

Covenant Presbyterian Church
Meeting of Session
Monday, May 12, 2025
6:30 P.M.
CONSENT AGENDA

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of April 14, 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 May 4, 2025, Congregational Meeting Minutes (p. 5). Janet Delery, Clerk of Session, moves that the minutes of this meeting be approved as written.
3. Approval of Called Session Meeting Minutes from April to receive new members (pp. 6-7). Janet Delery, Clerk of Session, moves that the minutes of this meeting be approved as written.
4. Approval of baptisms (pp. 8-9)
5. Approval of 2025 Elder Nominating Committee (p. 10)

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. April 2025 Treasurer's Report (pp. 11-12)
2. Extended Communion Report (pp. 13-14)
3. Congregational Life Ministry Report (pp. 15-17)
4. Mission and Outreach Ministry Report (pp. 18-19)
5. Clerk's Communications (pp. 20-21)

FUTURE EVENTS

- | | | | |
|-------------|--|------------|-----------------|
| • May 18 | Confirmation | 9:30 A.M. | Sanctuary |
| • May 20 | Presbytery Meeting | 9:30 A.M. | Paw Creek PC |
| • May 25 | One worship service | 11:00 A.M. | Sanctuary |
| • May 26 | Memorial Day - church offices closed | | |
| • June 8 | Pentecost | | |
| • June 9 | Session Meeting | 7:00 P.M. | Peek Music Room |
| • | No Session Agenda or Session Meeting in July | | |
| • July 6 | One worship service | 11:00 A.M. | Sanctuary |
| • August 11 | Session Meeting | 7:00 P.M. | Peek Music Room |

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING ON
MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2025**

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Bob Henderson, Moderator

The Moderator called the meeting to order at 7:00 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. One minor change to the Consent Agenda materials (a date error) was requested by Bill Saunders. After noted, the amended Consent Agenda and meeting agenda were unanimously adopted.

Administration Report

Ashley Friello, Administration Chair

Ashley Friello provided the first quarter financial update (Financials and commentary were also provided in the Consent Agenda). She noted that we had positive net income of \$340K, \$130K more than same time last year. She also noted that pledges received YTD vs. same time last year are behind 5% due to prepaid pledges. Friello also commended strong expense management. She made commentary on the broader economic landscape and the church's relative financial health due to strength of balance sheet, sources of operating income and underlying balanced investment portfolio for our endowment.

Personnel Report

John McAlister, Personnel Chair

John McAlister provided a Personnel Committee update. He shared that Mary Sutton will join as co-Director of Children's Ministry and will serve in partnership with Amber Brown. McAlister also noted that Drew Quartapella will chair the search committee for the Business Administrator role and Terry Horne will lead the Director of Traditional Music role search committee. Other members of that search committee are Ann Reed, Lauren Russell and Allison Jett.

McAlister invited Courtney St. Onge to provide an update on the activities of the Associate Pastor for Congregational Life search committee. She noted the steps taken to develop the ministry profile and to receive and sift through applicants. A lead candidate was unanimously identified, supported by the Personnel Committee, approved by Presbytery and a call extended. A request was made by St. Onge to call a congregational meeting on May 4 at 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary for the purpose of hearing and acting on a recommendation by the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. The motion was so-moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

Planning and Evaluation Report

Kim Spivey, P&E Chair

Kim Spivey provided a report on the culmination of the Arts Task Force work, specifically focused on the stained-glass windows. She shared that the replacement windows are nearly finished, while

precise dates of arrival or installation are not known. Spivey reported that a small team from Covenant, including Bob Henderson, travelled to Minnesota to visit the artisans at Willet (vendor) in order to see progress first-hand and to memorialize the work via video production. Spivey shared some of the video segments with the Session and Henderson offered commentary.

Spivey noted that we will prepare for the arrival of the windows by providing education about the figures depicted in the new panels during worship and educational programs between Easter and Pentecost. Additionally, when the windows arrive, a service of dedication will be held.

Spivey also recalled that the motion approved by the Session in December 2024 called for P&E to oversee three efforts related to this last phase of the windows project. First was creation of a display and achieve contextualizing the stained glass windows project. Second was to continue the work of Mission & Outreach and Education in deepening our understanding of Covenant's relationship with racial injustice. Third was to form a 3rd Arts Task Force to explore how to reuse the removed stained glass in a way that promotes racial reconciliation. She noted that P&E will continue to oversee and ensure progress on the first two items. Regarding the third, Spivey introduced that Willet had offered to store the old windows and use them to educate and train artists. While Covenant could access them any time we wanted, this would provide safe storage while perpetuating an important cultural art and spreading the story of our decision to transform our windows into telling a fuller story more reflective of our core convictions. Spivey then asked the Session to approve use of the removed stained glass window panels by Willet to teach and train their artists and that the formation of a 3rd Arts Task Force be delayed until such a time that the window panels are returned to Covenant. After discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Ministry Reports

Congregational Life

Bill Saunders, Congregational Life Chair

Bill Saunders commended his report as contained in the Consent Agenda and highlighted an array of activities including the successful Men's Getaway, the Outdoor Ministry Group, the success of Open Table, a 3rd Quarter gathering at Auto Pour, and many other upcoming activities including Primetimers Luncheon, Presbyterian Women jewelry swap and the pending commission of Stephen Ministers.

Education

Sarah Wilson, Education Chair

Sarah Wilson gave an update on two goals of the committee. First, she noted that the "Incubation Team" is seeking volunteers as middle and high school youth advisors. Second, she provided perspective on work informed by the Envision report to support life groups in studying Lenten curriculum and worshipping and serving together. Finally, Wilson provided an update on the inclusion committee. This group has been looking for ways to create more inclusion for children with disabilities, and used a site visit of our campus to look for tangible steps we could take. She noted the opportunity for our full community to do this, not simply parents of children with disabilities.

Mission and Outreach

Jim Dobbins, Mission and Outreach Chair

Jim Dobbins referred to multiple updates including the recently completed Kenya trip and our continuing Avery County recovery efforts. He commended the upcoming Civil Rights Pilgrimage. Dobbins also noted the need for summer housing for two Davidson-Stapleton interns.

Clerk's Report

Janet Delery, Clerk of Session

Janet Delery gave a preview of the May session meeting, where the confirmation class will join to share faith statements. She also called attention to one Consent Agenda item: That Ben Unger and Amy Hunter will co-lead the Elder Nominating Committee. Delery expressed appreciation to them.

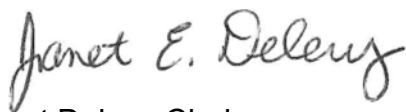
Staff Announcements/Pastoral Concerns

Bob Henderson facilitated space for sharing prayer concerns from within the church and session community

Closing Prayer:

Bob Henderson closed the meeting with prayer at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Delery, Clerk



Robert W. Henderson, Moderator

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON
SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025**

Call to Order and Opening Prayer – Bob Henderson, Moderator

The Moderator called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and opened with a prayer.

Purpose and Organizational Matters

The Moderator stated that the purpose of the meeting is to hear and act on a recommendation by the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, confirmed that proper notice was given, and clarified who was eligible to vote. The Moderator established Janet Delery, Clerk of Session, as Clerk for the meeting.

Presentation from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

The Moderator introduced Courtney St. Onge, Chair of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. St. Onge shared an overview of the process undertaken by the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee to solicit and evaluate candidates for the Associate Pastor for Congregational Life position. On behalf of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, St. Onge then recommended that Serenitye Taylor be called as Covenant Presbyterian Church's Associate Pastor for Congregational Life and shared highlights of the recommended candidate's qualifications. The ushers distributed a brochure with additional information about Serenitye Taylor and a document outlining the Terms of Call.

A motion was made and seconded that Serenitye Taylor be called as Covenant Presbyterian Church's Associate Pastor for Congregational Life. The Moderator asked if there were any questions or discussion. When none were raised, the Moderator called for a vote. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Delery, Clerk



Robert W. Henderson, Moderator

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Called Session Meetings
Sundays, April 20, 27, 2025**

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

April 20, 2025

Cameron Fahsel	Reaffirmation
Martin Fahsel	Reaffirmation
Ellen Holloway	Transfer Letter--Roswell Presbyterian Church, Roswell, GA
Allen Holloway	Transfer Letter--Roswell Presbyterian Church, Roswell, GA
Connor Holloway	Transfer Letter--Roswell Presbyterian Church, Roswell, GA

April 20, 2025

Robert Hines	Reaffirmation
Stephanie Hines	Reaffirmation
Charlie Rogers	Transfer Lettter--Christ Episcopal, Charlotte
Grace Rogers	Transfer Letter--St. John's Baptist Church, Charlotte
Amy Ruhl	Transfer Letter--St. John's Baptist Church, Charlotte
John Ruhl	Transfer Letter--Trinity Episcopal, Asheville, NC

Active (confirmed) members as of 4/30/2025: 2763

2025 new members as of 4/30/2025: 44

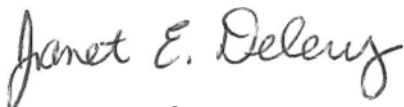
2025 new affiliate members as of 4/30/2025: 0

2025 transfers as of 4/30/2025: 15

2025 deaths as of 4/30/2025: 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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Transferred to:</u>
Melanie Funderburk	Remove pre request--joined church closer to where they live
Mike Funderburk	Remove pre request--joined church closer to where they live
Jill Hamilton	Remove per request--moved out of Charlotte
Justin Hamilton	Remove per request--moved out of Charlotte
Brad Rogers	Transfer Letter--Westminster Presbyterian, Nashville, TN
Anne Rogers	Transfer Letter--Westminster Presbyterian, Nashville, TN

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Action Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: 2025 Baptisms

DATE: May 12, 2025

Report From: Baptism Committee

Background: Baptism must be approved by the Session.

Process to Date: Parents requested that their children be baptized in May, June, July, August and October 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 May, June, July, August, and October 2025.

May 4, at the 11:00 a.m. service in the Covenant Sanctuary
Eden Adair Jayne
Parents – Helen Adair and David Jayne

May 18, at the 9:30 a.m. service in the Covenant Sanctuary
Lauren Ellyce Wilhelm, Quest Confirmand

June 1, at the 9:30 a.m. service in the Covenant Sanctuary
Emily Caroline Stapp
Parents – Morgan and Henry Stapp

Parker Meole Andersen
Parents – Perrin and Michael Andersen

June 15, at the 9:30 a.m. service in the Covenant Sanctuary
Chase David Carter
Parents – Jocelyne and Mark Carter

June 29, at the 9:30 a.m. service in the Covenant Sanctuary
Cleo Kathleen Yates
Parents – Kirby and Brian Yates

July 20, at the 9:30 a.m. service in the Covenant Sanctuary
Drew Hattie Bryan
Parents – Whitney and Will Bryan

August 17, at the 11:00 a.m. service in the Covenant Sanctuary
John Milton Childress IV
Parents – Tori and John Childress

October 12, at the 9:30 a.m. service in the Covenant Sanctuary
Harriet Grace O'Brien
Parents – Vanessa and Daniel O'Brien

Motion: Motion to approve the baptisms of Eden Adair Jayne, Lauren Ellyce Wilhelm, Emily Caroline Stapp, Parker Meole Andersen, Chase David Carter, Cleo Kathleen Yates, Drew Hattie Bryan, John Milton Childress IV, and Harriet Grace O'Brien.

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION ACTION ITEM**

SUMMARY

SUBJECT: 2025 Elder Nominating Committee

DATE: May 12, 2025

Report From: Janet Delery, Clerk of Session and Amy Hunter, Chair of ENC

Background: Per Covenant's Operations Manual (page 3): In May of each year the names of the members of the Elder Nominating Committee (ENC) shall be submitted to Session.

Process to Date: Through the April Consent Agenda, Amy Hunter and Ben Unger were approved by Session as representatives from Session to serve on the 2025 Elder Nominating Committee, with Amy Hunter agreeing to serve as Chairperson. Subsequently, 8 additional members were solicited representing the Ministry teams, Presbyterian Women, and Men's Fellowship.

Budget Impact: None

Actions Taken or Recommendation: Amy Hunter and Ben Unger recommend that Alice Arwood, Deana Cooper, Natalie Crockford, Carla Haughton, Katherine Lawson, Scott Roehrig, John Schuller, and Brian Vincent be appointed as members of the 2025 Elder Nominating Committee.

Motion: Motion that Amy Hunter (Chair), Ben Unger, Alice Arwood, Deana Cooper, Natalie Crockford, Carla Haughton, Katherine Lawson, Scott Roehrig, John Schuller, and Brian Vincent be appointed as the 2025 Elder Nominating Committee.

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION INFORMATION ITEM
SUMMARY**

SUBJECT: Treasurer's Report

From: Ashley Friello, Treasurer

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

Income Statement Comments

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

Income: Pledge receipts were below budget in the month by \$92K and are below budget \$164K YTD. On a YTD basis, pledge receipts remain 5% behind previous years' pledge receipts. The Finance committee will continue to monitor this trend.

Total Income in the month was on budget, primarily due to additional Christmas Eve receipts which contributed to the recent \$250K donation to Crisis Assistance Ministry (CAM). Total Income YTD is below budget by \$9K.

Expenses: Expenses across all ministry areas were close to or below budget for the month, except for Mission and Outreach (M&O) and Administration. In the month, M&O was \$56K over budget due to \$76K of additional Christmas Eve offering, which is offset by higher Income so there's no impact to the bottom line. Also in the month, Administration was \$11K over budget due to timing of the Utilities expense billing cycle. Total Expenses for the month were above budget by \$58K and are below budget \$83K YTD.

The Bottom Line: The Net Loss in the month was \$74K, unfavorable to budget by \$59K primarily due to pledge receipts below budget. Net Income YTD is \$267K, \$74K above budget primarily due to Administration's income generating ministries (schools, recreation, food service and facility rentals) above budget by \$121K.

Balance Sheet Comments

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

Line 25: Primarily reflects the \$250K donation to CAM and the month's operating Net Loss.

Line 36: Primarily reflects the \$250K donation to CAM.

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

Covenant Presbyterian Church			Period ending:		04/30/25	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	\$	1,472,837	\$	1,308,863	\$	(163,974)	\$	3,540,980	37%	42%	43%	41%	
2	Misc Contributions		257,000		332,807		75,807		445,000					
3	Investment Income		147,767		149,975		2,208		300,500					
4	Transfer from Restricted Funds		39,000		36,448		(2,552)		356,000					
5	Other Receipts		65,800		64,959		(841)		156,000					
6	Total Schools		692,786		751,004		58,218		2,004,370					
7	Child Dev. Ctr.		504,796		540,125		35,329		1,550,440					
8	Preschool		187,990		210,879		22,889		453,930					
9	Food Service		61,225		70,677		9,452		184,675					
10	Recreation Wing		27,830		36,103		8,273		162,600					
11	Ministry Trip Income		57,960		69,931		11,971		150,000					
12	Ministry Other Income	\$	44,438	\$	36,682	\$	(7,756)	\$	45,750					
Total Income			\$	2,866,643	\$	2,857,449	\$	(9,194)	\$	7,345,875	39%	40%	41%	37%
Expenses:														
13	Worship	\$	46,653	\$	52,280	\$	5,627	\$	124,300					
14	Congregational Life		60,300		39,268		(21,032)		76,700					
15	Engagement		3,917		2,653		(1,264)		9,750					
16	Mission & Outreach		451,000		528,212		77,212		857,450					
17	Education		67,504		41,659		(25,845)		173,030					
18	Total Schools		684,528		647,604		(36,924)		2,017,996					
19	Child Dev. Ctr.		504,110		482,390		(21,720)		1,547,754					
20	Preschool		180,418		165,215		(15,204)		470,242					
21	Food Service		35,600		31,472		(4,128)		108,000					
22	Recreation Ministries		37,650		24,357		(13,293)		53,600					
23	Administration		219,943		227,727		7,783		717,962					
24	Personnel		1,066,350		995,240		(71,110)		3,207,087					
Total Expenses			\$	2,673,446	\$	2,590,471	\$	(82,975)	\$	7,345,875	35%	33%	35%	31%
Net Income			\$	193,196	\$	266,978	\$	73,781	\$	-				
BALANCE SHEET				April	March	Change								
Assets:														
25	Truist (BB&T) Checking/Savings		\$	2,199,288	\$	2,511,849	\$	(312,561)						
26	Wells Fargo Holding			2,866,035		2,847,767		18,268						
27	Petty Cash			350		350		-						
28	Accounts Receivable and Advances			45,904		43,318		2,585						
29	Endowment Fund Mkt Value			17,026,043		17,039,920		(13,877)						
30	Real Estate Funds			2,425,000		2,425,000		-						
Total Assets				\$	24,562,620	\$	24,868,205	\$	(305,585)					
Liabilities:														
31	Accounts Payable and Misc. Accruals		\$	(1,035)		(19,483)		18,448						
Total Liabilities				\$	(1,035)	\$	(19,483)	\$	18,448					
Fund Balances:														
32	Donor Advised		\$	248,459	\$	248,459	\$	-						
33	Infrastructure Fund/Cornerstone Income			168,683		175,158		(6,475)						
34	Payable to Endowment Corpus			600		1,035		(435)						
35	Restricted End/Cornerst & Real Estate			19,451,043		19,464,920		(13,877)						
36	Restricted Funds			3,589,015		3,802,925		(213,911)						
37	Non-Budgeted Benevolences			22,256		35,844		(13,589)						
38	Section 125 Plan			(462)		(1,225)		763						
39	Genl Fund Balance			957,921		1,032,186		(74,265)						
40	Columbarium			43,881		46,366		(2,485)						
41	Reserve Fund Balances			82,260		82,020		240						
Total Fund Balances				\$	24,563,655	\$	24,887,688	\$	(324,033)					
Total Liab. & Fund Balances				\$	24,562,620	\$	24,868,205	\$	(305,585)					

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Information Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: Extended Communion Report

DATE: May 12, 2025

Report From: Judy Grubbs and Mary Wood Stallings, Extended Communion Co-Chairs

Background: Extended Communion was served on Sunday, April 13, 2025.

Process to Date: Sixteen teams, at least one of whom was an elder, served 32 recipients. Five other members were visited but unable to participate in communion.

Budget Impact: None

Actions Taken:

Servers:

Amanda Abraham	Sarah Crowder	Lucia Horne	Chuck Morgan
Alice Arwood	Susan Ferone	Terry Horne	Alan Morrow
John Arwood	Gwen Fox	Martha Isaacs	Nancy Pate
Ann Ayers	Bill Fox	David Isaacs	John Pate
Loretta Brown	Judy Grubbs	Philip James	Mary Wood Stallings
Lynn Coleman	Jake Grubbs	Jerry Jernigan	Hank Stallings
Mary Parrish Coley	Stephanie Guffin	Katherine Lawson	
Deana Cooper	Rachel Guffin	Tommy Lawson	

Members/Additional recipients served:

Homebound members served:

Jodi Malone, with daughter Betsy and attendant Teresa
Cheryl and Thomas McLawhorn
Betty Moak
Bud Smith, with son Roger
Genie White
Rhonda Williamson

Aldersgate:

Frances and Leroy Hendricks, with daughter from Germany

The Barclay at Southpark:

Emma Sylvester

Brightmore of South Charlotte:

Nancy Mackey

Brookdale Carriage Club Memory Care:

Jo Ann Hobbs

The Cypress:

Claire Barnhardt

Holiday Willow Grove Retirement Community:

Frank Mansfield

Merrywood Retirement Community:

Brenda and Don Moricle

The Sanctuary, Allison Avenue:

Becky Boulware

The Sharon at Southpark Chapel:

Jackie Arwood

Kay and Bob Majeski

Joe Suterlin, non-member

Jeffrey Hull, non-member

The Sharon at Southpark Independent:

Jerusha and Murray Fadiel

The Sharon at Southpark Healthcare and Memory Care:

Helen Cathey, Don Chamblee, Helen Collins, Ada Offerdahl

Visited not served: Jane Cunningham, Buddy Love, Marcia Morton, Rita Simpson, Agnes Smith

The next scheduled extended communion date is Sunday, August 10, 2025.

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION INFORMATION ITEM
SUMMARY**

SUBJECT: Congregational Life Ministry Report

DATE: May 12, 2025

Report From: Congregational Life

Chair: Bill Saunders

Background: This update is intended to inform Covenant's Session about the Congregational Life Ministry, equipping members to more effectively support and engage in its work.

Process to Date: Below is an update from the Congregational Life ministry leaders:

Bereavement – Pat Viser

- Condolence notes were hand-written by Lynn Morrow to:
 - Sally and Bill Jackson on the death of his father, Durwood Owen, on April 20.
 - Heather Wilson on the death of her father, Joseph Marcus Wilson, on April 22.
 - Ruffin and Jenna Sykes on the death of his father, Alan Joyner Sykes, on December 3.
- Bereavement Committee members assisted with memorial services for:
- Columbarium and memorial service on April 11 for Teresa Jacobs Barnhardt.
 - Katherine Lawson supported the family and picked the flowers up from The Blossom Shop. Grace Lindvall was presiding minister.
 - Memorial service for Alan Joyner Sykes on May 3. Susie East and Pat Viser supported the family. Mary Kate Sykes was presiding minister.

Covenant Crew – Karen Willis

- She has a list of about 10 folks who are willing and able to perform tasks.
- The requests for assistance are filtered thru her and she sends those out and coordinates the helper with the Covenant member.

Covenant Visitors – Lilli Gerald

Lilli is reviving this group, working to identify folks who could be visited or would like a visit.

Health and Wellness Committee – Erin Weeks

- We had a successful blood drive with One Blood on May 4. PS The blood drive Sunday had 12 donors which is 36 people in our community helped by Covenant! :)
- We would like to do more programming next year and are interested to hear what our congregational needs are.

Intercessory Prayer – Alice Arwood

- Lori Borrelli compiles the requests and provides them to Alice.
- Alice then sends all the prayer requests to the approximately 33 team members to pray for all the requests received.

Men's Ministry – Shea Watts

- No Report

Outdoor Ministry – Mary Gaertner

- Saturday, May 10th 9:30 a.m. Landsford Canal State Park. It is home to the world's largest population of Rocky Shoals Lilies. Join the Outdoor Ministry for a three-mile, round trip hike down the Canal Trail to an overlook where spider lilies can be best viewed. [Sign Up Here](#).
- Friday, June 20th, 7:45 p.m. Join the Outdoor Ministry for a contemplative sunset Summer Solstice Walk at James Boyce Park Pavilion – 300 Boyce Road Charlotte. More details and sign up coming soon.

Pet Ministry – Alex McKinnon

- Our team will continue its visits to the **Epiphany School** on our campus to provide canine therapy to their group of extraordinary children in grades 3 through 8 with ASD-1 (formerly known as Asperger's) and other communication differences through late May.
- Both in February for midterms, and later this month for spring 2025 final exams, we will continue to provide canine stress therapy to students and staff at **Queen's University**
- We are working with the **Covenant Young Adults Group** to collaborate this summer.

Presbyterian Women – Serenitye Taylor

- Soup ministry has been successful! Plans to provide soup to all new parents in conjunction with the baby blankets that members knit.
- Women's Dinner and Jewelry swap on **May 8th**.

Primetimers – Martha Isaacs

- Approximately 167 Primetimers!
- There will be a spring Primetimer Luncheon on Wednesday, **May 7** beginning at 11:30. Chef Johnny will serve a springtime lunch. The brief program will concentrate on the seldom noticed and celebrated moments and items of beauty on the Covenant campus. Primetimers are 80+ years old with wisdom and faith to share. Caregivers and spouses are also invited as is the covenant staff. The church van will also transport attendees from The Sharon.

Stephen Ministry – Gene Graziano

- 20 active Stephen Ministers. Seven new Stephen Ministry trainees will be commissioned on May 18 at the 11:00 service.
- Most of our Stephen Ministers have care receivers. We continue to reach out to our congregation to see if there is anyone that may benefit from our Stephen Ministry.
- We have our monthly "continuing education" meetings on the first Wednesday of each month. Our "supervision" meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month.

Support Groups

Surviving Our Spouses – Anne Gildea

- SOS hosted the annual porch party at Kandy Cosper's home on **May 3** from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. It was a Derby party complete with Mint Juleps and derby hats.
- We also continue to reach out to those who are newly bereaved by notes and phone calls at appropriate times.

Third Quarter – Bill Saunders

- In May there will be a planning session for 2025 events.

TLC (Travel, Learn, Connect) – Betty Graybeal

- Fall Plans:
 - **Sept 24** — Cori Faklaris, Asst. Professor at UNCC, will speak on AI
 - Oct — program on the Atrium/Wake Forest Medical School or a trip to Coca Cola plant (neither confirmed yet)
 - **Nov 12** — trip to NC Music Hall of Fame in Kannapolis
 - **Dec 3** — Christmas Bingo Party

Budget Impact: None

Actions Taken or Recommendation: Contact the Congregational Life leadership team (Chair: Bill Saunders; Vice Chair: Judy Emken) with any questions, suggestions, and/or to get yourself or someone else more engaged in Covenant's Congregational Life Ministry.

Motion: None

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION INFORMATION ITEM
SUMMARY**

SUBJECT: Mission & Outreach Ministry Report

DATE: May 12, 2025

Report From: Mission & Outreach

Chair: Jim Dobbins

Background: This update is intended to inform Covenant's Session about the Mission & Outreach Ministry, equipping members to more effectively support and engage in its work.

Process to Date: Below is an update from the Mission & Outreach ministry leaders:

Avery County workdays (both Habitat and post-Helene support) continue to go on the first Monday and third Wednesday of every month. The next weeklong (actually 4-5 days) Avery trip is July 29th – August 2nd. Signups for that are filling up.

We continue to need support for our Stapleton/Davidson interns over the summer. We're grateful that they all have homes for the summer, but there's still a lot of other support that will be helpful, like providing lunches, being a worship buddy (at Covenant or other churches), or hosting a social time. The sign ups for those roles are in this link:

[Volunteers Needed: Intern Support Team 2025](#)

On Easter Sunday, Bob announced our huge gift to Crisis Assistance Ministry, in celebration and honor of their 50th anniversary. As part of that, we pledged 250 hours of service by our members. You (and your friends!) can sign up for those events here:

[Everyone Welcome!: Crisis Assistance Ministry](#)

Every summer, we partner with Freedom School Partners in their programs at Highland Renaissance Academy. Those opportunities are here:

[Highland Renaissance Academy](#)

And of course, there are trips on the books for Kenya (9/26 – 10/5), Yucatan (week of 10/12), and the Civil Rights Pilgrimage (10/2 – 10/5).

Budget Impact: None

Actions Taken or Recommendation: Contact the Mission & Outreach leadership team (Chair: Jim Dobbins; Vice Chair: Amanda Abrahm) with any questions, suggestions, and/or to get yourself or someone else more engaged in Covenant's Mission & Outreach Ministry.

Motion: None

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Information Item
Summary**

Subject: Clerk Communications

From: Janet Delery, Clerk

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

- Friends of Accion
- Crisis Assistance Ministry (attached)



April 24, 2025

The Reverend Robert W. Henderson Jr.
Covenant Presbyterian Church
1000 East Morehead Street
Charlotte, NC 28204-2813

Dear Bob and Friends,

I am still glowing from my joyous Easter Sunday at Covenant! The masterful music, the powerful pulpit messages, the warm and welcoming people and ...

A life changing \$250,000 gift to stabilize housing for our community's most vulnerable people!

Where would our community be without the many decades of community leadership of Covenant Presbyterian? From launching Crisis Assistance Ministry in the '70s to building the Mezzanine at Freedom and the numerous programs and agencies you have lifted up in between, you are a beacon of hope and light for thousands.

Sunday reminded me of the power of churches "banding together" as you noted. This generous gift, combined with that of other founding churches who are following you in this 50th Anniversary Challenge, represents a renewal of those times.

Your gift is a lifeline for families facing financial hardships and makes a difference in their journey towards long-term stability.

As always, if you have any questions or would like to learn more about how your gift is making an impact, contact me at 704-227-2790 or CHardison@crisisassistance.org. Thank you again.

Carol Hardison
Chief Executive Officer

Cc Mandy Rencher
Nikki Zimmerman
Janet Delery

Donation Amount	\$250,000.00
Payment Method	Business Check
Check Number & Name on Check	53421
Date	04/15/2025

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Carol L. Hardison

500-A Spratt Street • Charlotte, North Carolina 28206 • 704.371.3001 • crisisassistance.org

Please retain this letter for your tax purposes. EIN 56-141671. No goods or services were received in exchange for this financial contribution.

