

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Meeting of Session
Monday, November 13, 2017
7:00pm
CONSENT AGENDA**

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of September 9, 2017 Session Meeting Minutes (pp. 2-4). Randy Ripple, Clerk of Session, moves that the minutes of this meeting be approved as written.
2. Approval of August 28, 2017 Session Meeting Minutes (pp. 5-6). Randy Ripple, Clerk of Session, moves that the minutes of this meeting be approved as written.
3. Approval of Called Session Meetings Minutes from August to receive new members (p. 7). Randy Ripple, Clerk of Session, moves that the minutes of these meetings be approved as written.
4. Approval of request for changes to active roll (p. 8).
5. Approval of baptisms (p. 9).

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Extended Communion Report (p. 10)
2. Minutes from October Presbytery Meeting (p. 11)
3. Clerk's Communications (p. 12)
4. Open Table at Covenant (p. 13)
5. Scholarship Awards (p. 14)

FUTURE EVENTS

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| • December 3 | Advent Begins | |
| • December 3 | Alternative Gift Market | 8:30 am – 1:30 pm |
| • December 11 | Session Meeting and Elder Examination | 6:30 pm |
| • December 17 | Lessons and Carols | 11:00 am |
| • January 5-6, 2018 | Save the Date for Session Retreat | Kanuga |
| • January 7, 2018 | Elder Ordination/Installation | 11:00 am |

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Minutes of the Meeting of Session on
Monday, September 11, 2017**

Call to Order and Opening Worship – Moderator, Bob Henderson

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm and opened with worship and prayer led by Rev. Henderson.

Determination of Quorum, Adoption of Agenda and Adoption of Consent Agenda

Rev. Henderson declared a quorum, and a motion to adopt the Agenda was made and approved. Page 14 of the Consent Agenda was corrected to reflect that three (not one) graduate students were awarded scholarships from the Rosebro Memorial Fund. A motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as amended, was made and approved unanimously.

Administration – Gene Wood

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Wood noted two technical corrections to his written monthly financial comments. He then reviewed the August financials and reported that Covenant's overall operating performance is good, and the balance sheet continues to be healthy.

Personnel Report – Philip James

Mr. James celebrated Covenant's many recent new hires, including Lucy Crain as co-director of Mission and Outreach, Lynne Koeniger as interim executive director, Levi Bannerman as High School Youth Director, and the retention of Anna Rainey Dickson as an associate minister through the end of the year. Mr. James expressed his thanks to Phil Koonce and his team on our recent hiring of Jason Graffis who will begin on October 1st as our Director of Contemporary Worship and Arts. Mr. James also gave Session a thumbnail of Jason's background and experience. Cindy Austin started today as our Coordinator of Women's and Men's ministries.

Open Positions Update

Director of Traditional Music - Mary Delk is chairing this search committee. Listening sessions will occur on Thursday, Sept 14 at 6 pm, Sunday, September 17 at noon and 4 pm, and Wednesday, September 20 at 7:30 pm. Quintin Busch is in place as interim choir director, and Rob Dicks is doing great work.

Planning and Evaluation – Nancy Falls

Ms. Falls reported that the first capital campaign congregation information session was held yesterday at noon. Approximately 75 people attended across age groups. The presentation was well received and the question and answer segment went well. A list of questions asked was recorded. The next capital campaign congregation information session will be this Wednesday, September 13 at 7:30 pm. Ms. Falls noted that her team is in the process of establishing a dedicated email address for capital campaign questions and communications. Until that dedicated email address is set up, she asked that all questions and communications be forwarded to her personal email address. This

will help P&E keep track of all questions and ensure consistent responses. Ms. Falls reviewed a preliminary campaign structure, and noted that a meeting with Covenant's campaign consultant is scheduled for tomorrow (9/12) to work further on the campaign structure.

Ministry Reports:

Engagement – No Report

Education – No Report

Mission and Outreach

Update on Avery County Trip – Kay Wheeler

Seventeen people went on the Avery County Trip, only four of whom had participated in prior trips. It was exciting to introduce so many new participants to Covenant's faith and service mission trip model. The trip was a great success with participants learning about poverty and other issues folks face in Avery County, and how the Avery County community pulls together to help its members who are just one step away from homelessness. Participants visited Crossnore School, and learned about the state cutting their tutoring budget drastically. Team members learned new building skills and enjoyed getting to know and working side by side with the family whose home they helped build. Participants returned with a new kinship among themselves.

Review Presbytery Annual Gift – Carla Leaf

In November, Betty Meadows, the Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Charlotte will present to Session an update on the Presbytery. In anticipation of this visit, Ms. Leaf provided an update on Covenant's financial support of the Presbytery of Charlotte. According to budget numbers from Presbytery, Covenant was the fifth highest giving church in our presbytery in 2016, and expects to be the fifth highest giver in 2017. It was also noted that Covenant is in line with other local churches who have reduced or maintained their Presbytery giving levels in recent years. Randy Ripple noted that Covenant's gift to the Charlotte Presbytery comes from our Mission and Outreach budget and that giving has been thoughtfully reduced, with funds redirected to more pressing needs.

Receive and Endorse Statement of Affirmation – Stephen Moore

Mr. Moore introduced a Statement of Affirmation brought to Session from the ministry of Mission and Outreach. A copy of the statement was handed out, explained, and read, followed by a question and answer time. The statement will be shared with our congregation, appropriate area churches (such as The Park, CN Jenkins and St. Paul's Baptist), community partners and non-profit organizations. During discussion Session agreed to amend the second paragraph of the statement to include the words "continue to" before "...vigorously examine how we may...". A motion to approve the statement, as amended, was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Congregational Life – No Report

Worship – No Report

Request to Become an Inquirer – Ashlee Anderson

Ashlee Anderson is a Covenant Elder and current Session member, who is just beginning her second year at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte. Ms. Anderson shared her faith walk from the time she was a young girl to the present, and how it has shaped her life and pushed her towards seminary. Ms. Anderson spoke from her heart, sharing her beautiful journey, including stories of how Covenant has played a part in her journey, including her adult baptism at Covenant and Daniel Heath being the first person to ask her “Have you considered going to seminary?” Ms. Anderson expressed how grateful she is for her faith which seeks understanding. Following a several questions from Session members which Ms. Anderson answered well, Rev. Henderson led Session in prayer for Ashlee. Session then formally endorsed Ms. Anderson as an inquirer.

Sabbatical Reflections – Jessica Patchett

Rev. Patchett started by leading a fun game with Session about her sabbatical adventures. She then shared various reflections about her time away, what she learned and how important and meaningful the time was to her personally and as a minister.

Clerk’s Report – Randy Ripple

Lecia and Steve Shockley have agreed to act as vice chairs for our 2017 Stewardship Campaign and as chairs for our 2018 Stewardship Campaign.

September 24th at 10:30 am a Congregational Meeting will be held in the Sanctuary.

October 9th at 6 pm the Elder Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

Old Business/New Business - None

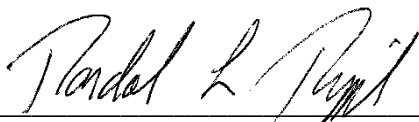
Staff Announcements/Pastoral Concerns

Various pastoral concerns were shared. Rev. Patchett celebrated that 150 children were in Sunday school yesterday, and Levi had a strong high school turn-out for Sunday School and Sunday evening.

Closing

Following a prayer led by Rev. Joan Watson, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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

Name	Transferred to:
Sally Hutchison	Third Creek Presbyterian Church, Cleveland, NC

NEW

Active (confirmed) members as of 10/31/17: 2267

2017 new members as of 10/31/17: 91

New members since last report: 14

2017 transfers as of 10/31/17: 23

2017 deaths as of 10/31/17: 22

Transfers In:

Catherine Martin	Transfer Letter--Sequoyah Hills Presbyterian Church	9/10/2017
Kathryn Tumen	Reaffirmation	10/1/2017
Joe Gavin	Reaffirmation	10/1/2017
Sara Fazzari	Transfer Letter--First Presbyterian of Howard County, Columbia, MD	10/1/2017
Justin Marshall	Reaffirmation	10/8/2017
Lisa DeLuke	Reaffirmation	10/8/2017
Kali Nelson	Reaffirmation	10/8/2017
Ryan Cox	Reaffirmation	10/8/2017
Hugh Gaither	Transfer Letter--First Presbyterian Church, Newton, NC	10/22/2017
Julie Gaither	Transfer Letter--First Presbyterian Church, Newton, NC	10/22/2017
Alysja Carlisle	Transfer Letter--Westminster Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill, SC	10/22/2017
Jlm Carlisle	Transfer Letter--Westminster Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill, SC	10/22/2017
Jacquelyn McAbee	First Presbyterian Church, South Boston, VA	10/29/2017
Loretta Brown	First Presbyterian Church, South Boston, VA	10/29/2017

Transfers Out:

Steven Vaughn	Transfer Letter--Christ Church, Charlotte, NC	9/12/2017
Caroline Vaughn	Transfer Letter--Christ Church, Charlotte, NC	9/12/2017
Craig Smith	Remove from roll--per request	10/5/2017
Rebecca Smith	Remove from roll--per request	10/5/2017

Brittany Skagfield Remove from the roll--per request 10/27/2017

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Action Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: September and October 2017 Baptisms

DATE: September 11, 2017

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 September and October 2017:

September 24th at the 9:30 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Emily Kate Comer

Parents-Mike and Megan Comer

Olivia Paige McConnell

Parents-Will and Lauren McConnell

October 15th at the 9:30 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Wesley Thomas Anderson

Parents- Michael and Ashlee Anderson

October 15th at the 11:00 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Sarah Hale Mayo

Parents-Rob and Brandon Mayo

October 29th at the 9:30 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Jane Larkin Gaston

Parents- Will and Sarah Gaston

Motion: Motion to approve the baptisms of Emily Kate Comer, Olivia Paige McConnell, Wesley Thomas Anderson, Sarah Hale Mayo, and Jane Larkin Gaston.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Action Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: November 2017 Baptisms

DATE: November 13, 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 November 2017:

November 26, 2017 at the 9:30 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary
Hannah Nicole Gaither
Parents- John and Sarah Gaither

The Baptism Committee retroactively recommends approval of the following baptisms at Covenant in February, March, and October 2017:

February 12, 2017 at the 8:45 am service in the Covenant Chapel
Austin Thomas Alexander Good

Parents-Richard and Karen Good

February 19, 2017 at the 9:30 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Katherine Elizabeth Mitchell

Parents- Chris and Kristen Mitchell

Davis Chad Scarboro

Parents- Chad and Lauren Scarboro

February 19, 2017 at the 11:00 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Parker Reid Schauer

Parents- Adam and Emily Schauer

February 26, 2017 at the 11:00 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Madison Elizabeth Allen

Parents-Chris and Carrie Allen

Molly Brooke Bracket Cornwell

Parents-Lee and Katie Cornwell

March 12, 2017 at the 11:00 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Presley June Mills

Parents-Adam and Alison Mills

Smith Whitney Young

Parents-Brent and Sarah Young

October 8, 2017 at the 9:30 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Milo Morris Burgess-Mandsager

Parents- Gillian Burgess and Grant Mandsager

October 22, 2017 at the 9:30 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Ryan William Christenson

Parents-Rob and Jessica Christenson

Motion: Motion to approve the baptisms of Hannah Nicole Gaither retroactively approve the baptisms of Austin Thomas Alexander Good , Katherine Elizabeth Mitchell, Davis Chad Scarboro, Parker Reid Schauer, Madison Elizabeth Allen, Molly Brooke Bracket Cornwell, Presley June Mills, Smith Whitney Young, Milo Morris Burgess-Mandsager, and Ryan William Christenson.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Information Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: Extended Communion

DATE: September 11, 2017

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

Extended Communion Report
Covenant Presbyterian Church – Worship Ministry

Extended Communion was served on Sunday, November 5, 2017.

Elders Serving:

Pat Arnold	Hank & Mary Wood Stallings
Ann Ayers	Mary Utting
Ariel Gritter	Sandy & Sherry Ward
Terry Horne	Julian Wright

Members Served:

Orpha Baxter	Helen Cathey
Don Dartnall	Dick McClintock
LaRue Perry	Ruby Taylor
Edna Hamilton	
Roy & Patricia Joslin	

Sharon Towers Health Care

Lou Crites	Bess Burns
Martha Mitchell	Ellen Rhyne
Ann Blinn	

Respectfully Submitted,
Betty Graybeal & Marilyn Mickle
Extended Communion Co-Chairs

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Information Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: Presbytery Minutes

DATE: September 11, 2017

Report From: Mission and Outreach Committee

Chair: Will Summerville

**Highlights of 135th Stated Meeting of The Presbytery of Charlotte
Bethpage Presbyterian Church
August 19, 2017**

Covenant was well represented at the 135th stated meeting of the Presbytery of Charlotte at Bethpage Presbyterian Church in Kannapolis. Our group consisted of Elders Will Summerville, Lewis Sugg, Mary Clare Bracey, Lauren Sawyers, and Adam Schauer. It should be noted that collectively we significantly reduced the average age of Presbytery participation! 2017 Presbytery Vice-Moderator, Rev. Luke Maybry called the 135th stated meeting to order at 9:30am and opened with prayer. Rev. Ellen Campbell Gardner brought greetings on behalf of the Bethpage Presbyterian Church congregation.

The Presbytery entered into a time of worship led by Rev. Campbell Gardner. Rev. Lal Rodawla, Associate Pastor of Providence Church, preached a sermon titled "Being Led By the Spirit," based on Romans 8:12-16; 18-26 and Ephesians 4:14-15.

Following worship the Presbytery recognized Rev. Cynthia Williams (not present), Rev. John Earl, Rev. E. Von Clemans and Rev. Howard Tyas upon their retirement.

CPM Co-Moderator Nancy Finlayson introduced Katherine Atkins and Nicole Newton, who were both examined and approved as Candidates in the preparation for ministry process. Candidates Larceeda British Hyrams and Phanta Lansden were examined for ordination as Ministers of Word and Sacrament, with the preaching of their sermons. The Presbytery voted to sustain their examinations and Elder Finlayson led the body in prayer. British will serve as Associate Pastor at Central Steele Creek and Phanta as Associate Pastor at C.N. Jenkins, pending their ordinations.

The Presbytery welcomed new minister member, Rev. Lorenzo Small, Sr. as Pastor of First United Church. Rev. Stephen Ratliff was approved as Pastor of Indian Trail Church.

The Presbytery received a wonderful blessing to close out the business for the day. Rev. Floretta Barbee-Watkins, Pastor of Seigle Avenue Church aka "The Avenue", thanked the Presbytery for its continuing prayers and support of the mission and ministry of their church during the recent sale of its property and move to a new location. The Session of The Avenue voted to give back to the Presbytery with a check for \$25,000! Of those funds, \$2,500 has been designated to the "Freedom Rising" initiative approved by the 222nd General Assembly of the PC(USA) to improve the worsening plight of the African American male.

**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:

- Loaves & Fishes Pantry of The Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter
- Supportive Housing Communities
- Urban Ministry Center
- Alexander Youth Network
- Children's Hope Alliance
- Freedom School Partners
- Avery County Habitat for Humanity
- Crossnore Elementary School
- Columbia Theological Seminary
- Charlotte Rescue Mission
- Charlotte Family Housing

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Information Item
Summary**

Subject: Open Table at Covenant

From: Randy Ripple, Clerk

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Open Table at Covenant
September & October 2017**

Open Table programming for the fall will educate our congregation on the importance of an economically diverse child development center.

September 13 – The surprising science of the young mind.

Dr. Bobbie Rowland, Professor Emerita of Child and Development, UNC Charlotte shares breakthroughs in understanding the young mind. Learn how a child becomes an active member of a home, community, and school.

September 20 – Growing up at Covenant: Learning through play

Anne Lowrance, Early Childhood and Elementary Ministry Director, and Kathie Grabert, Director, Covenant Preschool will explain how Covenant fosters learning through music, movement, and play. They will talk about the curriculum and use of evidence based principles.

September 27 – An inside look at Read Charlotte's ambitious goal

Dr. Munro Richardson, Executive Director of Read Charlotte, talks about the crisis of illiteracy and what Charlotte must do to improve. Read Charlotte has a goal of doubling reading proficiency for third graders in Mecklenburg County. The starting point is a literacy-rich environment for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Read Charlotte emphasizes providing parents and caregivers with knowledge and resources to infuse language development starting at birth.

October 4 –Solving our community's poverty challenge

Dr. Vivian Correa, Professor Emeritus at UNC Charlotte, gives us an eye-opening look at how early education fuels upward mobility – a big deal in Charlotte, where children have the lowest odds of climbing out of poverty compared to peer cities, according to a Harvard study.

Oct 11 – How Covenant is responding

Nancy Falls, Helen Richards and Adam Schauer, members of a Covenant task force, offer a bold response to one of Charlotte's greatest needs. Our vision: an economically diverse Child Development Center of highest quality serving families within and beyond the congregation.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Information Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: Scholarship Awards for the 2017-18 Academic Year DATE: September 11, 2017

Report From: Finance Committee

Treasurer: Gene Woods

Background: The Finance Committee is responsible for promoting and awarding scholarships to assist qualified individuals with undergraduate or graduate education costs consistent with the stated purpose of the underlying scholarship funds. A Scholarship Subcommittee of the Finance Committee carries out this work and makes recommendations for approval to the Finance Committee.

Process to Date: Ali Summerville, Adam Schauer and Jeff Stewart served on the Scholarship Subcommittee promoting and recommending scholarships for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Budget Impact: None. These scholarships are paid out of Covenant's restricted scholarship funds.

Actions Taken: The Finance Committee has approved the following scholarship awards recommended by the Scholarship Subcommittee for the upcoming 2017-2018 academic year for a total of \$30,370.

Reverend John R. Rosebro Memorial Fund of \$8,460 to three graduate students pursuing a master's degree in Divinity (M.DIV).

Eva McGee Scholarship Fund - \$1,410 to two graduate students exploring seminary studies for master's degrees in Divinity (M.DIV).

Charles W. Robinson Christian Service Scholarship Fund - \$12,000 to three graduate students pursuing master's degrees in Divinity (M.DIV).

Undergraduate Scholarship Fund – Scholarships totaling \$8,500 to four rising sophomores.

Because the process stresses that awards are need-based, the identities of the recipients are kept strictly confidential.