

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Meeting of Session
Monday, October 10, 2016
7:00pm
CONSENT AGENDA**

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of September 12, 2016 Session Meeting Minutes (pgs.2-4). Alan Atwell, Clerk of Session, moves that the minutes of this meeting be approved as written.
2. Approval of Congregational Meeting Minutes to elect elders for the Class of 2019 (pgs.5-6).
3. Approval of Called Session Meetings Minutes from September to receive new members (pg.7). Alan Atwell, Clerk of Session, moves that the minutes of these meetings be approved as written.
4. Approval of request for changes to active roll (pg. 8)
5. Approval of baptisms (pg. 9)
6. Approval of motion from Mission and Outreach regarding the Christmas Eve offering (pg.10).

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Clerk's Communications (pg.11)

FUTURE EVENTS

- October 23 Covenant Impacts Charlotte& Commitment Sunday –
 Worship at 11am
- November 6 All Saints Day
- November 14 Next Session Meeting, 7pm
- January 6-7, 2017 Save the Date for Elder Retreat

**Minutes of the Meeting of Session
Monday, September 12, 2016
7:00 P.M.**

Call to Order – Moderator, Bob Henderson

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

Opening Worship – Bob Henderson

Rev Henderson used I Corinthians 12:27 – 31 for the meditation.

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 with the following additions: a report from P&E, a report from Worship, and an update from the Safety Task Force.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was adopted in full.

Personnel Report

Chris Lamb

Mr. Lam reported that the search committee has been reviewing resumes and conducting phone interviews for the Director of Middle School Youth Ministries. Progress is being made in filling the **Coordinator of Care Teams and Support Groups and the Rec Wing Assistant positions.**

Residency Perspectives – Evan Amo and Bob Henderson

Mr. Amo reflected on how Mission and Outreach was not in his wheelhouse when he started at Covenant and how working with thirty not for profit organizations on a regular basis was initially overwhelming. He said while he has been challenged, he has also been blessed in what he has experienced and learned. He is grateful for the pastoral aspects of the job including hospital visits and preaching on a regular basis. Evan said the experience has shaped him in ways that he can already tell and it will continue to shape him for years to come.

Administration

Treasurer's Report – Gene Wood

Mr. Wood reviewed the August financials and reported that as of the end of August, we are on budget for pledge receipts and net income is \$95,174 more than budgeted year to date.

Safety Task Force Update – Gene Wood

Mr. Wood reported on the progress made in implementing the three safety improvements for the

campus that Session approved in June. Although none have been completed, the work should be completed in the coming months.

Planning and Evaluation

Blaine Sanders

Mr. Sanders provided an update on the work P&E has been doing relative to a vision statement, congregational questionnaire, and feasibility study. They have hired WGM Design as the architect to provide preliminary drawings and high level cost estimates, which are necessary to move forward with the other activities. He shared a schedule that would have P&E bringing a report to Session before the end of the year. He also made it clear there are a number of options to be considered depending on the outcome of the initial work by the architect.

Ministry Reports:

Education

Although there was not a formal presentation from the Education Ministry, Rev. Henderson shared the results from the first day of Sunday school. In total there were 236 children and youth in attendance that morning, as well as 100 middle school and high school youth on Sunday evening. A great start to the new year!

No Report

Congregational Life

No Report

Engagement

Hospitality Update – Rusty Williams

Mr. Williams shared several examples of hospitality at Covenant. Most demonstrated how welcoming the members of Covenant are to visitors. However he also shared a couple where the feedback was not positive and the experience resulted in people leaving Covenant with a poor opinion. He challenged all of us to not only go out of our way to welcome others, but also to be examples of good hospitality amongst ourselves.

Mission and Outreach

Fall Events – Tricia Smith

Mrs. Smith recapped much of the work Covenant has been involved in this year to support their goal, “educate a child, transform the world”. This includes a long list of ongoing and new activities at Highland, increased support at Crossnore, and a renewed effort at Renguti. She also shared some of the activities planned for a very busy fall, including Covenant Impacts Charlotte on October 23rd. She and Evan both were quite adamant about the fact we are kicking it into gear for the fall.

Mrs. Smith also reported that Mission and Outreach is developing a new process to use when determining how best to distribute special grants.

Worship

Chapel Service – Sally Graves

Mrs. Graves reported we had a good start with the new chapel service. There were 12 choir members and 50 worshippers of all ages in attendance. This was accomplished without a lot of publicity or recruiting.

Clerk's Report

No Report

Old Business/New Business

There was no old business or new business

Staff Announcements/Pastoral Concerns

Rev. Watson reminded everyone that Open Table resumes this week with two excellent programs for the fall.

Mrs. Leaf shared how the idea to partner the upcoming Reynosa mission trip with a local Habitat build had grown to include many people with connections to both and now over 30 people are participating as prayer partners.

Rev. Watson shared a number of pastoral concerns. Several Session members also offered up requests for prayers.

Closing Prayer

There being no further business, Rev. Watson closed with prayer and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Alan Atwell, Clerk



Robert W. Henderson, Moderator

**Minutes of the Congregational Meeting
Sunday, September 18, 2016
10:30 am**

A congregational meeting was held on Sunday, September 18, for the purpose of electing ten persons to the Session class of 2019, and two high school aged youth to serve one-year terms as Youth Elder beginning in January, 2017. The meeting was called to order with a prayer by the Moderator. Tommy Lawson and Betsy Grant, chair and vice-chair of the Elder Nominating Committee, were then recognized.

Mr. Lawson thanked the following persons for their service on the 2016 Elder Nominating Committee: Amy Capitano, Lucy Bush Carter, Janet Delery, Hank Demarest, Sally Harriss, Terry Horne, Ben Powell, and staff liaison Bob Henderson.

Ms. Grant then placed three names in nomination for recognition as “honorary Elder Emeritus/a.” Having met the requirements specified in the **Book of Order**, those nominated were:

Nancy Ann Brachey
Charles M. (Jerry) East
William Henry (Bill) Fox

All were elected by acclamation. The Moderator then offered a prayer of gratitude for the many years of faithful service, including a total of 36 years as active Session members, given to Covenant and to God by these Elders.

Mr. Lawson then placed the following names in nomination

To serve three year terms as Elder, class of 2019:

John Franklin Baxter	Stephen Abbott Moore
Laura Diane Belcher	Joe Derrell Pool
Mary Clare Sugg Bracey	Helen Gehrig Richards
Susan Emery Lawson	Lauren Michael Yoder Sawyers
Marilynn Strowd Mickle	Adam Michael Schauer

To serve one year terms as Youth Elder, for the 2017 calendar year:

Mackenzie Hall	Jack Schriefer
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An opportunity for nominations from the floor was offered by the Moderator; none were heard. A motion to accept the slate as presented was then voted on by voice vote, and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Sally Graves, Acting Clerk



Robert W. Henderson, Moderator

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Called Session Meetings
Sundays, September 11,18 and 25, 2016**

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

September 11, 2016

Kimberley Morgan Transfer Letter--Haygood United Methodist, Atlanta, GA
Nick Morgan Transfer Letter--Haygood United Methodist, Atlanta, GA

September 18, 2016

Abby Fitch Transfer Letter--First Presbyterian, Spartanburg, SC
Hollis Fitch Transfer Letter--First Presbyterian, Spartanburg, SC

September 25, 2016

John Lipsey Transfer Letter--4th Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC
Sarah Lipsey Transfer Letter--Aldersgate United Methodist, Greenville, SC

Active (confirmed) members as of 9/30/16: 2220
2016 new members as of 9/30/16: 104
New members since last report: 6
2016 transfers YTD: 8
2016 deaths YTD: 17

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**

Removed from Active Roll Per Request

<u>Name</u>	<u>Transferred to:</u>	<u>Date</u>
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None to report.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Action Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: October and November 2016 Baptisms

DATE: October 10, 2016

Report From: Baptism Committee

Chair: Mary Clare Bracey

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 September 2016:

October 16, 2016 at the 9:30 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Nicolas James Aycinena

Parents-Juan-Pablo and Megan Aycinena

October 16, 2016 at the 11:00 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Scarlett Elizabeth Lindley

Parents-Daniel and Courtney Lindley

Isla Evalyn Keller

Parents-Andrew and Heidi Keller

October 30, 2016 at the 11:00 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Andrew William Hyatt

Parents-Mitch and Lindsay Hyatt

November 13, 2016 at the 9:30 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Charles Tully McCready

Parents-Dan and Laura McCready

Motion: Motion to approve the baptisms of Nicolas James Aycinena, Scarlett Elizabeth Lindley, Isla Evalyn Keller, Andrew William Hyatt, and Charles Tully McCready.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Action Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

DATE: October 10, 2016

Report From: Mission and Outreach Ministry

Chair: Tricia Smith

Background: In 2015, Session approved a special Christmas Eve offering at all services. This offering funded special field trip opportunities in 2016 for children at three of our mission partner schools. These partners included Highland Renaissance Academy in Charlotte, NC; the Crossnore Elementary School afterschool program in Avery County, NC; and the Renguti School in Nairobi, Kenya. The offering and field trips were well received and very successful, and Mission and Outreach would like to repeat this for Christmas Eve 2016.

Process to Date: Mission and Outreach has identified and voted on the recipients of the upcoming Christmas Eve offering collected at all services. Leaders in these organizations have been consulted to determine and confirm their desire for such a donation and to identify specific details and plans.

The 2016 Christmas Eve Offering will fund three events for children in our community, nation and world during the year 2017:

- 1) A 5th-grade field trip to Charleston, SC for Highland Renaissance Academy students (approx 80 students);
- 2) A Christmas excursion for students in the after school program at Crossnore Elementary School in Avery County, NC (approx 50 students);
- 3) A swimming excursion and swim attire for children at Tomorrow's Youth Organization in the city of Nablus in the Holy Lands (approx 450 students).

Budget Impact: 2015 offering receipts were \$55,200. Expected costs for the 2017 field trips is \$45,000-\$50,000.

Motion: The Ministry of Mission and Outreach moves that the Christmas Eve Offerings (through loose offerings) be designated to children who live in poverty...the mission partners will be identified each year by the M/O leadership team and the information provided to session by the October meeting.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Information Item
October 10, 2016**

Subject: Clerk Communications

From: Alan Atwell, Clerk

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

- Faith Ministry
- Union Presbyterian Seminary