

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Meeting of Session
Monday, June 12, 2017
7:00pm
CONSENT AGENDA**

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of May 7, 2017 Session Meeting Minutes (pgs.2-4). Randy Ripple, 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.5-6). 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 guest minister at wedding (pg.9).

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Extended Communion Report (pg. 10)
2. Presbytery Meeting Minutes (pg. 11)
3. Clerk's Communications (pg.12).

FUTURE EVENTS

- July 2 One Service, 10am
- July 9 Summer worship schedule begins – Sanctuary services only
- August 14 Session Meeting, 7pm – NO JULY MEETING
- August 19 Presbytery Meeting, 9:30am Quail Hollow Presbyterian
- August 27 Blessing of the Backpacks

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Minutes of the Meeting of Session on
Sunday, May 7, 2017**

Call to Order and Opening Prayer – Moderator, Bob Henderson

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm pm and opened with a brief and prayer led by Rev. Henderson.

Determination of Quorum

Rev. Henderson declared a quorum. A motion to adopt the Agenda was made and approved.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda was amended to reflect that the next Session Meeting will take place on June 12 (not June 13). A motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as amended, was made and approved unanimously.

Administration – Gene Wood

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Wood reviewed the April financials and reported that overall operating performance is good, and the balance sheet remains sound.

Personnel Report – Philip James

Open Positions

Mr. James reported that each of the four search committees is being dutiful and intentional in its search processes and hopes to have good news related to the open staff position it is seeking to fill in the coming months.

Mr. James thanked and acknowledged Evan Amo (who was in attendance) for his work at Covenant. Mr. James asked Session members to welcome Anna Dickson, summer associate in Mission & Outreach, and Heidi Biermann, seminary intern in Christian Discipleship, when we see them on campus in the coming weeks.

Planning and Evaluation - Update on Potential Capital Campaign

Randy Ripple offered some opening remarks, noting how impressed he has been with the amount of work that has been done and how much each team has learned. Mr. Ripple noted that Session would not be making any decisions tonight, but members would be brought up the learning curve by each team and be given the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

Child Development Center team – Helen Richards

Ms. Richards updated Session as to the scope of the Child Development Center (“CDC”) team’s work over the last several months and what they have determined is the opportunity and need for additional high quality, economically diverse full day child care and education in our community. She detailed the project scope and the economic commitment that would be required for Covenant to start-up and run a high quality, economically diverse child development center, including information on how socioeconomic diversity could be achieved and maintained over time, and how the CDC would be overseen and managed and fit within Covenant’s existing ministry structure. The open issue of how to fund CDC scholarships to ensure economic diversity was identified as an item that is under

consideration by P&E and will be addressed within the final recommendation to Session. A handful of questions were asked and answered after Ms. Richards' update.

Building and Campus Upgrades team – Rusty Williams

Mr. Williams updated Session on the following four potential campus upgrades: a new CDC & Hospitality Center; Education Building upgrades, Fellowship Hall upgrades, and a more welcoming Dilworth Road entrance. Mr. Williams updated session as to the work that his team has done over that last several months to arrive at the current plans, as well as estimated costs for each project. He shared exterior renderings and floorplans of the potential CDC & Hospitality Center building, floorplans for the FH updates and a drawing of the more welcoming Dilworth Road campus entrance. Mr. Williams answered questions, as they arose, during his update.

Affordable Housing team – Betsy Grant

Ms. Grant began with an overview of affordable housing needs in Charlotte, including a definition of affordable housing. She discussed issues that prevent families from finding affordable housing in Charlotte, which include lack of units, lack of housing subsidies, “not in my neighborhood” mentality, and lack of financing availability. Ms. Grant discussed six guiding principle that the affordable housing team is using to guide their process which are as follows:

1. Supports a bold vision
2. Prioritizes a “corridor” to enhance and/or protect a neighborhood environment
3. Impacts an optimal number of people served over a lifecycle of 10 years to strengthen opportunity for upward mobility
4. Prioritizes households with children
5. Supports congregational engagement
6. Exercises appropriate stewardship

Ms. Grant ended by explaining that the affordable housing team continues to work to gather information as they seek the best path forward for Covenant to support additional affordable housing in Charlotte and hopes to bring a recommendation to Session in the near future. Session members asked several questions which were each addressed.

Public Education Support / Community Enrichment Initiative team – Nancy Falls

Ms. Falls updated Session on the work of this team to date, which has included meeting with a variety of people to learn about public education support program models, reviewing current Covenant programming support of Highland Renaissance Academy, studying existing educational support programming in our community, and exploring the Purpose Build Community model. This team is currently considering moving towards a community enrichment initiative, focusing on wrap around services that will support lower economic families with children. Ms. Falls ended by explaining that this team is continuing its work as it seeks a path forward where Covenant can make a positive impact on the education of children from lower income families.

Finance team – Laura Belcher

Ms. Belcher laid out a preliminary capital campaign model, detailing potential campaign revenues and potential building project and community investment expenses. This preliminary model included contingency figures and Cornerstone contributions. The Finance team will continue to refine the model as work continues by the various teams. A suggestion was made that P&E develop

recommendations as to what project(s) should be scaled back or cut if anticipated revenues were to fall short.

QUEST Examinations

Session examined nineteen (19) eighth graders for confirmation of their faith and membership into Covenant Presbyterian Church. Session members, Questers and their mentors broke into six groups, each group including four session members and three or four questers (each with their respective mentor). Each group, led by one elder, who was appointed to lead the group, met in a separate space in Fellowship Hall during which time each quester shared his/her faith statement within the small group. Elders asked questions and encouraged the youth, closing in a circle of prayer before returning to the larger group. The lead elder for each group then presented for membership, pending their affirmation of faith, the following individuals (in total from all groups): Rachel Arwood, Tyler Bacon, Lindsay Batten, Will Collins, Keegan Bader, Daniel Barchi, Grace Arwood, Claire Masonis, Caroline Van Nort, Walker Terrill, George Murray, Charlie Robinson, Katie Robinson, Carolyn Goins, Emma Clair Cantrell, Cate Dupuy, Davis Prevet, Will Farrell and Brad Rivera. A motion to accept these individuals into membership, pending their affirmation of faith, was made and approved unanimously.

Ministry Reports:

Education – No Report

Mission and Outreach – No Report

Congregational Life – No Report

Engagement – No Report

Worship – No Report

Clerk's Report – Alan Atwell gave a brief ENC update, reporting that he and Mary Lynne Calhoun are in the process of staffing the committee.

Old Business/New Business - None

Staff Announcements/Pastoral Concerns

There were no staff announcements. Several pastoral concerns were shared.

Closing

Following a prayer led by Rev. Joan Watson, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Randy Ripple, Clerk



Robert W. Henderson, Moderator

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Called Session Meetings
May 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2017**

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

May 7, 2017

Meredith McKee Transfer Letter--Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, Charlotte, NC
Bobby Sullivan Transfer Letter--Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, Charlotte, NC

May 14, 2017

Amanda deBoer Reaffirmation
Mike deBoer Reaffirmation

Members of 2017 Confirmation Class (May 14, 2017)

Rachel Arwood Profession of Faith
Grace Arwood Profession of Faith
Tyler Bacon Profession of Faith
Keegan Bader Profession of Faith
Daniel Barchi Profession of Faith
Lindsay Batten Profession of Faith
Emma Claire Cantrell Profession of Faith
William Collins Profession of Faith
Cate DuPuy Profession of Faith
William Farrell Profession of Faith
Carolyn Goins Profession of Faith
Claire Masonis Profession of Faith
George Murray Profession of Faith
Davis Prevetie Profession of Faith
Richard Rivera Profession of Faith
Katie Robinson Profession of Faith
Charles Robinson Profession of Faith
Walker Terrell Profession of Faith
Caroline Van Nort Profession of Faith

May 21, 2017

Jeffrey Harris Reaffirmation
Janet Harris Reaffirmation
Kirby Robbins Reaffirmation
Brian Yates Reaffirmation

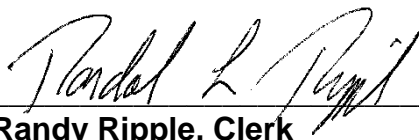
May 28, 2017

David Kelly Reaffirmation

Active (confirmed) members as of 5/31/17: 2256
2017 new members as of 5/31/17: 62
New members since last report: 28
2017 transfers as of 5/31/17: 16
2017 deaths as of 5/31/17: 11

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

Respectfully submitted,



Randy Ripple, 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>
Ben Clark	Transfer Letter--Idlewild Presbyterian Church, Memphis, TN
Meghan Clark	Transfer Letter--Idlewild Presbyterian Church, Memphis, TN

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Action Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: June and July 2017 Baptisms

DATE: June 12, 2017

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 June and July 2017:

June 25, 2017 at the 11:00 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Amari Calloway Adell

Parents- Patrick Adell and Heidi Kixmiller

Ellery Ann Morris

Parents- Josh and Garrett Morris

July 30th at the 9:30 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

George Elliott Askins

Parents- Luke and Sarah Askins

The Baptism Committee retroactively recommends approval of the following baptism at Covenant in June 2017:

June 11, 2017 at the 9:30 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Hugh David Ward

Parents- Kirk and Liz Ward

Motion: Motion to approve the baptisms of Amari Calloway Adell, Ellery Ann Morris, and George Elliott Askins and retroactively approve the baptism of Hugh David Ward.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Action Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: 2017 Wedding

DATE: June 12, 2017

Report From: Wedding Committee

Chair: 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 October 14, 2017 wedding of Michelle Brooks and Matthew Jernigan 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 June session meeting.

Budget Impact: None

Actions Taken or Recommendation: The Wedding Committee recommends the approval of a non-Covenant minister to participate at the wedding of Michelle Brooks and Matthew Jernigan on October 14, 2017.

Motion: The Wedding Committee moves that Reverend Michael Poulos, Associate Pastor for Youth & Mission at First Presbyterian Church of Asheville, North Carolina, be approved to co-officiate, along with the Reverend Robert Henderson, in the wedding ceremony of Michelle Brooks and Matthew Jernigan on October 14, 2017 at Covenant Presbyterian Church.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Information Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: Extended Communion

DATE: June 12, 2017

Report From: Extended Communion Committee **Chairs:** Betty Graybeal & Marilyn Mickle

**Extended Communion Report
Covenant Presbyterian Church- Worship Ministry**

Extended Communion was served on May 7, 2017.

Elders serving

Ann Ayers	Marilynn Mickle
Catherine Bracey	Joe Pool
Stan Bracey	Emily Reinicker
Betty Graybeal	Randy Ripple
Ariel Gritter	Mary Utting
Terry Horne	Sandy Ward
Amy Hunter	Sherry Wary

Members serving

Pat Arnold
Louise Ripple

Members served

Orpha Baxter	Ruby Taylor
Edna Hamilton	John and Mary Jane Ramsey
John & Ada Offerdahl	Dick McClintock
Patricia & Roy Joslin	Gloria Griner
LaRue Perry	Jim Patterson & 3 friends
Louise Lawing	Don Dartnall
Ann Blinn	
Lou Crites	
Martha Mitchell	

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Graybeal & Marilyn Mickle
Extended Communion Co-chairs
5/9/2017

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Information Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: Presbytery Minutes

DATE: June 12, 2017

Report From: Mission and Outreach Committee

Chair: Will Summerville

**Highlights of 134th Stated Meeting of The Presbytery of Charlotte
South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church
May 16, 2017**

- Despite rumors to the contrary, the Covenant representatives to the Presbytery meeting conducted themselves in a most appropriate manner. Representatives from Covenant Presbyterian Church were Ann Ayers, Berma Jean Kincaid, Kay Wheeler, Nancy Falls, and Anne McQuiston, whose notes comprise this meeting summary.
- Following the opening welcome and approval of the docket, we entered into a time of worship with the Rev. Joe Clifford preaching a sermon on the Emmaus Moment.
- This was followed by a presentation from the Emmaus Team and The Strategic Planning Task Force, who have worked over the last 3 years on the Presbytery's vision for the future. It should be noted that Bob Henderson serves on the Strategic Planning Task Force. A full overview of this structure was given by the Rev. Robert Austell and De'Ann Cunningham. Recommendations were made regarding a new structuring of Presbytery Staff and the committees of Presbytery. A new general Presbyter and an associate Presbyter will be hired. The recommendations were approved.
- The CPM committee presented Russ Kerr for approval to be enrolled as a candidate for ministry.
- The CPM committee presented David Watson (Joan's son) for examination for ordination as a Teaching Elder. The examination was sustained following David's bold and inspiring sermon and the satisfactory response to a question from the floor. David's call is serving as a chaplain to the New Orleans police department. Our delegation was delighted to celebrate this occasion with the Watson family.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Information Item
Summary**

Subject: Clerk Communications

From: Randy Ripple, Clerk

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

- Charlotte Bridge Home
- Habitat for Humanity – Charlotte
- Refugee Support Services
- Safe Alliance
- Union Presbyterian Seminary
- YMCA – Camp Harrison