
CONSENT AGENDA**

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Approval of March 20, 2017 Session Meeting Minutes (pgs.2-5). Randy Ripple, Clerk of Session, moves that the minutes of this meeting be approved as written.
2. Approval of Called Session Meetings Minutes from March to receive new members (pg.6). Randy Ripple, Clerk of Session, moves that the minutes of these meetings be approved as written.
3. Approval of request for changes to active roll (pg.7).
4. Approval of baptisms (pg.8).
5. Approval of weddings (pg.9).

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Clerk's Communications (pg.10).

**FUTURE EVENTS**

- April 13                      Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm
- April 14                      Good Friday Service, 7pm
- April 15                      Children's Easter Service, 10am
- May 7                         Next Session Meeting & Quest Examination – NOTE  
SUNDAY – NO MONDAY MEETING, 4:30 – 8:30pm
- May 16                      Presbytery Meeting, South Mecklenburg PC at 9:30am

**Minutes of the Meeting of Session  
Monday, March 20, 2017  
7:00 P.M.**

**Call to Order – Moderator, Bob Henderson**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

**Opening Worship – Bob Henderson**

Rev. Henderson used passages from the gospel of John to ponder the hidden wholeness in all things, and from more contemporary literary sources to consider the practices and disciplines that cultivate wholeness.

**Determination of Quorum and Adoption of Agenda**

Rev. Henderson declared a quorum, and a motion was offered and accepted to adopt the agenda as provided in advance of the meeting.

**Adoption of the Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda was adopted with the following modification:

Correct the start time of the children's Easter worship service on Saturday, April 15, to 10:00 am.

**Administration – Gene Wood**

**Treasurer's Report, as of February 28**

- YTD pledge receipts are 6% behind last year
- Miscellaneous (non-budgeted) contributions were up, but will vary on a monthly basis
- Food service revenue was up, largely due to attendance/dinner purchases at Open Table
- Thanks to the mild winter, utility expenses were down
- Overall, expenses exceeded revenue, but the budget was still within the normal range
- A question was asked as to whether we are seeing any significant usage of the new option to submit contributions via text message. Bill Keith (church administrator) answered that as of yet, there is no significant usage of this option.

**2017 Return on Ministry Plan**

The Division of Administration has three primary objectives for 2017

1. Enhance the service and support arrangements for Covenant's technology infrastructure (it has been 15 years since the last time this was fully reviewed)
2. Complete the installation of the "Shelby Next" church management software platform
3. Full implementation of the security plan that was approved in late 2016.

**Planning & Evaluation – Nancy Falls**

Research continues on the various components of a potential capital campaign. Many questions must be answered before final recommendations can be made as to the components of such a campaign, and the strongest possible proposals put before the congregation.

- The public education support team has completed its work; the affordable housing team and child development center teams are still working

- An additional \$25,000 has been approved for continuing work by the architects as they envision the construction projects necessary and possible for the achievement of campaign goals.

The Moderator then added a number of observations

- The various teams conducting this research are very “high talent”
- That it is rarely known in advance how the thinking and creativity behind major projects of any sort are going to work out
- That as far back as 1952, just as the buildings on our campus were being constructed in very close proximity to the Brooklyn urban renewal project, our members and leaders were aware of the great community need for stability in the areas of housing and child care; that the first Christmas offering received in our new sanctuary building was dedicated to those community efforts; and that knowing this gives us courage to believe that the Holy Spirit is working with us in our current dreams for the future
- That we expect the eventual goals of our capital campaign to declare our commitment to being a long-term partner in the same goals likely to be recommended by the Charlotte Opportunity Task Force

### **Personnel – Philip James**

The following information was shared regarding a number of staff positions:

- Co-director of Mission & Outreach (Carla Leaf’s eventual replacement): Amy Capitano is chairing this search. Listening sessions have been held, and insights gained will be integrated into the thought process. The committee is very nearly built, and will commence formal activities soon.
- High School Youth Director (Perry Dixon’s replacement): Mike Ferone is chairing the search. The committee is now active, early candidates have been contacted, and one set of interviews has been conducted
- Director of Contemporary Worship and Arts (Daniel Heath’s replacement): Phil Koonce is chairing the search; the committee has been built, and initial steps are being taken
- Presbyterian Women Coordinator (Martha Isaacs’ replacement): Joan Watson and Suzanne Harmon are leading the search to replace Martha. The role has been slightly expanded to now include support for both men’s and women’s ministries. The job opening has been posted on the Covenant web site.
- Education summer intern: Heidi Biermann will begin on May 30, having just concluded her first year at Princeton Seminary, working toward her M.Div.
- Summer Associate: Anna Rainey Dickson joins us for the summer beginning May 31. She is an ordained Presbyterian minister, having earned a M.Div. from Princeton Seminary.
- Jessica Patchett will take an 11 week sabbatical over the summer. Specific dates TBD

### **Ministry Reports**

#### **Engagement - Rusty Williams**

In addition to its weekly activities, the Engagement Ministry has established the following goals for its 2017 Return on Ministry:

1. Enhance the structure for engaging our congregation by adapting the successful practices used in new member assimilation and applying them to the congregation as a whole.

Explore ways to create more opportunities for personal invitation into ministry on Sunday mornings; possibly host additional engagement fellowship events.

2. Explore the distinction between active discipleship vs. membership. Is there a downside to having a large community of active disciples (worshiping, serving, and giving) who aren't members or, conversely, an upside to having them formally join?

### **Mission & Outreach – Will Summerville**

In response to the threats across the country to various locations associated with the Jewish faith, the Division of Mission & Outreach felt called to send a letter of support to leaders of our local Jewish community. That letter read as follows:

*The Jewish community in Charlotte is a deeply rooted, faithful and integral part of our city. Recent waves of alarming anti-Semitism sweeping across our nation have reached into the hearts of our friends and neighbors, causing pain and fear. In the face of these acts, Covenant Presbyterian Church would like to offer our support and solidarity. We reject completely the words and deeds that incite violence, stir up resentment, and express hatred toward any religious tradition. We will stand with the Jewish community in love and friendship.*

A similar letter was sent to leaders of our local Muslim community, in response to President Trump's executive orders on travel bans:

*The Muslim community in Charlotte is vibrant and resilient, and has made significant contributions to our city. The recent executive order impacting travel to our nation and a rise of anti-Islamic sentiment has deeply affected our friends and neighbors, causing pain and fear. In the face of these events, Covenant Presbyterian Church would like to offer our support and solidarity. We reject completely the words and deeds that incite violence, stir up resentment, and express hatred toward any religious tradition. We will stand with the Muslim community in love and friendship.*

### **Congregational Life – Marilynn Mickle**

In presenting the division's Return on Ministry goals for 2017, Mrs. Mickle first highlighted the work of various committees within the ministry. More than 200 people are engaged in its often-hidden efforts, which generally fall into four categories: care, wellness, growth, and fellowship. The ministry's goals for the year are:

1. Develop the infrastructure to plan, coordinate, promote, and deliver outstanding Open Table programs, meals, hospitality, and fellowship. Coordination among the Divisions of Congregational Life, Education, and Mission & Outreach for programming is key.
2. Tell the story of the Congregational Life Ministry by sharing the ways in which Covenant is a caring congregation. Help is available for those in need, and there are opportunities to serve for those wishing to volunteer.
3. Grow the culture of care teams and support groups, recruiting more volunteers, expanding the offerings of types of care teams and small groups, and making services known to those who could use help

### **Clerk's Report**

Mr. Ripple encouraged current Session members to participate in the weekly gatherings where new members are received – 10:30 am in the parlor every week; and 12:00 in the library in Fellowship Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month.

**Old Business/New Business**

There was no old business or new business.

**Staff Announcements/Pastoral Concerns**

Jessica Patchett gave a brief report on the recent NEXT conference in Kansas City, where she and Bob Henderson had been workshop presenters. Some 500-600 people had attended this conference, in an effort to be faithful and innovative in their efforts to respond to modern culture while working for church growth.

Carla Leaf highlighted local Habitat efforts in tandem with a mission team departing for Reynosa on March 26, to participate in the building of a house.

Following the sharing of a number of prayer concerns, and a closing prayer led by Jessica Patchett, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Randy Ripple, Clerk



Robert W. Henderson, Moderator

**Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Called Session Meetings  
March 14, 19 and 26, 2017**

Covenant held three Called Session Meetings for the purpose of receiving new members. Lora Borrelli introduced the following new members and information:

**March 14, 2017**

Daniel Kelsey            Reaffirmation

**March 19, 2017**

Richard Magrath        Reaffirmation  
Ginny Magrath          Reaffirmation  
Kirk Ward                Transfer Letter-Forest Hill, Charlotte, NC  
Liz Ward                 Transfer Letter-Forest Hill, Charlotte, NC  
Erin Miller                Reaffirmation  
William Miller          Transfer Letter-Myers Park Presbyterian, Charlotte

**March 26, 2017**

David Felgner            Reaffirmation

**Active (confirmed) members as of 3/31/17: 2232**

**2017 new members as of 3/31/17: 31**

**New members since last report: 8**

**2017 transfers as of 3/31/17: 12**

**2017 deaths as of 3/31/17: 8**

Motions of acceptance were made, seconded and approved. Each meeting adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Randy Ripple, Clerk

  
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Robert W. Henderson, Moderator

**Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Session Meeting  
Request for Changes in the Active Roll**

**Removed from Active Roll Per Request**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Transferred to:</u></b>
Jenna Wagner	Transfer Letter--Central Presbyterian Church, Bristol, VA
Caroline Noor	Transfer Letter--Grace Covenant Presbyterian, Asheville, NC
John Noor	Transfer Letter--Grace Covenant Presbyterian, Asheville, NC

**Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Session Action Item  
Summary**

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**SUBJECT: April 2017 Baptisms**

**DATE: April 10, 2017**

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**Report From:** Baptism Committee

Mary Clare Bracey, Chairperson

**Background:** Baptism must be approved by the Session.

**Process to Date:** Parents requested that their children be baptized.

**Budget Impact:** None

**Actions Taken or Recommendation:** The Baptism Committee recommends approval of the following baptisms at Covenant in April 2017:

April 23, 2017 at the 11:00 am service in the Covenant Fellowship Hall  
Sawyer Abbott Moore  
Parents-Stephen and Heather Moore

April 30, 2017 at the 8:45 am service in the Covenant Chapel  
Daniel David Barchi  
Parents-Brian and Cindy Graybeal

**Motion:** Motion to approve the baptisms of Sawyer Abbott Moore and Daniel David Barchi.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Session Action Item  
Summary**

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**SUBJECT: 2017 Weddings**

**DATE: April 10, 2017**

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**Report From:** Worship Ministry/Wedding Committee

**Chair:** Barbara Ann Zizzi

**Background:** According to The Book of Order: The marriage service is under the direction of the teaching elder and the supervision of the Session. (W-4.9003)

**Process to Date:** Having presented the following weddings to the Wedding Committee and the Worship Ministry and in accordance with the Book of Order, the Wedding Committee would like to bring the following motion from the Worship Ministry for approval and transmittal to the April session meeting.

**Budget Impact:** None

**Actions Taken or Recommendation:** The Wedding Committee and Worship Ministry recommends the approval (some retroactively) of one wedding that occurred at Covenant on December 31, 2016, and eleven weddings to take place at Covenant in 2017:

- The wedding of Cynthia English and Tucker Knox on December 31, 2016
- The wedding of Ashley Owens and Davis Shaefer on January 21, 2017
- The wedding of Jordan Hart and Michael Green on January 28, 2017
- The wedding of Hillary Jones and John Ash on March 18, 2017
- The wedding of Katie Wiseman and Dillon Turner on April 1, 2017
- The wedding of Brittany Wurdeman and Michael Kleffner on May 20, 2017
- The wedding of Allyson Schriefer and Clark Easterling on June 10, 2017
- The wedding of Erin Schroeder and Derek 'Nick' Nixon on June 24, 2017
- The wedding of Allison Platte and Ryan Hoffman on August 12, 2017
- The wedding of Antonina Pondo and Levi Flair on September 9, 2017
- The wedding of Michelle Brooks and Matthew Jernigan on October 14, 2017
- The wedding of Hannah Leaf and Zach Leitner on October 21, 2017

**Motion:** The Wedding Committee moves that the weddings be approved (some retroactively) by Session to take place at Covenant Presbyterian Church.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Session Information Item  
Summary**

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**Subject: Clerk Communications**

**From: Randy Ripple, Clerk**

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Communication has been received from the following organizations in acknowledgement of donations:

- Charlotte Family Housing
- Friendship Trays