

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Meeting of Session
Monday, May 16, 2016
7:00pm
CONSENT AGENDA**

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of April 17, 2016 Session Meeting Minutes (pgs.2-5). Alan Atwell, Clerk of Session, moves that the minutes of this meeting be approved as written.
2. Approval of Called Session Meetings Minutes from April to receive new members (pg. 6-7). 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. 8).
4. Approval of baptisms (pg. 9).
5. Approval of holiday worship schedule (pg. 10).
6. Approval of guest minister for wedding (pg. 11).

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Mission Festival Report (pg. 12).
2. Recognition of church member by Presbytery (pg. 13).
3. Clerk's Communications (pg. 14).

FUTURE EVENTS

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| • May 18 | CMS Budget Meeting, 7pm |
| • May 21 | 5K with The Park |
| • May 22 | Commissioning Sunday |
| • May 22 | Beach Bash 5-7pm |
| • June 5 | Senior Sunday |
| • June 13 | Next Session Meeting, 7pm |

**Minutes of the Meeting of Session
Sunday, April 17 2016
6:00 P.M.**

Call to Order – Moderator, Bob Henderson

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Rev. Henderson welcomed the Quest class and their mentors, who were there for Session examinations.

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.

Examination of Quest Confirmands

Chaz Snider explained the examination process and assigned Session members, Quest confirmands and mentors to small groups where each confirmand shared their faith statement and favorite memory verse. The elders asked questions and everyone discussed the Quest experience. After the small groups completed their examinations, each confirmand was individually received into full membership of the Covenant Presbyterian Church. At that time, the Quest class and mentors were dismissed and the Session resumed the meeting in the Peak Music Room.

Personnel Report

Chris Lam

Mr. Lam shared that the search continues for the Assistant Music Director and Covenant is also looking for a part time assistant in the Rec Wing. He also reported that Matt Garfield joins the staff as Communications Director on May 2nd.

Administration

Treasurer's Report – Tom Coley

Mr. Coley reported that the strong financial performance continued in March with net income being \$42,000 better than budget.

Return on Ministry – Tom Coley

Mr. Coley indicated that Administration would be focused on two priorities in 2016:

- Upgrading the Operating System to a new release of Shelby
- Initiating the Lighting Project to retrofit Covenant with LED technology

Warner Hall Scholarship Change – Tom Coley

Mr. Coley provided background on the scholarship which was created in 1988. Originally the fund supported Clinical Pastoral Education and internships at Union - Richmond. In 1998, the Session of Covenant agreed to make the funds available for merit and need based scholarships. In 2016, Union reports that over time \$360,000 in unused funds have accumulated and requested the scholarship funds be expanded to include Asset Based Community Development for Church Leaders. After conversation with leadership at Union – Richmond and Union – Charlotte, the Administration Ministry made a recommendation to Session to expand the use of the funds at Union – Richmond and Union – Charlotte, which would include that the funds can also now be used for the student portion and matching portion of tuition for any Covenant member. After discussion, the Session determined that the recommendation is consistent with the original intent of the scholarship fund and approved it unanimously.

Five Year Cornerstone Plan – Tom Coley

Mr. Coley presented the five-year Cornerstone Fund plan prepared by the property committee. Specific projects recommended for 2016 are exterior stone restoration (\$102,000) and campus lighting (\$110,000). The plan was approved by the Session unanimously.

Campus Light Project – Pat Burgess

Mr. Burgess provided an update on the plan he presented at the March Session meeting. After receiving two bids, Administration is recommending we revise the proposal and do it as a single project over two years. Rebates from Duke Power have been confirmed. The projected return on investment would be approximately two years. It was also noted that the technology is changing quickly and the Property Committee would be responsible for making final decisions on approach.

Planning and Evaluation

Capital Campaign – Blaine Sanders

Mr. Sanders provided a brief update on the work that is underway by three sub-groups in P&E; developing one-page case studies, designing a request for proposal from architects, and conducting a feasibility study. The work to date would suggest the process will take longer than anticipated and we are not going to rush through it.

Ministry Reports:

Education

No Report

Worship

Return on Ministry – Sally Graves

Ms. Graves shared that the Worship Ministry would be focused on making targeted practical improvements to the 9:30 Chapel Worship service. They will be using the summer sabbatical to refine their plans, which will be introduced in the fall.

Worship Attendance Follow up – Tommy Lawson

Mr. Lawson provided a list of individuals who had not been attending worship regularly in 2016. He explained some of the reasons this may be happening. The spreadsheet he distributed provided comments on many individuals he has been able to contact. He asked that each Session member review the list and provide him additional information.

Congregational Life

No Report

Mission and Outreach

No Report

Engagement

Return on Ministry – Kate MacKenzie

Ms. MacKenzie shared that Engagement has two priorities in 2016:

- Refine the Time and Talent follow up to more effectively connect members with opportunities at Covenant
- Develop a strategy to welcome the rapidly growing number of South End residents, many of whom are new to the city and looking for a church home

Hospitality and Visitors Report – Kate MacKenzie

Ms. MacKenzie provided the March visitors' report and asked for elders to note anyone they recognize.

Clerk's Report

Elder Nominating Committee - Alan Atwell

Mr. Atwell recommended that Tommy Lawson serve as Chair and Betsy Grant serve as co-chair of the Elder Nominating Committee for the class of 2019. They were approved unanimously.

Old Business/New Business

Mr. Atwell provided an update on our former payroll withholding provider who is currently being prosecuted for embezzlement. The trustee recently filed lawsuits against the 200 victims in the case, including Covenant. Our legal counsel is seeking to have the lawsuit dismissed.

Staff Announcements/Pastoral Concerns

Mr. Atwell and Rev. Henderson thanked everyone involved in making the Mission Festival a big success.

Rev. Henderson shared that he has been invited to be part of J C Smith Seminary, which is located in Atlanta and provided a little background on the school.

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

Closing Prayer

There being no further business, Rev. Patchett closed with prayer and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 PM.



Alan Atwell, Clerk



Robert W. Henderson, Moderator

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Called Session Meetings
Sundays, April 3, 10, 17 and 24, 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:

April 3, 2016

Hannah Trawick	Affiliate Membership
Jacob Coltrane	Affiliate Membership
David Gaston	Reaffirmation
Louise Corder	Transfer Letter--Myers Park Presbyterian Church
Mark Nebrig	Transfer Letter-Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church
Michelle Nebrig	Reaffirmation

April 10, 2016

Ken Doty	Transfer letter--Vienna Presbyterian Church, Vienna, Virginia
Meredith Doty	Transfer letter--Vienna Presbyterian Church, Vienna, Virginia

April 17, 2016

Brad Moore	Transfer letter--Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Huntersville, NC
Jean Moore	Transfer letter--Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Huntersville, NC

April 24, 2016

Lauren Call	Profession of Faith
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April 24, 2016 – Quest Class Confirmation

William Atwell	Declaration of Faith
Katherine Balas	Declaration of Faith
Mary John Beyer	Declaration of Faith
C.G. Brookhouse	Declaration of Faith
Kate Cisne	Declaration of Faith
Anna Ferone	Declaration of Faith
Emmy Fleshood	Declaration of Faith
Natalie Ford	Declaration of Faith
Veronica Ford	Declaration of Faith
Chloe Hall	Declaration of Faith
Nate Hall	Declaration of Faith
Nate Harper	Declaration of Faith
Lainey Kluttz	Declaration of Faith
Grayson Majors	Declaration of Faith
J.B. Meanor	Declaration of Faith
Nick Morgan	Declaration of Faith
Harrison Ray	Declaration of Faith
Davis Richards	Declaration of Faith

Susan Richards Declaration of Faith
Katherine Roehrig Declaration of Faith
Jillian Stack Declaration of Faith
Sean Stanton Declaration of Faith
Amelia Steffens Declaration of Faith
Camille White Declaration of Faith
Jackson Wise Declaration of Faith
Margaret Wilkerson Declaration of Faith

Active (confirmed) members as of 3/31/16: 2205
2016 new members as of 2/29/16: 70
New members since last report: 37
2016 transfers YTD: 0
2016 deaths YTD: 8

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
May 16, 2016**

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: May and June, 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 May and June 2016:

May 15, 2016 at the 9:30 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Caitlin Emma Doty

Parents-Ken and Meredith Doty

May 15, 2016 at the 11:00 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Parker James Webb

Parents-David and Carrie Webb

Carter Benjamin Hudson

Parents- Jeff and Lisa Hudson

June 12, 2016 at the 9:30 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Caleb Thomas Schulhofer

Parents-Blair and Kristin Schulhofer

June 12, 2016 at the 11:00 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Madelyn Grace Farmer

Parents-Thomas and Erin Farmer

Motion: Motion to approve the baptisms of Caitlin Emma Doty, Parker James Webb, Carter Benjamin Hudson, Caleb Thomas Schulhofer, and Madelyn Grace Farmer.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Action Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: Worship Services: Holiday Schedule

DATE: May 16, 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: Because the 4th of July and Christmas holidays both involve weekends in 2016, the Worship Committee recommends the implementation of an abbreviated worship schedule on those occasions.

Motion

The Worship Committee moves that on Sunday mornings, July 3 and December 25, 2016, the schedule of worship services be reduced to one, and that each of those services begin at 10:00 in the sanctuary.

Attachment(s): None

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Action Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: 2016 Wedding

DATE: May 16, 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 June 25, 2016 wedding of Jaryn Pulice and Chris Phelps 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 Jaryn Pulice and Chris Phelps on June 25, 2016.

Motion

The Wedding Committee moves that the Reverend Dr. Cynthia Higgins, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Hampton, Virginia, be approved to co-officiate, along with the Reverend Robert Henderson, in the wedding ceremony of Jaryn Pulice and Chris Phelps on June 25, 2016 at Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Attachment(s): None

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Information Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: 2016 Mission Auction Update

DATE: May 16, 2016

Report From: Mission and Outreach Committee **Chair:** Tricia Smith

Background: The Mission and Outreach Committee held its annual Mission Auction, “A Celebration of Mission, Art, and Music” on April 17 in the Covenant Recreation Wing. Proceeds from this event benefit high school and adult mission trips as well as our mission partners.

Process to Date: Proceeds from the event totaled over \$35,000. Our committee would like to thank all of our generous volunteers, donors, and participants for making this an extremely successful event.

Budget Impact: All funds will be directed to the Festival Auction Missions Fund, Account #23750.

Actions Taken or Recommendation: None

Motion: None

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Information Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: Presbytery Award

DATE: May 16, 2016

Report From: Congregational Life

Background: Information on Covenant Elder Presbytery of Charlotte 2016 Outstanding Older Adult Award

Process to Date: Session received letter from Presbytery of Charlotte announcing the opportunity for Session to nominate a member for the 2016 Outstanding Older Adult Award. Alan Atwell provided the letter announcement to Nancy Sutton, Chair Congregational Life at Session Agenda on April 4, 2016. Nancy consulted with Congregational Life Elders and responded to the Presbytery with the nomination of Anne McQuiston. Nancy served as Covenant's liaison to coordinate with Presbytery and Covenant.

Budget Impact: Joan Watson approved the luncheon expense of \$90 paid to the Presbytery of Charlotte.

Actions Taken or Recommendation: On May 10, 2016, The Leadership Development Committee of the Presbytery of Charlotte honored 15 recipients of its 2016 Outstanding Older Adult Award at a special luncheon and program at Providence Presbyterian Church. Covenant Session's nominee, Anne McQuiston, celebrated with family, friends, several fellow Covenant elders, and Joan Watson. The program moderator read each nominee's submission while showing on the large screen 4-5 photos of the recipient. Congregational Life was happy to submit the nomination for Anne who daily bears witness to Christ working in and through her life.

Motion: None.

Attachment(s): None.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Information Item
May 16, 2016**

Subject: Clerk Communications

From: Alan Atwell, Clerk

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

- Faith Ministries
- Friends of Accion
- Loaves and Fishes
- MeckMin
- The Board of Pensions, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Additionally, a letter from the West Cluster of the Presbytery of Charlotte functioning on behalf of the Committee on Ministry was received indicating that Rev. Floretta Watkins of Seigle Avenue Presbyterian Church is now our COM liaison.