

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Meeting of Session
Sunday, May 7, 2017
4:30pm
CONSENT AGENDA**

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of April 10, 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 April to receive new members (pg.5). 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.6).
4. Approval of baptisms (pg.7).
5. Approval of communion at wedding (pg.8).

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Clerk's Communications (pg.9).

FUTURE EVENTS

- May 16 Presbytery Meeting, South Mecklenburg PC at 9:30am
- May 21 Quest Confirmation, 11am
- May 21 Celebration for Martha Isaacs, 12pm
- June 4 Pentecost Sunday
- June 4 Celebration for Daniel Heath, 5pm
- June 11 Commissioning Sunday
- June 13 Session Meeting, 7pm

**Minutes of the Meeting of Session
Monday, April 10, 2017
7:00 P.M.**

Call to Order and Opening Prayer – Moderator, Bob Henderson

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm and opened with a meditation prayer led by Rev. Henderson.

Determination of Quorum

Rev. Henderson declared a quorum. He then noted the following change to the agenda: the addition of a Worship Ministry report. A motion to adopt the agenda, as amended, was made and approved.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made and approved unanimously.

Administration – Gene Wood

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Wood reviewed the March financials and reported that overall operating performance is good. The balance sheet continues to be healthy.

Planning and Evaluation – Nancy Falls

Update on Potential Capital Campaign

Ms. Falls noted the ongoing work of the teams that were formed by P&E in January to further investigate missional work related to Affordable Housing, Full Day Child Care, Public Education Support, and The Epiphany School, and internally focused teams tasked with work related to Building Plans/Architecture/Construction, Finance/Administration, and Communication and Publicity. P&E will be presenting a detailed report to Session on its recommendations for the potential capital campaign at the May 7th Session meeting which will begin at 4:30 pm and run to 8:30 pm.

Personnel Report – Philip James

Open Positions

Mr. James reported that the personnel committee is currently involved in five personnel searches, each of which has an active search committee in place and working hard.

Request to Become an Inquirer – Daniel Heath

Rev. Henderson opened by explaining the three-step process of becoming a Presbyterian minister, the first step being the process of exploring ministry as an Inquirer, with the support of one's local congregation and presbytery. Rev. Henderson praised Mr. Heath in his role as Covenant's contemporary worship leader, noting that he is all about what God can do in our midst through worship.

Mr. Heath explained his process of discernment which began last summer as he considered where he was being led and included prayer, fasting, resistance, ending in his embracing his call to ministry. After considering various seminaries, Princeton Seminary moved to the top of Mr. Heath's list, which is where he will begin studying later this year. Mr. Heath feels called to build community and diversity

within worship and has three ministry roles on his radar currently (knowing God may lead him in another direction entirely as he moves through seminary): (i) an associate minister of worship, (ii) a university chaplain, or (iii) congregational consulting related to visioning and growth.

Joan Watson led the Session in prayer for Mr. Heath. A motion was made to endorse Daniel Heath as an Inquirer to the Charlotte Presbytery and was passed unanimously. It was noted that Joe Poole has agreed to be Covenant's Session liaison to Mr. Heath.

Ministry Reports:

Education – Mike Ferone

2017 Ministry Plan

Mr. Ferone opened by reviewing the education ministry structure and Sunday school attendance by month for 2017. He noted that from early education through high school, "the older they get, the less they attend" Sunday school. Mr. Ferone also reviewed the many education options and programming offering currently available at Covenant, broadly grouped into Bible studies, small groups, Sunday School classes, and one-time events and series. Mr. Ferone then discussed the 2017 education ministry plans which are as follows:

- Fill open HS youth director position
- Improve youth participation
- Maintain positive momentum across adult programming
- Look to add more milestone events for EC/EE
- Explore young adult partnership with The Park Church
- Aim to leverage Shelby upgrade to improve volunteer management and support within education ministry

Mission and Outreach – Kay Wheeler

2017 Ministry Plan

Ms. Wheeler reviewed the focus in 2016 on measuring mission participation using data. In 2017, mission participation data will continue to be collected, but there will be an added focus on leveraging mission participation to create opportunities for transformative faith experiences. Further, in 2017, Mission and Outreach will seek to expand mission participation in the following ways:

- Explore additional aspects of Covenant's Faith and Service Model
 - o Further strengthen the Kinship Project
 - o Connect mission trips and local service opportunities
 - o Encourage mission trip participants to join similar outreach activities locally
- Expand initiatives to encourage mission participants to engage new participants in mission
 - o Buddy system
 - o Similar opportunities
 - o New ideas to offer participants a better understanding of faith and service
- Investigate ways to share mission stories to broaden the impact of the faith and service model
- Expand the understanding of local poverty, lack of education, and fragility of stable family life, and how we might respond

Worship – Jean King

Summer Worship Schedule

Ms. King moved that the following 2017 Summer Worship Schedule be approved:

July 2 – One Worship Service at 10 am in the Sanctuary

July 9 thru Labor Day weekend – two worship services each Sunday at 9:30 am and 11 am in the Sanctuary

There was discussion around ensuring good communication with worshipers at the 11 am Fellowship Hall service around the reason for this summer worship schedule, inviting them to attend another service over the summer, and assuring them that the 11 am FH worship service will return after Labor Day weekend.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Congregational Life – No Report

Engagement – No Report

Clerk's Report

-Mr. Ripple reminded session member to review the visitor report, circling visitors who they know.

-Mr. Ripple reminded session members of their duty to attend one presbytery meeting while on session, and announced that Will Summerville is still looking for participants to attend the May 16 Presbytery meeting.

-Mr. Ripple made a motion that Alan Atwell and Mary Lynne Calhoun act as chair and vice chair, respectively, for the Elder Nominating Committee for the elder class of 2020. The motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business/New Business - None

Staff Announcements/Pastoral Concerns

Staff announcements were made, and pastoral concerns were shared.

Closing

Following a prayer led by Rev. Joan Watson, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Randy Ripple, Clerk



Robert W. Henderson, Moderator

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Called Session Meetings
April 16 and 23, 2017**

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

April 16, 2017

Lori Collins Transfer Letter-First Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC

April 23, 2017

Holly Crawford Profession of Faith
Evelyn Henson Transfer Letter--Trinity Episcopal Church, Columbus, GA

Active (confirmed) members as of 4/30/17: 2232

2017 new members as of 4/30/17: 34

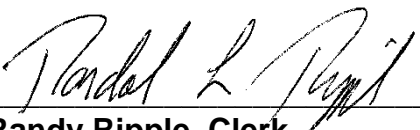
New members since last report: 3

2017 transfers as of 4/30/17: 14

2017 deaths as of 4/30/17: 9

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>
Henry Miller	Transfer Letter--First Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC
Elizabeth Miller	Transfer Letter--First Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Action Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: April and May 2017 Baptisms

DATE: May 7, 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 April 2017:

May 21, 2017 at the 9:30 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Elliott Richardson Allen

Parents-Matt and Martha Allen

Walter Ridgley Snipes

Parents-Matthew and Katie Snipes

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

April 23, 2017 in the Covenant Chapel

Holly Crawford

Motion: Motion to approve the baptisms of Elliott Richardson Allen, Walter Ridgley Snipes, and retroactively approve the baptism of Holly Crawford.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Action Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: 2017 Wedding

DATE: May 7, 2017

Report From: Worship Ministry/Wedding Committee

Chair: Barbara Ann Zizzi

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

Process to Date: Erin Schroeder and Derek (Nick) Nixon have requested that communion be served at their wedding on June 24, 2017. 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 celebrating the sacrament of communion at the wedding of Erin Schroeder and Derek (Nick) Nixon on June 24, 2017. The Reverend Robert Henderson will officiate.

Motion

The Wedding Committee moves that the sacrament of communion be celebrated at the wedding ceremony of Erin Schroeder and Derek (Nick) Nixon on June 24, 2017 at Covenant Presbyterian Church with the Reverend Robert Henderson officiating.

**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:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- The Center for Community Transitions
- Charlotte Family Housing
- Friends of Accion
- Urban Ministry Center