

**Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Meeting of Session  
Monday, June 13, 2016  
7:00pm  
CONSENT AGENDA**

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Approval of May 16, 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 May 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 guest minister for wedding (pg. 8)

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. ENC Roster for 2016 (pg.9)
2. Minutes from May Presbytery Meeting (pgs. 10-11)
3. Clerk's Communications (pg. 12)

**FUTURE EVENTS**

- July 17                      All Church Field Day 10:45am – 1:30pm
- August 8                    Next Session Meeting, 7pm –  
**NO JULY SESSION MEETING**

**Minutes of the Meeting of Session  
Monday, May 16 2016  
7:00 P.M.**

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

**Opening Worship – Bob Henderson**

Rev. Henderson led the Session Meditation focusing on Matthew 19:16-26 and provided a meditation emphasizing that regardless of the situation, the gospel is still here for us. With God, all things are possible.

**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, with a motion to amend the minutes from the April 17<sup>th</sup> Session meeting to reflect that Congregational Life, not Worship will be following up on the Worship Attendance report provided by Mr. Lawson in April.

**Personnel Report**

Phillip James

Mr. James shared that the search continues for the Assistant Music Director, a part time Assistant in the Rec Wing, a part time Children's Ministry Assistant, and for a new position, Coordinator – Care and Support Teams. He also reported that Matt Garfield joined the staff as Communications Director on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Administration**

Treasurer's Report – Tom Coley

Mr. Coley reported that as of the end of April, we are slightly behind our budget in pledge receipts and total income; however net income is \$10,654 better than budget.

**Ministry Reports:**

**Education**

Return on Ministry – Emily Blair

Ms. Blair shared the Opportunity Statement developed by the Ministry of Education as well as their focus for 2016: Engagement and Assimilation. She then shared the five measures the Ministry has adopted to track progress, as well as examples of each: Communications, Milestone Events, Clicks

and Views, Survey Results, and Attendance. She provided a detail breakdown of attendance by age group and education opportunity.

## **Congregational Life**

Return on Ministry – Nancy Sutton

Ms. Sutton shared an overview of the many committees and teams that make up the three primary areas of focus for the Congregational Life ministry: Wholeness, Care, and Fellowship. She also reported there are currently more than 150 people participating in one of more of these activities. She presented the three priorities the Ministry is focused on for 2016 and 2017:

- Build a model and pilot three Support Groups
- Access care needs, pilot three care teams, and refine the model
- Build a team and process for Open Table to be sustainable

Congregational Retreat – Nancy Sutton

Ms. Sutton reported that the recent retreat, while attended by only 19 people was enjoyed by those attending. Kim Moseley, Joan Watson, and Jen Christianson each played a role in making the event successful. Ms. Sutton stated that with all that is taking place at Covenant, including other successful retreats, an inter-generational retreat that attracts a large cross-section of the congregation may not work at this time. Rev. Henderson observed that often it is healthy to do a gap analysis after an event to explore the difference between expectations and the actual results.

## **Mission and Outreach**

Return on Ministry – Tricia Smith and Kay Wheeler

Ms. Smith shared the vision for the Mission and Outreach Ministry and said the current focus is “Educate a Child, Transform the World”. She then shared how this is being lived out across Grants, Local Outreach and National/Global Outreach. Ms. Wheeler shared the specific objectives for the Ministry to support the current focus as follows:

- Use the “Curve Analysis” to measure the vitality of each ministry we support
- Continue our existing grant process
- Create data assessment tool to measure volunteer service hours
- Focus on increasing volunteer numbers by 20% for each ministry

## **Engagement**

Time and Talent Format – Rusty Williams

Mr. Williams shared the work that is being done by the Engagement Ministry to reformat the Time and Talent material. The team has been analyzing what has been used in the past and the results those efforts achieved. They are also brainstorming changes that would “meet people where they are”. This might include providing less options and allowing people to sign up for one time service opportunities using a mobile app.

## Visitor's Report – Rusty Williams

Mr. Williams circulated the Visitor's Report from April and shared a couple of stories on how input from Session members actually makes a difference in helping people choose Covenant as their church home.

### Worship

### No Report

### Clerk's Report

Mr. Atwell thanked each of the six individuals for the Return on Ministry reports provided in April and May. He also read a thank you letter from Natasha Johnson, who was recently accepted to be an Inquirer at Union Seminary. He informed the Session that a youth elder project is being started to build relationships with the Epiphany School. He shared an invitation to staff and Session members to attend the graduation ceremony for Neely Lane on June 11<sup>th</sup> at Sharon Presbyterian Church.

### Old Business/New Business

There was no old business or new business

### Staff Announcements/Pastoral Concerns

Rev. Henderson, Tricia Smith and Randy Ripple shared reflections from the recent mission trip to Kenya. Good work is being done under the leadership of Lucy Wambua at Renguti School and relationships across many ministries continue to be developed and expanded. While there, the team had the opportunity to share with the students the fruits of the Christmas Eve offering, which was well received by the children. The team returned full of hope for the future with our many mission partners in Kenya. It was noted that the Highland Elementary students who were also beneficiaries of the Christmas Eve offering took their trip to Charleston at the same time the children in Kenya were enjoying a field trip hosted by Covenant mission team members.

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 8:45 PM.



---

Alan Atwell, Clerk



---

Robert W. Henderson, Moderator

**Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Called Session Meetings  
Sundays, May 1, 8, 15 and 22, 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:

**May 1, 2016**

Katie Hunt                    Reaffirmation  
Jarrett Hunt                 Reaffirmation

**May 8, 2016**

Cindy Grier                 Transfer Letter--First Presbyterian, Charlotte, NC

**May 15, 2016**

Katie Wiseman             Transfer Letter--St Paul's Episcopal, Summerville, SC  
Dillon Turner               Transfer Letter--St Thomas Lutheran Church, Chapin, SC

**May 22, 2016**

Austin Flynn                Transfer Letter--First Presbyterian Church, Salisbury, NC  
Peter Banks                 Transfer Letter--Sardis Presbyterian Church  
Susie Banks                 Transfer Letter--Sardis Presbyterian Church  
Patrick Greene              Reaffirmation  
Nancy Greene               Transfer Letter--Central United Methodist, Shelby, NC

Donna Callaway          Affiliate Membership  
Jason Callaway            Affiliate Membership

**Active (confirmed) members as of 3/31/16: 2209**  
**2016 new members as of 2/29/16: 82**  
**New members since last report: 12**  
**2016 transfers YTD: 4**  
**2016 deaths YTD: 12**

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**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Transferred to:</b>	<b>Date</b>
Joseph Alan Wheeler	Trinity Presbyterian, Charlotte, NC	May 12, 2016
Elizabeth Holbrook	Harrison Methodist Church, Pineville, NC	May 15, 2016
Ron Bailes	Philadelphia UMC, Fort Mill, SC	May 15, 2016
Shannon Bailes	Philadelphia UMC, Fort Mill, SC	May 15, 2016

**Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Session Action Item  
Summary**

---

**SUBJECT: June and July 2016 Baptisms**

**DATE: May 16, 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 June and July 2016:

June 19, 2016 at the 9:30 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

**Blake Morrison Martin**

Parents-David and Laurie Martin

July 17, 2016 at the 9:30 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

**Winston Walker Lindvall**

Parents-Jon and Lisa Lindvall

July 17, 2016 at the 11:00 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

**Olivia Adelaide Taylor**

Parents-Drew and Allison Taylor

**Motion:** Motion to approve the baptisms of Blake Morrison Martin, Winston Walker Lindvall, and Olivia Adelaide Taylor.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Session Action Item  
Summary**

---

**SUBJECT: 2016 Wedding**

**DATE: June 13, 2016**

---

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

**Chair:** Sally Graves/Barbara Ann Zizzi

**Background:** According to The Book of Order, Session must approve the participation of an outside minister at a Covenant wedding.

**Process to Date:** The September 10, 2016 wedding of Kate MacKenzie and Chris Carter will include the participation of a non-Covenant minister. 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 May session meeting.

**Budget Impact:** None

**Recommendation:** The Wedding Committee recommends the approval of a non-Covenant minister to participate at the wedding of Kate MacKenzie and Chris Carter on September 10, 2016.

**Motion**

The Wedding Committee moves that Chaplain Joe Grace, Division Chaplain for the 75<sup>th</sup> TC Great Lakes Training Division at Ft. Sheridan, Illinois, be approved to co-officiate, along with the Reverend Robert Henderson, in the wedding ceremony of Kate MacKenzie and Chris Carter on September 10, 2016 at Covenant Presbyterian Church.

**Attachment(s):** None



**Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Session Information Item  
Summary**

---

**SUBJECT: ENC Roster 2016**

**DATE: June 13, 2016**

---

**Report From:** Elder Nominating Committee Roster, Tommy Lawson Chair

**Background:** According to the Operations Manual, the chair person(s) of the Elder Nominating Committee shall solicit the names of eight persons, none of whom may be in active service of the Session to serve on the committee as follows:

- One person appointed by each Ministry Leadership Team
- One person appointed by the Presbyterian Women
- One person appointed by the Men's Fellowship

**Process to Date:** The committee chairs have been given the following names for service on the ENC for 2016:

**Elder Nominating Committee Roster- 2016**

Tommy Lawson	Chair
Betsy Grant	Co-Chair
Terry Horne	Administration
Janet Delery	Congregational Life
Lucy Bush Carter	Education
Deanna Cooper	Engagement
Amy Capitano	Mission & Outreach
Ben Powell	Worship
Sally Harriss	Presbyterian Women
Hank Demarest	Men's Fellowship

**Summary Notes of the  
130<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Charlotte  
Hosted by Sardis Presbyterian Church, Charlotte  
May 17, 2016**

**Attending from Covenant Presbyterian:**

Emily Blair	Kay Wheeler
Evan Amo	Anne Gildea
Bob Henderson	Anne McQuiston
Jessica Patchett	Kay Tawney

Appended to these notes are links to the following:  
Presbytery Packet, Presbytery Supplemental Packet, and Presbytery Highlights

The meeting flowed according to the Presbytery Packet, and so would be redundant to report details, with the following exceptions or amplifications:

**Emmaus Team Roundtable Discussion**

Rev. Luke Maybry introduced the Emmaus Team roundtable discussion by reminding us that fundamentally the church is about what God has done and what God is doing, and that God has chosen to bring us together in the Kingdom of God. A necessary part of this is dealing with disagreement, all within the Kingdom of God. Those issues do not define who we are; God defines who we are. Each table participated in a roundtable discussion to investigate all the things that unify us even when we disagree on issues. We discussed the following specific questions:

- What does it mean to follow Jesus together when we disagree?
- How would our conversation be different if we assume that the people with whom we disagree love Jesus and honor Scripture as much as we do?
- What if we were churches dedicated to a living process of joining Jesus, the risen Christ, in building, celebrating, and anticipating the Kingdom of God in our seven counties and beyond?

**Presbytery Worship Service in the Sanctuary**

A worship service was offered in the sanctuary, led by Rev. David McKechnie (Sardis), Rev. Matt Drumheller (First Pres – Albemarle), and Rev. Claire George Drumheller. The Sacrament of Communion was offered by Rev. Floretta Watkins (Seigle Ave.) and Rev. W. Jeff Pinkston (Steele Creek). The wonderful music was provided by the combined choirs from Woodland and Paw Creek Churches.

**Resolution on NC House Bill 2**

After hearing both supporting and opposing discussion from the open floor, the Presbytery approved the following Resolution from the Mission, Justice and Outreach Committee, on NC House Bill 2. The resolution will be communicated to the North Carolina General Assembly and as information to the Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA):

**Whereas** the Presbytery of Charlotte in no way supports any legislation, organization or actions which serve to oppress or discriminate against any individual or group of individuals.

*It is our belief, in accordance with the scriptures, that God created all of humanity in God's image. (Genesis 1:27). Furthermore, it is our belief that there is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female and all are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28).*

*As we affirm this as a Presbytery, we cannot support legislation which takes away the inalienable rights of anyone to protect one's own freedom and justice. In accordance with Isaiah 1:17, we are seekers of justice and we defend the oppressed. We affirm this as our duty as disciples of Christ.*

**Therefore**, we call upon the General Assembly of North Carolina to repeal HB2 and restore, renew and affirm the rights of all individuals.

### **Committee on Ministry Report**

The following were recognized:

- Rev. Larry James on his honorable retirement from Grier Heights Presbyterian Church
- Rev. Young Sung Lee, who will be serving as a full-time chaplain in the US Army
- Rev. E. Neal Carter, Jr. Pastor-Elect, Rocky River, transferring from Coastal Carolina Presbytery

### **Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report**

The following were approved:

- Natasha Johnson (Covenant) and Nicole Newton (Myers Park) as Inquirers
- Bill Prestwood (Covenant) as Candidate for Ministry, following Bill's sharing his Statement of Faith

**Recognition of "Earth-Care Congregations"** to Davidson College, First Pres Concord, Providence

### **Commissioning Service for the Delegates to the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly and PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer**

Including Young Adult Advisory Delegate Jordan Schriefer (Covenant)

**Next Presbytery meeting:** 131<sup>st</sup> Stated Meeting, Saturday, July 16, 2016, 9:30am  
Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church, Charlotte

#### 1. Presbytery Packet

<http://www.presbyofcharlotte.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/PbyPkt0516.pdf>

#### 2. Presbytery Supplemental Packet

<http://www.presbyofcharlotte.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/SuppPkt0516.pdf>

#### 3. Presbytery Highlights

<http://www.presbyofcharlotte.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/PbyHighlights0516.pdf>

**Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Session Information Item  
June 13, 2016**

---

**Subject: Clerk Communications**

**From: Alan Atwell, Clerk**

---

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

- Avery County Habitat
- Friendship Trays
- Union Presbyterian Seminary (donation and scholarship assistance)