

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Meeting of Session
Monday, September 11, 2017
7:00pm
CONSENT AGENDA**

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of August 14, 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. Presbytery Meeting Minutes (p. 11)
3. Clerk's Communications (p. 12)
4. Open Table at Covenant (p. 13)
5. Scholarship Awards (p. 14)

FUTURE EVENTS

- September 13 Capital Campaign Information Session, 7:30pm FH
- September 24 Congregational Meeting, 10:30am Sanctuary
- October 9 Elder Dinner, 6:00pm
- October 24 Presbytery Meeting, 9:30am Steele Creek PC
- November 12 Covenant Impacts Charlotte/Commitment Sunday
- November 13 Session Meeting, 7:00pm

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Minutes of the Meeting of Session
Monday, August 14, 2017**

Call to Order and Opening Worship – Moderator, Bob Henderson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm and opened with a meditation 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, which was distributed prior to the meeting, was made and approved. Three corrections were made to the Consent Agenda that was distributed prior to the meeting, one being that the August 19 Presbytery meeting will be held at Bethpage Presbyterian Church, Kannapolis and two technical corrections to the Session minutes dated 6/12/17. A motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as amended, was made and approved unanimously.

Administration – Gene Wood

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Wood noted that both June and July financials were included in the Session packet this month. He then reviewed the July 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 expressed how happy we are to have Jessica Patchett back from her sabbatical and among us once again. Mr. James noted that John Richardson resigned in July, and that we said goodbye to John at a very nice July 30 event, thanking him for his contributions. Mr. James reported that Lucy Crain has been hired at Co-Director of Mission and Outreach and has begun transitioning roles. Lynne Koeniger will join us August 21st as Interim Executive Assistant for Bob Henderson. A graduate of Wake Forest University, Lynne is an active member of Sharon Presbyterian. Summer Associate Anna Rainey Dickson has been retained through year end as a part-time Seasonal Associate.

Open Positions Update

Director of Traditional Music - Mary Delk has agreed to chair this search committee and is in the process of gathering members. Listening sessions will occur at the outset of the process. An interim support plan is in place.

Director of Contemporary Worship and Arts – Phil Koonce chairs this search committee which is currently interviewing candidates.

Presbyterian Women's and Men's Coordinator – Joe Poole chairs this search committee which is currently interviewing candidates.

Planning and Evaluation – Nancy Falls

P&E Proposal to Session for a Covenant Capital Campaign

Ms. Falls began by describing the hundreds of hours of research, thought, discussion, and prayerful discernment that have gone into studying options and forming recommendations for a Covenant capital campaign over the last several months. Representatives of the P&E task force then made detailed recommendations on an Affordable Housing initiative, a proposed child development center and scholarship model, Covenant campus upgrades, and a financial model for a potential capital campaign. Session members asked important questions after each section of the presentation, and again after everyone had presented, which were each addressed fully. Presenters included: Nancy Falls, Lauren Sawyers, Mary Delk, Betsy Grant, Liz Ward, Helen Richards, Adam Shauer, Rusty Williams and Laura Belcher.

On behalf of P&E, Nancy Falls motioned that Session adopt the Capital Campaign as outlined in the distributed Campaign Financial Model. Two Session members expressed a desire to have additional time to consider the information presented prior to voting. Therefore, the motion was tabled. A Q&A meeting for Session members will be scheduled, and a called Session meeting will follow at a later date.

Ministry Reports:

Engagement – Rusty Williams

Rediscover

Sunday, August 27th is the kick-off of the Engagement Ministry's Rediscover efforts. The engagement team is busy recruiting ambassadors from within our congregation who will reach out to new and old members with personal invitations to get involved at Covenant.

Education – No Report

Mission and Outreach – No Report

Congregational Life – No Report

Worship – No Report

Clerk's Report – Randy Ripple

Report from Elder Nominating Committee (ENC) - Mary Lynne Calhoun

The ENC's final Elder slate for the class of 2020 includes the following members: Eric Davis, Mary Delk, Allyson Easterling (formerly Schriefer), Debbie Enna, Gene Graziano, Sally Harris, David Isaacs, Bill McNairy, Damon Nelson, Katie Stewart, and youth elders Joel St. Onge and Zane Shockley. Five Covenant elders qualified for and have accepted the title of Elder Emeritus.

Randy Ripple motioned that a Congregational Meeting be held on September 24 at 10:30 am in the main sanctuary at which time the congregation will vote on this elder slate. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Report from Committee on Assignments (COA) – Helen Richards

The following members have agreed to serve on the COA: Helen Richards (chair), Hank Stallings, Lauren Sawyers, Stuart Pratt, Susan Lawson, Kay Wheeler, Anne McQuiston, and Alan Atwell, along with Rev. Bob Henderson. Ms. Richards made a motion for Session to approve the formation of this committee. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Rosebro Estate Update and Motion

Mr. Ripple reminded Session members that the Rosebro Foundation estate was left equally to Sharon Towers, Union Seminary and Covenant. All three beneficiaries have determined a preference to switch to BB&T as trustee. Mr. Ripple made a motion that Session approve the selection of BB&T as successor trustee of the Rosebro Foundation and appoint Alan Atwell as Covenant's representative on the Rosebro Foundation Board of Governors. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Old Business/New Business - None

Staff Announcements/Pastoral Concerns

Carla Leaf read a touching exit paper written by Harrison Ferone reflecting on his summer People in Mission experience. Jessica Patchett's return from sabbatical and David Watson's ordination were held up as celebrations.

Closing

Following a prayer led by Rev. Joan Watson, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Randy Ripple, Clerk



Robert W. Henderson, Moderator

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Minutes of the Meeting of Session
Monday, August 28, 2017**

Call to Order and Opening Prayer – Moderator, Bob Henderson

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm and opened with a devotional and prayer led by Rev. Henderson.

Determination of Quorum and Adoption of Agenda

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

Planning and Evaluation – Nancy Falls

Motion on Capital Campaign, Review of Campaign Financials and Communications Plan

Ms. Falls summarized where Session left off in relation to Covenant's potential capital campaign at its August 14 meeting, and described the process of uncovering and answering Session members' questions that were raised in the interim. Ms. Falls then made the following motion: The Planning and Evaluation Board moves that Session adopt the proposed Capital Campaign budget for \$10 million as detailed in the handout. The motion was seconded. A summary of the proposed capital campaign use of funds was distributed, and Ms. Falls reviewed how this plan was refined since Session's review two weeks prior. Several questions were asked and fully answered. Ms. Falls then handed out and reviewed a proposed capital campaign timeline, and again, several questions were asked and fully answered. A vote on the outstanding motion was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Falls made a second motion: The Planning and Evaluation Board moves that Session give authority to the Planning and Evaluation Board to enter into a contractual agreement with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Partners for up to \$2 million for the Movement Multifamily on Freedom project. The motion was seconded, there was a call for discussion, and being none, a vote was called, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Falls made a third motion: The Planning and Evaluation Board moves that Session give authority to the Planning and Evaluation Board to engage a capital campaign consultant and approve Bill Keith to sign the contract on behalf of Covenant Presbyterian Church. The motion was seconded, there was a call for discussion, and being none, a vote was called, and the motion passed unanimously.

Following these motions there was a discussion relating to what role Session would have going forward in relation to the newly approved Capital Campaign. The management structure of the campaign will be addressed over the course of next several weeks with the help of a campaign consultant and details will be reported back to Session.

Old Business/New Business

Randy Ripple reviewed the schedule of Session meetings for the remainder of the year. Session will meet next on September 11. In lieu of an October Session meeting, we will have the Elder Dinner in October. We will meet in November and in December, when we will examine the new elders.

Staff Announcements/Pastoral Concerns

Rev. Henderson highlighted that on the Sunday following Labor Day weekend, Covenant will return to its regular schedule of four worship services. Concerns and celebrations were shared.

Closing

Following a prayer led by Rev. Joan Watson, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Randy Ripple, Clerk



Robert W. Henderson, Moderator

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Called Session Meetings
August 13 and 20, 2017**

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

August 13, 2017

Shawn Curlis Reaffirmation
Amy Murphy Transfer Letter--Unity Baptist Church, Jacks Creek, TN

August 20, 2017

Matt Austin Transfer Letter--Grace Presbyterian, Highlands Ranch, CO
Cindy Austin Transfer Letter--Grace Presbyterian, Highlands Ranch, CO

Active (confirmed) members as of 8/31/17: 2264

2017 new members as of 8/31/17: 77

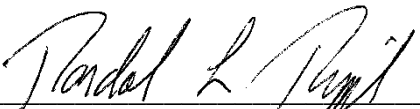
New members since last report: 4

2017 transfers as of 8/31/17: 18

2017 deaths as of 8/31/17: 16

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>
Sally Hutchison	Third Creek Presbyterian Church, Cleveland, NC

**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 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, August 6, 2017.

Elders serving

Pat Arnold
Carol & John Baxter
Deana Cooper
Betty Graybeal
Sally Shaw
Nancy Sutton
Amy Hunter

Mary Utting
Emily Reinicker
Kay Tawney
Jane H. Taylor
Ann Ayers
Terry Horne
Randy & Louise Ripple

Members served

Orpha Baxter
Dick McClintock
LaRue Perry
Edna Hamilton
Roy & Patricia Joslin
Lou Crites

Bob Taylor
Jim Patterson & 2 friends
Trish Johnson
Ruby Taylor
Martha Mitchell
Ann Blinn

**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:

- Charlotte Family Housing
- Avery County Schools
- Princeton Theological Seminary

**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 one graduate student 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.