

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Meeting of Session
Monday, August 8, 2016
7:00pm
CONSENT AGENDA**

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of June 13, 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 Called Session Meetings Minutes from June and July to receive new members (pg. 5). Alan Atwell, Clerk of Session, moves that the minutes of these meetings be approved as written.
3. Approval of request for changes to active roll (pg. 6)
4. Approval of baptisms (pg. 7)
5. Approval of communion at wedding (pg. 8)
6. Approval of changes to 9:30 traditional service (pg. 9)
7. Approval of changes to worship schedule (pg. 10)

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Clerk's Communications (pg. 11)

FUTURE EVENTS

- August 28 Fall Kick Off
- September 7 Covenant's Got Talent, 7pm
- September 12 Next Session Meeting, 7pm
- September 18 Jimmy Green to visit Covenant, 9:30am
- September 26 Elder Dinner, 6pm

**Minutes of the Meeting of Session
Monday, June 13 2016
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 led the Session Meditation with a reflection on Jesus' walk through Samaria in John 4:1-7 and challenged us all to walk through new and possibly uncomfortable places.

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 in full.

Personnel Report

Phillip James

Mr. James shared that the Personnel Committee is currently interviewing for the Assistant Music Director position, and there is an applicant for the Children's Ministry Assistant. The part-time Recreation Wing Administrative Assistant position has been filled temporarily for the summer.

Residency Perspectives - Jen Christianson and Bob Henderson

Rev. Henderson introduced Ms. Christensen and she reflected on her learning opportunities and challenges during the Residency Program at Covenant. Ms. Christensen offered that Covenant's congregation has blessed her every day and she is humbled and grateful for the support, guidance, and opportunities for ministry at Covenant. She is learning that "imperfection" is appropriate and expected during a residency and that God doesn't just call the equipped, he equips the called. Session members were asked for comments or questions.

Administration

Treasurer's Report – Tom Coley

Mr. Coley reported that as of the end of May, we are slightly behind our budget in pledge receipts and net income was \$313,016 over expenses year to date, \$14,456 more than budgeted at this time.

Safety Task Force Update – Gene Wood

Mr. Wood reported on the progress made in researching safety improvements for the campus. Task

Force members contacted “peer churches” around Charlotte to ascertain their approaches to physical safety and security. Several ideas were reviewed for consideration. The Safety Task Force made three primary recommendations:

- Hire one uniformed off-duty CMPD Officer primarily for the purpose of providing traffic safety on the Morehead side of the campus.
- Establish “Coordinator of the Day” to serve as central point of contact each Sunday.
- Install enhanced door access controls and install recording camera systems in several critical locations on the campus.
- Enhance signage in Sanctuary Building, Fellowship Building and Education Wing with a primary focus on indicating building exits.

A motion was made from the Safety Task Force and Session approved the above recommendations to allow the Task Force to finalize costs and look into possible funding sources.

Planning and Evaluation

Feasibility Study Update – Blaine Sanders

P&E continues to work on a feasibility study and shared four updates with Session:

- Creating a plan to hear from as many people in the congregation as possible.
- Completed an architectural request for proposal to get building estimates from various firms.
- The leading idea for affecting affordable housing in Charlotte is to purchase housing units and then partner with an agency or agencies to manage them.
- The leading idea for education outreach, after considering nine options, is to build an enhanced relationship with the Epiphany School and consider modifications to the third floor of the Education Wing.

There was an invitation to Session members to contact P&E members with questions or for further conversation about these options.

Ministry Reports:

Mission and Outreach

Kenya Report – Randy Ripple

Mr. Ripple shared details of the April/May 2016 mission trip to Nairobi Kenya. He is pleased to report that after several years of decline, the Renguti School is making uneven progress, and enrollment and leadership are improving. The focus of recent trips to Kenya have proved to be about relationship building with teachers, school leaders, van drivers, and young adults rather than building

and manual labor. Maintaining our work in Kenya is a 52-week a year job, with continual conversations and meetings with the leadership at Renguti.

Education **No Report**

Congregational Life **No Report**

Engagement **No Report**

Worship **No Report**

Clerk’s Report

Mr. Ripple, Asst. Clerk, spoke about two recent college graduates in our congregation who will be serving as Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) in the Presbyterian Church and are raising funds for their year away. Annie McAllister will spend a year serving in Miami, and Isabella Fagiani, a current Education Intern, will serve in Scotland. YAVs are required to raise \$3000-\$4000 of the total cost of their programs, which cost over \$20,000. Mr. Ripple made a motion that Session give authorization for these young adults to solicit money from individuals in the church. The motion was approved.

Old Business/New Business

There was no old business or new business

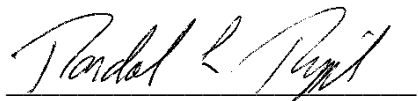
Staff Announcements/Pastoral Concerns

Evan Amo, Mission and Outreach Resident, announced that the beautiful cards at our chairs are thank-you cards from the Highland Renaissance Academy students who are grateful for our volunteer work with the Read Roar Soar program. He added that it has been more difficult to recruit volunteers for this program in the past year and invites new volunteers.

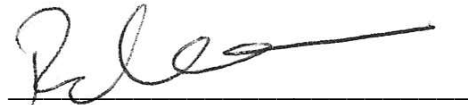
Rev. Watson shared a number of pastoral concerns. Several Session members also offered up requests for prayers.

Closing Prayer

There being no further business, Rev. Watson closed with prayer and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:05 PM.



Randy Ripple, Assistant Clerk



Robert W. Henderson, Moderator

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Called Session Meetings
Sundays, June 12, 19, 26, and July 17, 24, 31, 2016**

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

June 12, 2016

Andrew Keller Transfer Letter--Fifth Avenue Presbyterian, NYC
Heidi Keller Transfer Letter--Fifth Avenue Presbyterian, NYC

June 19, 2016

Brittany Skagfield Reaffirmation

June 26, 2016

Chris Spaugh Transfer Letter--Westminster Presbyterian, Greensboro
Meredith Spaugh Transfer Letter--Westminster Presbyterian, Greensboro

July 17, 2016

Thomas McCormick Transfer Letter--First United Methodist Church, Tifton, GA

July 24, 2017

Emily Weaver Transfer Letter--Westminster Presbyterian, Greensboro
Mike Weaver Reaffirmation
Betsy Sugg Transfer Letter--Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church

July 31, 2016

Brian Williams Myers Park Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC
Christina Williams Myers Park Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC
Jessica McDougall Reaffirmation

Active (confirmed) members as of 7/31/16: 2216

2016 new members as of 7/31/16: 94

New members since last report: 12

2016 transfers YTD: 5

2016 deaths YTD: 14

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>
Ann Sanders	Avondale Presbyterian, Charlotte	July 18, 2016

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Action Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: August & September 2016 Baptisms

DATE: August 8, 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 August and September 2016:

August 14, 2016 at the 9:30 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Arthur Emile Guile

Parents-Mark and Amanda Guile

Jack Harrison Weaver

Parents-Mike and Emily Weaver

August 21, 2016 at the 9:30 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Margaret Elizabeth Hanus

Parents-Leo and Liz Hanus

August 21, 2016 at the 11:00 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Marcus Lawson Zalecki

Parents-Nick and Linsey Zaleck

Lucy Kathryn Hunt

Parents-Jarrett and Katie Hunt

September 4, 2016 at the 11:00 am service in the Covenant Fellowship Hall

Jacob Robert Dubrey

Parents-Jason and Kimberly Dubrey

Motion: Motion to approve the baptisms of Arthur Emile Guile, Jack Harrison Weaver, Margaret Elizabeth Hanus, Marcus Lawson Zalecki, Lucy Kathryn Hunt and Jacob Robert Dubrey.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Action Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: 2016 Wedding

DATE: August 8, 2016

Report From: Worship Ministry/Wedding Committee

Chair: Sally Graves/Barbara Ann Zizzi

Background: According to The Book of Order, Session must approve celebrating the sacrament of communion at weddings.

Process to Date: Mackenzie Ball and Ryan Marosy have requested that communion be served at their wedding on October 29, 2016. Therefore, in accordance with the Book of Order, the Wedding Committee would like to bring the following motion to the Worship Ministry for approval and transmittal to the August session.

Budget Impact: None

Recommendation: The Wedding Committee recommends the approval of celebrating the sacrament of communion at the wedding of Mackenzie Ball and Ryan Marosy on October 29, 2016. The Reverend Robert Henderson will officiate.

Motion

The Wedding Committee moves that the sacrament of communion be celebrated at the wedding ceremony of Mackenzie Ball and Ryan Marosy on October 29, 2016 at Covenant Presbyterian Church with the Reverend Robert Henderson officiating.

Attachment(s): None

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Action Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: The Chapel Service

DATE: August 8, 2016

Report From: Worship Ministry

Chair: Sally Graves

Background: For its part in the Session-wide “Return on Ministry” project, the Worship Ministry has spent the past several months considering the long-term health of, and potential recommendations for improving attendance at, the 9:30 (chapel) traditional worship service.

Budget Impact: None known at this time

Actions Taken or Recommendation:

Motion: The Worship Ministry moves that with regard to the early traditional worship service taking place every Sunday morning in the Chapel, now to be known as The Chapel Service, the start time be changed to 8:45 am (Call to Worship); and that the schedule for the service of communion be changed to once per month, taking place on the Sunday that coincides with the service of communion across the other three worship services.

Attachment(s): None

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Action Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: Worship Services

DATE: August 8, 2016

Report From: Worship Ministry

Chair: Sally Graves

Background: The Worship Ministry shares with the Session any recommended changes to the standard Sunday morning worship schedule.

Budget Impact: None

Recommendation: The coming months include a number of occasions when changes to the Sunday morning worship schedule will be practical and beneficial. The specific dates and recommended changes are listed below.

Motion

The Worship Ministry moves that on the following Sunday mornings, the schedule of worship services be changed as follows:

October 23, 2016 - Covenant Impacts Charlotte
one service; 11:00 am, sanctuary

October 30, 2016: The Fellowship Hall contemporary service takes place
in the amphitheater

December 25, 2016 – Christmas Day
one service, 10:00 am, sanctuary – traditional

January 1, 2017 – New Year’s Day
one service, 10:00 am, sanctuary - contemporary

Additionally, though Session approval is not required, these additional holiday events and dates are noted for the record:

Lessons & Carols Services: Sunday, December 18; 11:00 am and 5:00 pm

Christmas Eve Services: Saturday December 24; 3:00 pm (contemporary) and
5:00 pm (traditional)

Attachment(s): None

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

Subject: Clerk Communications

From: Alan Atwell, Clerk

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

- Bilingual Preschool (grants committee)
- Faith Ministry
- Amani Children's Foundation
- Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte Operating Fund