

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MEETING OF SESSION
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025
7:00 P.M.
CONSENT AGENDA

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of May 12, 2025, Session Meeting Minutes (pp. 2-4). Janet Delery, Clerk of Session, moves that the minutes of this meeting be approved as written.
2. Approval of Called Session Meeting Minutes from May to receive new members (pp. 5-7). Janet Delery, Clerk of Session, moves that the minutes of this meeting be approved as written.
3. Approval of baptisms (p. 8)

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. May 2025 Treasurer's Report (pp. 9-10)
2. Congregational Life Ministry Report (p. 11)
3. P&E Update (p. 12)
4. Presbytery Meeting Highlights (pp. 13-14)
5. Clerk's Communications (p. 15)

FUTURE EVENTS

- No Session Agenda or Session Meeting in July
- July 7 One worship service 11:00 AM Sanctuary
- Aug 12 Session Meeting 7:00 PM Peek Music Room
- Aug 16 Charlotte Presbytery 9:30 AM Harrisburg PC
- Aug 31 One worship service 11:00 AM Sanctuary
- Sept 8 Dinner & Session Meeting 5:45 PM The Rise on Clanton
- Sept 28 Session Update for Sunday School 9:30 AM Fellowship Hall
- Oct 13 Elder Dinner & Program 6:15 PM Fellowship Hall
- Oct 28 Charlotte Presbytery 9:30 AM Mount Olive PC
- Nov 10 Session Meeting 7:00 PM Peek Music Room
- Nov 30 Session Update for Sunday School 9:30 AM Fellowship Hall
- Dec 8 Session Meeting 6:30 PM Peek Music Room

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING ON
MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025**

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Bob Henderson, Moderator

The Moderator called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Peek Music Room. The Moderator offered words of welcome, opened in prayer, and offered a devotional.

Determination of Quorum and Review of Agenda

The Moderator declared that a quorum was present and made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda and the meeting agenda pending one amendment: to include a presentation by Personnel Chair John McAlister. The agendas were then unanimously adopted.

Quest Examinations

Janet Delery, Clerk of Session

Delery commenced the Quest Examinations process by offering logistics for the process and then divided the confirmands into small groupings alongside mentors and Session members. The members of the 2025 Quest Confirmation Class are: Donovan Baer, Ellie Bouknight, Walter Bridgeman, Eloise Edwards, Thor Everett, Sophie Gutierrez, Emie Hindman, Colton Hunt, Anna Glenn McReady, Emma Monteith, Bennett Nichols, Benjamin Reinicker, Luke Sawyers, Jack Schuller, Hal Sharp, Kennedy Skaff, Hudson Sweeny, Sarah Thomas, Molly Thurmond, Amelia Tomlinson, Oliver Tomlinson, Cardin White, and Lauren Wilhelm.

After introductions in small groups, the confirmands shared their faith statements and were examined by Session members. After returning to the Peek Music Room as a full community, group leaders, in succession, offered insights about each confirmand and highlights about the stories and faith journeys shared. Additionally, Delery noted that three additional confirmands, unable to attend the scheduled Session meeting, were examined by a group of elders during the prior week. Delery and each of the group leaders concluded with a recommendation that the identified confirmands be approved for membership pending their affirmations of faith on Confirmation Sunday. After the Moderator offered words of appreciation to the confirmands and thanked Director of Middle School Youth Ministries, Andy Wertz, and Quest Mentors for their efforts, he moved that, upon confession of faith on Confirmation Sunday, each of the confirmands be approved for membership at Covenant Presbyterian Church. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Andy Wertz then concluded the Quest Examinations with prayer.

Personnel Report

John McAlister, Personnel Chair

John McAlister provided a Personnel Committee update. He shared that Eva Bender has been hired as the new Business Administrator, replacing Scott Mollenkopf. Eva will start on June 16.

Planning and Evaluation Report

Kim Spivey, P&E Chair

Kim Spivey provided an update on the stained glass windows project. Installation work is planned to commence May 13. The windows will be dedicated during the 11:00 AM worship service on May 25 with a preceding education session. A special reception will be scheduled to honor guests.

Ministry Reports

Congregational Life, Engagement, Mission & Outreach, Worship -- No Reports

Education

Sarah Wilson, Education Chair

Sarah Wilson provided an update on Covenant's Inclusion Team. The team has gone through an intentional process (including a 21-day reading challenge, site visits to churches with disability ministries, and discussion with parents of children with disabilities) to discern how we can make our Children's Sunday School environment more welcoming and accessible for our families and children with disabilities. The team is at work to both implement plans and expand support for this work across the congregation.

Wilson shared some statistics on people living in Charlotte with some form of disability. She then shared a video segment highlighting the experience of people with disabilities within the context of the church. Additionally, she conveyed the experience of a Covenant parent of a child with disabilities. All shared helped provide a rationale for why Covenant should take up the opportunity to address the needs of people living with disabilities.

Wilson shared that the Inclusion Team recommends a three-phase approach:

Phase I will address the needs of 80% of children with disabilities --includes adaptations to our classrooms to make them more consistent and approachable, universally designed curriculum for all students, adaptive supply carts to make activities accessible to children with disabilities. Phase I will start in early summer.

Phase II will address the needs of an additional 15% of children who need moderate support. This includes sensory spaces and toys to help children regulate in high stimulation environments. A table for students to choose their sensory items will be

available outside the Power Up room, calm down corners will be available in each classroom, and a small sensory room will be available.

Phase III will address the needs of the remaining 5% of children who need the most support. This phase is exciting and requires great support from our congregation. Phase three will include trained adult and/or high school buddies to offer one on one support for children with disabilities and respite events for families who need time and supportive and trusting care.

Clerk's Report

Janet Delery, Clerk of Session

Janet Delery called attention to the upcoming Charlotte Presbytery meeting on Tuesday, May 20. She made an appeal for an additional delegate. Delery also noted that Aug 16 and Oct 28 Presbytery meetings need delegates.

Delery offered words of appreciation for the ministry of Nikki Zimmermann, who will be recognized and celebrated on Sunday, May 18.

Staff Announcements/Pastoral Concerns

Bob Henderson shared updates on staff, session members and the broader church community. facilitated space for sharing prayer concerns from within the church and session community

Closing Prayer:

Bob Henderson closed the meeting with prayer at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Delery, Clerk



Robert W. Henderson, Moderator

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Called Session Meetings
Sundays, May 4, 11, 18, 2025**

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

May 4, 2025

Lesley Boney	Affiliate member
Lisa Farrar	Affiliate member
Ann Hodges	Reaffirmation
Bob Hull	Reaffirmation
Tammy Hull	Reaffirmation
David Parkes	Reaffirmation
Melinda Parkes	Reaffirmation

May 11, 2025

Caroline Wilhelm	Reaffirmation
Betsy Wetmore	Reaffirmation

May 18, 2025

Ann Marie Beurle	Transfer--The Unitarian Church of Westport, Westport, CT
Alex Beurle	Transfer--The Unitarian Church of Westport, Westport, CT
Maribeth Damron	Transfer--Edgemoor ARP, Edgemoor, SC
Kim Shellenberger	Transfer--Good Shepherd, Charlotte, NC
Amelia Tomlinson	Declaration of faith
Anna Genn McCready	Declaration of faith
Benjamin Reinicker	Declaration of faith
Bennet Nichols	Declaration of faith
Cardin White	Declaration of faith
Colton Hunt	Declaration of faith
Donovan Baer	Declaration of faith
Ellie Bouknight	Declaration of faith
Eloise Edwards	Declaration of faith
Emie Hindman	Declaration of faith
Emma Montieth	Declaration of faith
Hal Sharp	Declaration of faith
Hudson Sweeny	Declaration of faith
Jack Schuller	Declaration of faith
Kennedy Skaff	Declaration of faith
Lauren Wilhelm	Declaration of faith
Molly Thurmond	Declaration of faith
Luke Sawyers	Declaration of faith
Oliver Tomlinson	Declaration of faith

Sarah Thomas	Declaration of faith
Sophie Gutierrez	Declaration of faith
Thor Everett	Declaration of faith
Walter Bridgeman	Declaration of faith

Active (confirmed) members as of 5/31/2025: 2801

2025 new members as of 5/31/2025: 83

2025 new affiliate members as of 5/31/2025: 2

2025 transfers as of 5/31/2025: 16

2025 deaths as of 5/31/2025: 8

Motions of acceptance were made, seconded and approved. The meeting adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,


Janet Delery, 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:
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Marshall Bain	Transfer Letter--Calvary Church, Charlotte, NC
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**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION INFORMATION ITEM
SUMMARY**

SUBJECT: June Baptisms 2025

DATE: June 9, 2025

Report From: Baptism Committee

Background: Baptism must be approved by the Session.

Process to Date: Parents requested that their children be baptized in June 2025.

Budget Impact: None

Actions Taken or Recommendation: The Baptism Committee, with the support of the Ministry of Worship, recommends approval of the following at Covenant in June.

June 29, 2025, at the 11:00 a.m. service in the Covenant Sanctuary
Sebastian Richard Gunning
Parents – Anna E. Bassham and Charles R. Gunning

Motion: Motion to approve the baptism of Sebastian Richard Gunning.

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION INFORMATION ITEM
SUMMARY**

SUBJECT: Treasurer's Report **From: Ashley Friello, Treasurer**

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Monthly Financial Comments
May 2025**

Income Statement Comments

The main impacts of the May Income Statement are outlined below.

Income: Pledge receipts were below budget in the month by \$70K and are below budget \$234K YTD. On a YTD basis, Pledge receipts are trailing the historical norms by 5 percentage points (41% of budgeted pledge income received on a YTD basis, compared to 46% for the same period of the prior year). Giving statements for May were sent out with a note informing the members of the YTD shortfall. Total Income in the month was below budget by \$55K and was below budget \$65K YTD.

Expenses: Total Expenses for the month were above budget by \$7K and are below budget \$78K YTD. The YTD variances to budget are primarily the result of timing across most ministry areas, except for Administration. Repair and maintenance expenses are running higher than budgeted.

The Bottom Line: The Net Loss in the month was \$130K, unfavorable to budget by \$62K primarily due to pledge receipts below budget. YTD Net Income is \$137K, \$12K above budget primarily due to Administration's income generating ministries (schools, recreation, food service and facility rentals) above budget by \$145K.

Balance Sheet Comments

Significant changes in the Balance Sheet for the month, as compared to the prior month, were:

Line 25: Primarily reflects payments to complete the Campus WIFI upgrade and new HVAC unit in a Welcome Center office and the month's operating Net Loss.

Line 29 & 35: Reflects market value increases in Endowment funds.

Line 36: Primarily reflects payments to complete the Campus WIFI upgrade and new HVAC unit in a Welcome Center office.

Line 39: Primarily reflects the month's operating Net Loss.

Covenant Presbyterian Church				Period ending:	05/31/25	Y-T-D Actual as % of Annual			
INCOME STATEMENT		YTD Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Variance	Annual Budget	2025	2024	2023	2022
Income:									
1 Pledge Receipts	\$ 1,703,001	\$ 1,468,709	\$ (234,292)	\$ 3,540,980	41%	46%	49%	45%	
2 Misc Contributions	286,500	348,530	62,030	445,000					
3 Investment Income	149,767	149,975	208	300,500					
4 Transfer from Restricted Funds	52,000	56,118	4,118	356,000					
5 Other Receipts	78,500	81,994	3,494	156,000					
6 Total Schools	861,295	930,214	68,919	2,004,370					
7 Child Dev. Ctr.	630,995	671,262	40,267	1,550,440					
8 Preschool	230,300	258,953	28,653	453,930					
9 Food Service	79,281	86,932	7,650	184,675					
10 Recreation Wing	33,605	42,835	9,230	162,600					
11 Ministry Trip Income	62,900	84,330	21,430	150,000					
12 Ministry Other Income	\$ 45,188	\$ 37,812	\$ (7,376)	\$ 45,750					
Total Income	\$ 3,352,037	\$ 3,287,448	\$ (64,589)	\$ 7,345,875	45%	49%	47%	42%	
Expenses:									
13 Worship	\$ 55,858	\$ 65,173	\$ 9,315	\$ 124,300					
14 Congregational Life	63,220	47,486	(15,734)	76,700					
15 Engagement	4,646	3,356	(1,290)	9,750					
16 Mission & Outreach	489,725	555,528	65,803	857,450					
17 Education	78,011	68,223	(9,787)	173,030					
18 Total Schools	854,316	811,372	(42,943)	2,017,996					
19 Child Dev. Ctr.	628,793	603,490	(25,303)	1,547,754					
20 Preschool	225,523	207,882	(17,640)	470,242					
21 Food Service	42,100	38,381	(3,719)	108,000					
22 Recreation Ministries	37,845	24,357	(13,488)	53,600					
23 Administration	269,967	293,815	23,849	717,962					
24 Personnel	1,331,160	1,242,443	(88,717)	3,207,087					
Total Expenses	\$ 3,226,848	\$ 3,150,135	\$ (76,713)	\$ 7,345,875	43%	45%	44%	39%	
Net Income	\$ 125,189	\$ 137,313	\$ 12,124	\$ -					
BALANCE SHEET									
Assets:									
25 Truist (BB&T) Checking/Savings	\$ 1,962,918	\$ 2,199,288	\$ (236,371)						
26 Wells Fargo Holding	2,870,835	2,866,035	4,800						
27 Petty Cash	350	350	-						
28 Accounts Receivable and Advances	50,331	45,904	4,427						
29 Endowment Fund Mkt Value	17,506,735	17,026,043	480,692						
30 Real Estate Funds	2,425,000	2,425,000	-						
Total Assets	\$ 24,816,168	\$ 24,562,620	\$ 253,548						
Liabilities:									
31 Accounts Payable and Misc. Accruals	\$ 719	(1,035)	1,754						
Total Liabilities	\$ 719	\$ (1,035)	\$ 1,754						
Fund Balances:									
32 Donor Advised	\$ 248,459	\$ 248,459	\$ -						
33 Infrastructure Fund/Cornerstone Income	168,683	168,683	-						
34 Payable to Endowment Corpus	700	600	100						
35 Restricted End./Cornerst & Real Estate	19,931,735	19,451,043	480,692						
36 Restricted Funds	3,481,575	3,589,015	(107,439)						
37 Non-Budgeted Benevolences	22,256	22,256	-						
38 Section 125 Plan	(929)	(462)	(467)						
39 Genl Fund Balance	828,256	957,921	(129,665)						
40 Columbarium	43,656	43,881	(225)						
41 Reserve Fund Balances	91,058	82,260	8,798						
Total Fund Balances	\$ 24,815,449	\$ 24,563,655	\$ 251,794						
Total Liab. & Fund Balances	\$ 24,816,168	\$ 24,562,620	\$ 253,548						

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Information Item
Summary**

Subject: Congregational Life Update to Session From: Bill Saunders, Chair

Covenant Pride event June 15, 3-5pm at Tipsy Pickle at North End

Covenant's Queer Small Group invites you to join in celebrating Pride Month! We've reserved a Pickleball Court at Tipsy Pickle and there will plenty of space to hang out and share a time of fellowship, casual competition, and celebration of all the expressions of love and identity in our community. LGBTQ+ folks and Allies are invited. [Sign up here.](#)

Outdoor Ministry - The Summer Solstice Walk will take place on Friday, June 20th at James Boyce Park at 7:45 p.m. Daylight savings time makes a sunset later that day, making it the longest day of the year. It's always a pleasure to participate in this contemplative walk through the woods. Please join us if you can!

Upcoming Third Quarter events:

- Sunday, June 22 - visit the Annie Leibovitz exhibition at the Mint Museum
- Saturday, July 19 - pool party at the home of Barbara and Hugh Lewis
- Saturday, September 20 - visit the Whitewater Center for music & fellowship (and hiking, zip lines)
- Sunday, Nov 2 - bowling and watching Panthers game at Green Bay (1:00 game)
- Pickleball at Babb/Saunders TBD

Fall Kickoff Sunday, August 24!

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Information Item
Summary**

Subject: P& E Update to Session

From: Kim Spivey, Chair

P & E extends deep gratitude to all of Covenant's worship leaders, musicians, staff members and lay volunteers whose creativity and collaboration culminated in a deeply meaningful education session, Service of Dedication and celebration luncheon marking the installation of the new stained glass windows on May 25. The care and attention to detail was felt and appreciated by all who were on campus that day. The education session was very well attended, and we had 275 people in the sanctuary for the worship service-a number that far exceeds average holiday weekend Sunday attendance. Among those gathered for the worship service were 20 or more members of Katie Geneva Canon's family, neighbors from Grier Heights Presbyterian Church, individuals affiliated with the Catawba Presbytery and other guests from the Charlotte community including Willie Griffin who will be teaching our Pathways to Discipleship summer Sunday School series.

We include a link below to the video recording of the education session and worship service and encourage anyone who was not able to attend on May 25th to join in the experience of this important day in the life of our church.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccAbjmvnDHU>

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Information Item
Summary**

Subject: Charlotte Presbytery Highlights

From: May 20, 2025

Highlights of the 166th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Charlotte on May 20, 2025

THEME: "PAST, PRESENT, POSSIBLE!"

In attendance from Covenant: Bob Henderson, Katherine Kerr, Mary Kate Sykes, Serenitye Taylor, Nikki Zimmermann. Lou Watson, Bill Saunders, Robin Goodson, Anne Gildea, Abby Liu, Janet Delery.

It was with great joy and thanksgiving that we gathered at Paw Creek Presbyterian Church! The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by our 2025 Moderator, Elder Gary Blackmon, Commissioned Pastor at Statesville Avenue Church. Rev. Dr. Fred Grosse, Transitional, Pastor of Paw Creek Church, and Rev. Rhonda McClain, Temporary Pastor at Woodland Church, welcomed the Presbytery on behalf of the officers, staff, and members of each of their churches. The Presbytery entered into a time of worship. Music was led by Paw Creek's Musician, Mark Burleson. Melissa White (South Mecklenburg) led the call to worship. Rev. Nick Cheek (Trinity) led the prayer of confession and gave the assurance of pardon. Rev. Serenitye Taylor (Covenant-Charlotte) led the prayer for Illumination and read the scripture. A special selection was led by the Woodland Hymn Choir with an introduction by Harriet James. Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Lapsley, President of Union Theological Seminary, preached the sermon entitled, "Do I Have Your Attention Now?" based on Isaiah 6:1-8. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was led by Rev. Dr. British Hyrams and Rev. Lisa McLennan.

During the General Presbyter's report, Rev. Dr. Jan Edmiston introduced David English from New Covenant Trust, who was visiting our area. She also thanked the Presbytery for its support of the flood buckets collection at the Warehouse at Locust Church. Jan lifted up the Ten Cents-a-Meal Team and announced the 2025 TCaM recipient ministries. Macedonia Church also received over \$16,000 in donations from across the country, following the theft of the food and equipment from the church manse as they were preparing for their Po' Folks Dinner benefit.

Rev. Dr. John Magnuson highlighted recent recipients of Sabbatical and Incentive Grants (SIG). Statesville Avenue Church received a grant for their Edible Landscape & Orchard. Amity Church received a grant to support their Congolese Ministry.

Jan also congratulated two outstanding pastors in our Presbytery for recent recognitions: Rev. Megan Argabrite (Amity), 2025 Rising Star Alum, Union Presbyterian

Seminary and Rev. Matt Conner (Newell), 2025 Pioneer in Ministry Award, Columbia Theological Seminary. Presbytery heard a brief update from the 2030 Vision Team by the Co-Moderators, Rev. Sonya McAuley Allen and Rev. Matt Conner. On behalf of the Admin. Committee, Rev. Gloria Bolden presented the nominees for the General Presbyter Search Committee. The Presbytery approved the following members to serve: Ministers: Megan Argabrite (Amity), Gregory Busby (Retired), Ken Fuquay (Matters To Mission), Mark Lee (Central Steele Creek), Kim Stamey (Star and Macedonia), Serenitye Taylor (Covenant-Charlotte), Elders: Natalie Beard (First United), Christopher Fish (Locust), Susan Manning (Davidson College PC), and Vicki Smith (Myers Park).

Rev. Lib McGregor Simmons and Rev. Lynn Thompson Bryant presented the report of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry. Shardae Henry (The Grove), was approved as a Candidate in the preparation for ministry process. Melissa White (South Mecklenburg) was approved to be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament.

During the COM Report, presented by Rev. Millie Snyder, the Presbytery welcomed Rev. British Hyrams, Chaplain at Presbyterian College, Rev. Nicholas Cheek, Transitional Pastor at Trinity Church, Rev. Frederick Grosse (UCC), as a Temporary Member serving as Transitional Pastor at Paw Creek and Melissa White, to serve in validated ministry as Curriculum Coordinator, Center for Excellence in Christian Education at Union Presbyterian Seminary and Parish Associate, South Mecklenburg Church (pending ordination). The Presbytery also approved the terms of call for Rev. Serenitye Taylor, to serve as Associate Pastor at Covenant-Charlotte Church.

Rev. Snyder recognized the Rev. Sally Herlong, upon her retirement from Union Presbyterian Seminary effective June 30, 2025. Jan Edmiston spoke on behalf of Rev. David Thornton, who retired effective February 1, 2025. Greg Busby spoke on behalf of Rev. Warren Lesane, who is retiring as Executive/Stated Clerk of the Synod of the MidAtlantic, effective June 30, 2025. Rev. Snyder then led the body in a laying on of hands, by members of the Commission on Ministry, for our retiring ministers, as they move to this next phase of their life in service to the church.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Information Item
Summary**

Subject: Clerk's Communications

From: Janet Delery, Clerk

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

- MeckMIN