

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Meeting of Session
Monday, September 12, 2016
7:00pm
CONSENT AGENDA**

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of August 8, 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 August to receive new members (pg.6). 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. 7)
4. Approval of baptisms (pg. 8)

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Clerk's Communications (pg. 9)

FUTURE EVENTS

- September 18 Jimmy Green to visit Covenant, 9:30am
- September 18 Congregational Meeting, 10:30am
- September 26 Elder Dinner, 6pm (Please RSVP)
- October 2 World Communion Sunday
- October 10 Next Session Meeting, 7pm
- October 23 Covenant Impacts Charlotte

**Minutes of the Meeting of Session
Monday, August 8 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 used 1 Corinthians 11: 1-34 for the meditation this week.

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 in full with two additions; it was noted there will be a joint worship service with Myers Park Methodist on August 28 at 7:00 PM; and the music room transformation looks great thanks to the good work done by the maintenance department.

Personnel Report

Phillip James

Mr. James shared that Rob Dicks started as the Assistant Music Director, and Erin Williams was hired as Administrative Assistant for Education and Parish Nurse offices. Progress is being made in filling the **Coordinator of Care Teams and Support Groups**. Mr. James also reported that a search committee has been formed to find a Director of Middle School Youth Ministries. On an interim basis, the middle school youth program will be led by Mary Kate McAlister, Jordan Schriefer, and Matt Dees.

Administration

Treasurer's Report – Gene Wood

Mr. Wood reviewed the June and July financials and reported that as of the end of July, we are on budget for pledge receipts and net income is \$97,567 more than budgeted year to date.

Planning and Evaluation

No Report

Ministry Reports:

Mission and Outreach

No Report

Education

Preview of Educational Year – Emily Blair

Mrs. Blair recapped the busy summer for children of all ages at Covenant, which is being capped off by Vacation Bible School this week for 122 children, with a theme focused on Heifer International. The final event for the summer will be backpack Sunday on August 28th. She then provided a comprehensive outline of all that is planned across all age groups for this fall, which begins with kickoff on September 11. There will be 36 1st graders in the ready set Worship class this year. There will be a “Bible Basics Lock In” for 3rd graders the Friday night prior to receiving their Bibles on Sunday, Nov. 18. The young adults program continues to grow and expand into new ministries. On September 18th Covenant will host Jimmy Greene, who lost his daughter at Sandy Hook; he will share his story at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall and then join the band for the 11:00 AM contemporary service.

Congregational Life

Fall Open Table Series – Mary Lynne Calhoun

Mrs. Calhoun introduced the Open Table program for the fall and encouraged all to participate and spread the word. She emphasized that Open Table is Covenant’s intergenerational gathering. Two program offerings this fall will include 1) A Disciple Bible Study – Jesus and Gospels and 2) Hard Questions/Healing Conversations. Open Table resumes on September 7th with a Covenant Talent Show and fall courses begin September 14.

Engagement

No Report

Worship

Return on Ministry, Chapel Service – Sally Graves

Mrs. Graves reported on the work done by Worship Ministry over the past few months. Their task was to assess the long term health of the chapel worship service and recommend changes where necessary and/or practical. They first determined there are many good reasons to continue the service and didn’t seriously consider doing away with it. Based on input solicited from regular attendees, Session members and others, the team determined the key components include start time, preaching rotation, music, and communion schedule. The emphasis beginning this fall will be that this service is unique among our four Sunday morning services in its intimate, personal, meditative, and quiet nature. The service will begin at 8:45 and will conclude in time for worshippers to attend 9:30 Sunday School. There will be a new preaching rotation and on most Sundays, the

same minister will preach at the Chapel Service who preaches at the other services. John Richardson will oversee the music and be a weekly presence at the piano or organ. Communion will be served one Sunday per month, to coincide with communion across other services.

Doctoral Study, Impact of Fellowship Hall Service – Jessica Patchett

Rev. Patchett shared plans for her DMIN research project titled Unleashing the Voice of the Congregation: Why a healthy church wants people to talk in worship. She will be studying the effects of including the practice of authentic dialogue in response to scripture and sermon in the context of weekly worship and how this practice shapes participants' sense of connection with the church community and their trust in the gospel as hope for them and the world. She plans to use the 11:00 contemporary service, interviews, a survey, and focus groups to capture what people are experiencing in the worship service.

Clerk's Report

Report from Elder Nominating Committee – Tommy Lawson

Mr. Lawson made a motion that a Congregational Meeting be called for September 18th at 10:30 AM in the sanctuary for the purpose of electing elders for the class of 2019. After discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

Report from Committee on Assignments

Mr. Ripple informed the Session that the COA would include the following members:

- Mission and Outreach – Will Summerville
- Congregational Life – Mary Lynne Calhoun
- Education – Mike Ferone
- Administration – Gene Wood
- Engagement – Rusty Williams
- Worship – Jean King
- Elder Nominating Committee – Tommy Lawson
- Assistant Clerk – Randy Ripple
- Staff – Bob Henderson

Mr. Atwell thanked Mrs. Graves and her team for their work on studying and recommending changes to the Chapel Worship Service. He also reminded all members of Session it is our responsibility to help make this a worship service a success and asked each chair to make this a point of emphasis at their next ministry meeting.

Old Business/New Business

There was no old business or new business

Staff Announcements/Pastoral Concerns

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 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Alan Atwell, Clerk



Robert W. Henderson, Moderator

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Called Session Meetings
Sundays, August 14 and 28, 2016**

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

August 14, 2016

Alex Taylor Reaffirmation

August 21, 2016

Elizabeth Godwin Transfer Letter--Myers Park Baptist Church
Jenn Godwin Transfer Letter--Myers Park Baptist Church
Daniel Heath Affiliate Membership

Active (confirmed) members as of 8/31/16: 2215

2016 new members as of 8/31/16: 98

New members since last report: 12

2016 transfers YTD: 8

2016 deaths YTD: 16

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

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Transferred to:</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Lindsay Schall | First Presbyterian, Charlotte, NC | 8/21/2016 |
| Chris Moore | Second Presbyterian, Nashville, TN | 8/30/2106 |
| Mary Sue Moore | Second Presbyterian, Nashville, TN | 8/30/2016 |

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Action Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: September 2016 Baptisms

DATE: August 8, 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 September 2016:

September 18, 2016 at the 9:30 am service in the Covenant Sanctuary

Alexandra Josephine Williams

Nikolas Stack Williams

Parents-Brian and Christina Williams

Motion: Motion to approve the baptisms of Alexandra Josephine Williams and Nikolas Stack Williams.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Information Item
August 8, 2016**

Subject: Clerk Communications

From: Alan Atwell, Clerk

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

- Avery County Schools
- Union Presbyterian Seminary
- Safe Alliance
- Samaritan House
- Community Culinary School of Charlotte