

**Minutes of the Meeting of Session
Monday, February 8, 2016
7:00 P.M.**

Opening Worship

Led by Rev. Henderson: Ephesians was a later letter that evidenced a more sophisticated understanding in Paul's school of thought: "He is our peace and has broken down the dividing wall".

Determination of Quorum and Adoption of Agenda

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

Adoption of Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was adopted as presented.

Introduction of Inquirer Candidate

Ms. Natasha Johnson is a 2nd semester seminarian who shared a bit of her faith journey with Session. Natasha did not grow up as a regular church member; was around a church that felt very exclusive. She has found many different ways to experience worship, and especially became interested after hearing Dr. Boyce speak. Natasha spends her weekdays as a social worker and is very involved in Covenant on the A/V team, an usher team, and with adult discipleship. A prayer for Natasha was led by Rev. Patchett. A vote to endorse the applicant's request to become an Inquirer with Presbytery was moved, seconded, carried; Mission and Outreach will assist her with the application process.

Personnel Report - Phillip James for Chris Lam

Mr. James reported on openings for an Assistant Music Director and a Communications Director. Covenant will also be hiring college interns.

Administration

Treasurer Report - Tom Coley

Mr. Coley reported a strong start to the year, with pledge receipts only slightly behind budget and expenses under budget. He also reported investments are low risk and steady. Covenant maintains an 8-12% budget reserve. If there are excess funds above the 12% at the end of the year, the Finance Committee makes a recommendation to Session as to the disposition of those funds. For 2015 there were excess funds of \$147,295. Finance recommends

distributing \$100,000 for Mission and Outreach and \$47,295 for P&E Reserve. This motion comes to Session from a Ministry, so a second is not needed. After questions were answered, the Session approved the motion unanimously. It will be the responsibility of Mission and Outreach to disburse the funds.

Safety and Security Task Force - Gene Wood

Mr. Wood reported on the activities to date, which included:

- Reviewed Safety and Security plans from other churches
- Held outreach conversations
- Met with CMPD and CFD specialists for information

The task force has identified a number of ideas for consideration that warrant further investigation. In addition, a number of other suggestions were raised during the discussion, which will be considered. For the short term, the task force is moving forward with the following steps:

- Laminated “emergency cards” for ushers, greeters and staff
- Staff, Usher and Greeter training on February 21
- Ongoing discussions on enhancements to Education Wing safety
- Establish ongoing management process around safety and security

Planning and Evaluation – No Report

Ministry Reports

Education – No Report

Worship - Jean King for Sally Graves

Ms. King reported that University Park Baptist Church (predominantly African-American) invited Covenant to participate in a joint worship service with an Iraqi church on Good Friday on the University Park campus at 12:00 PM EST (7:00PM Iraqi time) with Covenant’s Contemporary Worship Team participating in the service. This will be in addition to the Maundy Thursday service that includes Covenant’s sanctuary choir. After discussion, the motion was called for a vote and unanimously approved.

Congregational Life – Nancy Sutton

Ms. Sutton reported that the Congregational Retreat scheduled for this coming weekend (February 12-14) has experienced low signups for various reasons. It is being rescheduled for May 6-8 with no money lost and the same programming.

Mission and Outreach – No Report

Engagement – Kate McKenzie

Ms. McKenzie indicated the Engagement Ministry is requesting 100% participation in hospitality from Session members for one Sunday each month

Clerk's Report

Mr. Atwell indicated Return on Ministry meetings are being scheduled with Randy Ripple and Alan Atwell to help each Ministry set goals for the 2016. He said the purpose was to focus on a few areas of improvement for the year.

Correspondence received is summarized in the Consent Agenda

Old Business/New Business

There was no old business

Staff Announcements/Pastoral Concerns

There were no staff announcements

A number of celebrations and pastoral concerns were shared.

Closing Prayer was led by Rev. Patchett



Alan Atwell, Clerk



Robert W. Henderson, Moderator

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Called Session Meetings
Sundays, February 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2016**

Covenant held four Called Session Meetings each on a Sunday morning for the purpose of receiving new members. Lora Borrelli introduced the following new members and information:

February 7, 2016

Campbell Tucker Affiliate Membership
Jovanna Bello Transfer Letter--Fairfax Presbyterian, Fairfax, VA

February 14, 2016

Burnet Tucker Affiliate Membership
Jordan Lyles Transfer Letter--Myers Park Presbyterian Church
John Gaffney Transfer Letter--Sardis Presbyterian Church
Dennis Bunker Transfer Letter--Myers Park Presbyterian Church
Chaz Snider Transfer Letter--Little Church on the Lane
Michaleh Snider Transfer Letter--Little Church on the Lane

February 21, 2016

Matthew Snipes Reaffirmation
Katherine Snipes Reaffirmation

February 28, 2016

Ashley Holland Transfer Letter--Providence Presbyterian Church
Derek Nixon "Nick" Reaffirmation
Creighton Call Reaffirmation

Active (confirmed) members as of 2/29/16: 2163

2016 new members as of 2/29/16: 20

New members since last report: 13

2016 transfers YTD: 0

2016 deaths YTD: 3

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

Respectfully submitted,



Alan Atwell, Clerk



Robert W. Henderson, Moderator

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Meeting
Request for Changes in the Active Roll
March 14, 2016**

Removed from Active Roll Per Request

<u>Name</u>	<u>Transferred to:</u>	<u>Date</u>
--------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------

None to Report.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Action Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: March and April 2016 Baptisms

DATE: March 14, 2016

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 January and February 2016:

March 20, 2016 at the 11am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Henry Matthew Snipes

Parents – Matt and Katie Snipes

March 20, 2016 at the 11am service in the Covenant Fellowship Hall

Coralyn Bryte Davis

Parents – Brad and Kelly Davis

April 10, 2016 at the 11am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Ella Cecilia Besen Stuck

Parents – David and Caroline Stuck

April 10, 2016 at the 11am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Dawson Elizabeth Poole

Parents- Brad and Jenna Poole

Motion: Motion to approve the baptisms of Henry Matthew Snipes, Coralyn Bryte Davis, Ella Cecilia Besen Stuck, and Dawson Elizabeth Poole.

Attachment(s): None

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Information Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: Extended Communion

DATE: March 14, 2016

Report From:

Extended Communion Committee

Betty Graybeal and Marilyn Mickle, Co-chairs

Background:

Covenant provides the opportunity to receive the sacrament of communion to homebound members on a quarterly basis throughout the year.

Information:

Extended communion was served on February 7, 2016.

16 Elders participated in serving communion

17 members were served, including 2 in health care at Sharon Towers

The next scheduled date for the serving of extended communion is May 1, 2016

**The 129th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Charlotte
2/6/16
Summary Notes**

Attending from Covenant Presbyterian:

Jean King, Mike Ferone, Nancy Falls, Rusty Williams, Bob Henderson, Jessica Patchett

Appended is the Docket from the meeting. The meeting flowed as per the Docket, and so would be redundant to report details, with the following exceptions or amplifications:

- It should be noted that Smallwood Presbyterian Church's choir provided rousing music throughout the meeting and attendant worship service.
- Darryl Gaston, from Smallwood Presbyterian, delivered an extemporaneous sermon where he lamented that people in the world are often "sorry to see Christians come and eager to see them leave."
- All committee and council presentations and attendant movements were approved. Most notably a motion regarding Overture 002 on "amending G-2.0509 by deleting recently added language dealing with renunciation of jurisdiction (from Presbytery of New Covenant)" carried by a vote of 79-53. The overture reads:

Shall G-2.0509 of the Form of Government be amended by deleting the last paragraph at the end of that section? (Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through.)

~~*Whenever a former teaching elder has renounced jurisdiction in the midst of a disciplinary proceeding as the accused, that former teaching elder shall not be permitted to perform any work, paid or volunteer, in any congregation or entity under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).*~~

- The Reverend Arthur Canada was recognized on the occasion of his retirement and offered, in his words, the briefest sermon of his life. He reminded listeners that he is "a nobody trying to tell everybody about somebody who can save anybody."
- Emmaus team members traveled to congregations in seven counties of our Presbytery to experience the hopes and fears of numerous congregations. They discerned an emerging future of new opportunities for ministry, a new normal amidst complex change. The team envisions a Presbytery change that has less business and more adaptive, nimble meaningful and relational opportunities. By October a structure for these dreams may be formulated. The vision statement is "Joining the risen Christ in building, celebrating, and anticipating the Kingdom of God in our seven counties and beyond."

Then each table spent time discussing "where we see and hear the Holy Spirit at work in these hopes and dreams?" Several tables shared their ideas, and notes from each table were collected for the team's use.

**The 129th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Charlotte
Hosted by First Presbyterian Church, Charlotte
Saturday, February 6, 2016 at 9:30 AM**

THE DOCKET

Registration begins at 8:30 AM in the Fresco Lobby. Please be sure to stop by and visit the display tables.

Orientation for New Ruling Elder Commissioners will be conducted by Tamara Williams, Stated Clerk beginning at 9:00 AM in the Frances Brown Room.

Meal tickets may be purchased until 11:30 AM. Cost - \$8.00. Children attending childcare - \$2.00.

GATHERING (Sanctuary)

Gathering Music led by Smallwood Presbyterian Church Choir

Call to Order and Opening Prayer 2015 Moderator, Darryl Gaston (Smallwood Church)

“Passing of the Gavel” to the 2016 Moderator, Reverend Katie Harrington

Introduction of 2016 Vice-Moderator, Reverend Herbert Shackelford

Recognition of 2015 Moderator, Elder Darryl Gaston

Declaration of a Quorum 2016 Moderator, Rev. Katie Harrington (Sardis Church)

Welcome by Host Church Rev. Pen Peery, Pastor of First-Charlotte Church

Welcome first time ruling elders, corresponding members, and visitors

Introduction of Rachel Pence, Coordinator for COM/CPM Services Rev. Betty Meadows

Approval of the Docket (All new business must be in the hands of the Stated Clerk at this time)

Appointment of Tellers: Teaching and Ruling Elders from The Fellowship Place, First-Albemarle, Johnston Memorial, Myers Park and Providence Churches

Communications / Omnibus Motion Tamara Williams, Stated Clerk

Presbytery Worship Service

Worship Leaders: Reverend Pen Peery and Reverend Katelyn Gordon, First-Charlotte Church

Elder Darryl Gaston, Preaching

Music led by Smallwood Presbyterian Church Choir

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Necrology of Ruling and Teaching Elders Deceased in 2015

Committee on Ministry – Part I Gwen Vinson and Georgia Pressly, Co-Moderators

Committee on Representation Rev. Robert Alexander

***Committee on Preparation for Ministry** Rev. Deborah Conner and Riley Burgess, Co-Moderators

Enrollment as Inquirer: Russ Kerr (Davidson College Church)

Inquirer to Candidate: Phanta Lansden (CN Jenkins), British Hyrams (Central Steele Creek)

Ordination Examinations: Lisa McLennan (Selwyn Avenue) – **Sanctuary**

Eduardo Soto – (Candidate, Peaks Presbyterian) – **Chapel**

Committee on Ministry – Part 2 *Gwen Vinson and Georgia Pressly*

Transfers

Rev. Millie Snyder, Transfers Committee Chair

Rev. David Sutton, Honorably Retired

Rev. Lindsey Wells Peery, at-large

Rev. Christopher Vogado (Temporary Pastor, Williams Memorial Church)

Ed Soto, Temporary Pastor, Morven Church (pending ordination)

Lisa McLennan, Union Presbyterian Seminary (validated ministry, pending ordination)

Recognition of Honorable Retirement of the Reverend Arthur W. Canada

Lunch (12:30 pm) in Wood Fellowship Hall

Offering for Ten Cents-a-Meal Program

Council Report *Donnie Shrum, Council Moderator-elect*

Revisions to the Presbytery's Administrative Manual

Recommendations regarding Saint Paul and Seigle Avenue Churches

Bills & Overtures Recommendations on Overtures to the 222nd General Assembly

Emmaus Team Report

Charge and Benediction *Rev. Katie Harrington, Presbytery Moderator*

The 129th Stated Meeting is adjourned and closed with prayer

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Information Item
February 8, 2016**

Subject: Clerk Communications

From: Alan Atwell, Clerk

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

- Faith Ministry
- Freedom School Partners
- Men's Shelter of Charlotte
- Community Culinary School of Charlotte
- Loaves & Fishes

Also, received communication about the following pastoral concern:



The Reverend Robert 'Bob' James, former General Presbyter/Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Charlotte (previously Mecklenburg Presbytery) passed on Saturday, February 20th at age 90. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, February 27th at First Presbyterian Church, 200 W. Trade Street, Charlotte. Please keep Mrs. Betty James and the entire James family in your thoughts prayers.

Mrs. Betty James
3716 Cypress Club Dr, #C408
Charlotte, NC 28210
Home: 704-553-1032