

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
MEETING OF SESSION  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025  
7:00 P.M.  
CONSENT AGENDA**

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Approval of August 11, 2025, Session Meeting Minutes (pp. 2-5). Janet Delery, Clerk of Session, moves that the minutes of this meeting be approved as written.
2. Approval of Called Session Meeting Minutes in August to receive new members (p. 6). Janet Delery, Clerk of Session, moves that the minutes of these meetings be approved as written.
3. Approval of request for changes to active roll (p. 7)
4. Approval of baptisms (p. 8)

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. August 2025 Treasurer's Report (pp. 9-10)
2. Presbytery Meeting Minutes (pp. 11-12)
3. Congregational Lif Ministry Report (pp. 13-17)
4. Clerk's Communications (p. 18)

**FUTURE EVENTS**

- September 21                      Congregational Meeting                      10:30 a.m. Sanctuary
- September 28                      Session Update for Sunday School    9:30 Fellowship Hall
- October 5                              World Communion Sunday
- October 13                           Elder Dinner                                      6:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall
- October 28                           Presbytery of Charlotte Meeting    9:30 a.m. Mount Olive PC
- November 2                           All Saints' Day
- November 10                       Session Meeting                                      7:00 p.m.
- November 16                       Commitment Sunday and Covenant Impacts Charlotte
- December 8                         Session Meeting                                      6:30 p.m.

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING ON  
MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2025**

**Session Members in Attendance:**

Class of 2025: W. Bouknight, W. Cooper, R. Goodson, S. Hicks, T. Horne, A. Hunter, B. Koonce, B. Saunders, B. Unger, A. Reynolds, H. Kluttz

Class of 2026: B. Cathey, J. Delery, V. DiSandro, J. Dobbins, J. McAbee, J. McAlister, T. Moore, L. Watson, S. Wilson

Class of 2027: A. Abrahm, A. Chinery, J. Emken, A. Gildea, V. Hindman, P. James, A. Liu, J. Schriefer, K. Spivey

Installed Ministers: B. Henderson, G. Lindvall, S. Taylor

**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 meeting agenda and the Consent Agenda pending one amendment: The need to change the header of the minutes of the June meeting on page 2 to reflect accurate date (it had been labeled "May"). The motion was approved on vote by the attendees.

**Administration Report**

Vince DiSandro, Finance Chair

DiSandro provided an update on the church's financial health. He noted that an audit of the financial statement was completed with no significant findings. He also noted that operating expenses for the first seven months of the year have been extremely favorable to budget, providing insights including a \$75,000 favorable variance on income side and a \$225,000 favorable variance on expense side. DiSandro observed that pledge receipts are roughly 4% lower than same time last year, but reminded the session that late year contributions tend to be traditional. Finally, DiSandro noted that the endowment has been performing well, with a conservative approach to investing being the objective.

**Planning and Evaluation Report**

Kim Spivey, P&E Chair

Spivey provided a Creation Care Task Force update. She noted that, late last year, Session charged P & E with forming a task force to take a holistic look at Covenant's call to care for God's creation and make recommendations on 1) areas of focus in order for us to fully live into that call and 2) how to best functionally and structurally integrate Creation Care into the ongoing life and leadership of the church. She noted that Katherine Kerr and Amy Capitano have recruited task force members and that group has launched and begun to dig into this good work. Joining Katherine and Amy are

Julian Wright, Erin Hines, Andrew Morrison, Mary Gaertner and Campbell Carter (HS youth). The group's early work includes a book study, Climate Ambassador certification training, and assignments of research topics. The task force will be sharing a report with P & E towards the end of the year.

Spivey also shared an update on the Stained Glass Window Archive. Kandy Cosper has agreed to write a narrative that tells the latest chapter in the history of our stained glass windows. Once this has been written we will be able to use it in a variety of ways- as part of our stained glass window archive on the website, for print publication to enhance future educational efforts. She is currently reviewing and absorbing the Arts Task Force videos and reports and interviewing folks who helped to lead the process. Cosper's work should be completed sometime this year.

Finally, Spivey provided an update on the Covenant Operations Manual. There is a provision in our Operations Manual calling for it to be updated every three years. Due in large part to the pandemic there was a pause in that cycle so this year P & E is initiating an update. Currently members of P & E are working with lay and staff leaders across our ministry areas to identify any necessary updates to ensure that this manual is current. Those recommended updates will be brought to Session this fall for review and approval.

## **Ministry Reports**

### **Congregational Life**

Bill Saunders, Congregational Life Chair

Saunders commended the Session to review the array of good work happening in the church. Examples he noted included the TLC AI program, the outdoor ministry (children's nature garden), health and wellness blood drives, Pet Ministry, Surviving our Spouses, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Whitewater event and the work of the bereavement committee. He also noted that we still need many volunteers to assist with Fall Kickoff.

### **Education**

Sarah Wilson, Education Chair

Wilson provided an update on Vacation Bible School. She noted the vibrancy of the ministry and the presence of children on the campus. She provided an update on various youth missions activities from the summer: MSY mission trip to Raleigh and retreat to Massanutten. HSY trips to Avery County and Montreat. Wilson offered a "shout out" to Elder Jordan Schrieffer for her work this summer at Montreat.

Wilson mentioned the launch of six-week Life Groups this fall, supported by a curriculum focused on discernment. She also commended the upcoming three-part series "An Ethic of Peace" beginning September 7. Bob Henderson added comments regarding the nature of the conversations, which commenced with the author Peter Beinart.

## Engagement

Anne Gildea, Engagement Vice Chair

Gildea used her opportunity to encourage all to wear name tags during church events to support name recognition and ease of interaction. She relayed illustrative stories. Gildea also encouraged Elders to join new member meetings on Sunday mornings at 10:30.

## Mission & Outreach

Jim Dobbins, Mission & Outreach Chair

Dobbins shared the good work emanating from various ministries including Crisis Assistance Ministry, Avery County, Second Harvest. He noted that beads from Kenya had been added to the backpacks given to children for back to school. Dobbins encouraged all to digest and reference Windows on Covenant.

## Worship

Jacquelyn McAbee, Worship Chair

McAbee noted the beauty of August 10 worship service and commended the good work of the interim music leadership in the church. She referenced our ministry of serving extended communion, with 28 Elders having served 50 members year to date. Upcoming, she referenced the Blessing of the Backpacks and the Labor Day weekend service schedule. Finally, McAbee encouraged all to take the opportunity to serve communion and be available to support baptisms.

## Clerk's Report

Janet Delery, Clerk of Session

Delery invited Amy Hunter, Co-leader of the Elder Nominating Committee to provide an update of their work. Hunter acknowledged and appreciated the good work of the Committee and shared the slate of nominees for the class of 2028. At the conclusion, Hunter made a motion that a Congregational Meeting be called for Sunday, September 21, 2025 at 10:30 am in the Covenant Sanctuary for the purposes of hearing a report from the Elder Nominating Committee, electing 10 adult elders to the Session class of 2028, and electing two youth elders to serve a one-year term beginning January 1, 2026. This meeting will also serve as the required annual meeting for the Corporation. The motion was seconded and approved.

Delery noted that the September Session Meeting will be held at the Rise @ Clanton. Help will be needed to support serving dinner that evening.

## Staff Announcements/Pastoral Concerns

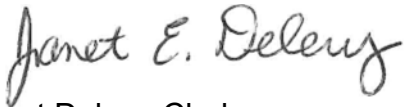
Henderson introduced Eva Bender, Business Administrator. Eva noted that Nate and Lacy King will be Stewardship Chairs and encouraged all to look toward the stewardship dinner this fall. Grace Lindvall offered thanks for the support she received to take her sabbatical.

Henderson offered his own words of gratitude for the interim traditional music leaders. Henderson also called out a September 12 dedication service at King's College, now a Roof Above residential project. The church made a substantial investment in 2021. Finally, he facilitated space for sharing prayer concerns from within the church and session community

Closing Prayer:

Grace Lindvall closed the meeting with prayer at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet E. Delery".

Janet Delery, Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert W. Henderson".

Robert W. Henderson, Moderator

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CALLED SESSION MEETINGS  
Sundays, August 1, 3, 10, 24, 31, 2025**

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

**August 1, 2025**

Donna Wise                      Restored to active membership

**August 3, 2025**

Charlie Blanton                Reaffirmation  
English Blanton                Transfer from First Baptist, Statesville  
Allie Walter                      Reaffirmation  
Chase Walter                    Reaffirmation

**August 10, 2025**

Joye Palmer                      Transfer from Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church, Charlotte

**August 24, 2025**

Justin Casey                    Reaffirmation  
Erin Osborne                    Transfer Letter--First Presbyterian Church, Athens, GA

**August 31, 2025**

Reilly Hovis                      Transfer letter--First Presbyterian Church, Gastonia, NC  
Hallie Hovis                      Reaffirmation  
Madison Gobbell                Reaffirmation

**Active (confirmed) members as of 8/31/2025: 2810**

**2025 new members as of 8/31/2025: 105**

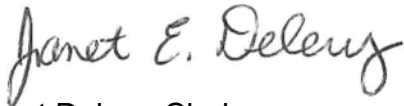
**2025 new affiliate members as of 8/31/2025: 2**

**2025 transfers as of 8/31/2025: 25**

**2025 deaths as of 8/31/2025: 17**

Motions of acceptance were made, seconded and approved. Each 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**

| <b>Name</b>          | <b>Transferred to:</b>                              |
|----------------------|---|
| Robert Douglas Perry | Transfer to Weddington Methodist Church             |
| Hayley Perry         | Transfer to Weddington Methodist Church             |
| Savannah Perry       | Transfer to Weddington Methodist Church             |
| John Downs           | Transfer to Trinity United Methodist, Southport, NC |
| Judy Downs           | Transfer to Trinity United Methodist, Southport, NC |
| Beverly Rounds       | Transfer to Trinity United Methodist, Southport, NC |

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SESSION ACTION ITEM  
SUMMARY**

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**SUBJECT:** Baptisms in October

**DATE:** September 8, 2025

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**Report From:** Baptism Committee

**Background:** Baptisms must be approved by the Session.

**Process to Date:** Parents request that their children be baptized in 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 baptisms at Covenant:

October 12, 2025, at the 11:00 Traditional service in the Sanctuary:  
Caldwell Boyles Gibson  
Parents are Andrew and Sean Gibson.

October 26, 2025, at the 9:30 Contemporary service in the Sanctuary:  
Josephine Mclamb Walter  
Parents are Allie and Chase Walter.

October 26, 2025, at the 9:30 Contemporary service in the Sanctuary:  
Miller Jane Magrath  
Parents are Ginny and Richard Magrath.

October 26, 2025, at the 11:00 Traditional service in the Sanctuary:  
Paul Sullivan Cross  
Parents are Mattie and Paul Cross.

**Motion:** Motion to approve the baptisms of Caldwell Boyles Gibson, Josephine Mclamb Walter, Miller Jane Magrath, and Paul Sullivan Cross .

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**SESSION INFORMATION ITEM**  
**SUMMARY**

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**SUBJECT: Treasurer's Report**

**FROM: Ashley Friello, Treasurer**

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

**Income Statement Comments**

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

**Income:** Pledge receipts were below budget by \$14K for the month and below budget \$63K YTD. On a YTD basis, pledge receipts are trailing the historical 3-year average by 1 percentage point (62% of budgeted pledge income received YTD, compared to 63% YTD over the past 3-year average). The Giving Statement sent to the congregation in June received a strong response resulting in a significant catch up in pledge receipts. Total Income was below budget by \$21K for the month and above budget \$135K YTD. Christmas Eve contributions and CDC income are significant drivers of the surplus.

**Expenses:** Total Expenses were below budget by \$17K for the month and are below budget \$168K YTD. The YTD variances to budget are primarily the result of several unfilled staff positions and timing of ministry expenses.

**The Bottom Line:** The Net Loss in the month was \$168K, in-line with budget for the month. YTD Net Income is \$69K, above budget by \$303K, primarily driven by strong performance in Administration's income-generating ministries (schools, recreation, food service and facility rentals) and personnel expenses running below budget.

**Balance Sheet Comments**

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

**Line 25:** Reflects the month's net cash from operations.

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

**Line 33:** Reflects payments for Cornerstone Fund projects including storm water drainage, Rec Wing fitness equipment, organ repairs, and water filter system.

**Line 36:** Increase reflects receipt of a \$50K estate gift, partially offset by expenses including prepayment for a 2026 men's conference, facilities maintenance, mission donations, and CDC financial assistance.

**Line 39:** Reflects the month's operating Net Income.

| Covenant Presbyterian Church |  |              | Period ending: |               | 08/31/25     | Y-T-D Actual as % of Annual |      |      |      |      |
|------------------------------|--|--------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| INCOME STATEMENT             |  |              | YTD Budget     | YTD Actual    | YTD Variance | Annual Budget               |      |      |      |      |
| Income:                      |  |              |                |               |              |                             | 2025 | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 |
| 1                            | Pledge Receipts                        | \$ 2,274,560 | \$ 2,211,719   | \$ (62,841)   | \$ 3,540,980 | 62%                         | 66%  | 65%  | 58%  |      |
| 2                            | Misc Contributions                     | 328,400      | 404,951        | 76,551        | 445,000      |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 3                            | Investment Income                      | 297,534      | 299,850        | 2,316         | 300,500      |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 4                            | Transfer from Restricted Funds         | 91,000       | 84,905         | (6,095)       | 356,000      |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 5                            | Other Receipts                         | 114,100      | 130,310        | 16,210        | 156,000      |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 6                            | Total Schools                          | 1,275,092    | 1,340,260      | 65,168        | 2,004,370    |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 7                            | Child Dev. Ctr.                        | 1,009,592    | 1,078,595      | 69,003        | 1,550,440    |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 8                            | Preschool                              | 265,500      | 261,664        | (3,836)       | 453,930      |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 9                            | Food Service                           | 114,450      | 125,055        | 10,605        | 184,675      |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 10                           | Recreation Wing                        | 55,980       | 74,855         | 18,875        | 162,600      |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 11                           | Ministry Trip Income                   | 107,350      | 125,267        | 17,917        | 150,000      |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 12                           | Ministry Other Income                  | \$ 45,375    | \$ 42,001      | \$ (3,374)    | \$ 45,750    |                             |      |      |      |      |
|                              | Total Income                           | \$ 4,703,841 | \$ 4,839,171   | \$ 135,330    | \$ 7,345,875 | 66%                         | 67%  | 59%  | 55%  |      |
| Expenses:                    |  |              |                |               |              |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 13                           | Worship                                | \$ 82,377    | \$ 89,373      | \$ 6,996      | \$ 124,300   |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 14                           | Congregational Life                    | 67,637       | 52,084         | (15,553)      | 76,700       |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 15                           | Engagement                             | 6,833        | 5,130          | (1,703)       | 9,750        |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 16                           | Mission & Outreach                     | 621,400      | 681,736        | 60,336        | 857,450      |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 17                           | Education                              | 127,989      | 120,486        | (7,503)       | 173,030      |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 18                           | Total Schools                          | 1,325,760    | 1,281,901      | (43,859)      | 2,017,996    |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 19                           | Child Dev. Ctr.                        | 1,017,855    | 1,000,227      | (17,628)      | 1,547,754    |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 20                           | Preschool                              | 307,905      | 281,674        | (26,231)      | 470,242      |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 21                           | Food Service                           | 65,900       | 60,796         | (5,104)       | 108,000      |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 22                           | Recreation Ministries                  | 38,463       | 25,117         | (13,346)      | 53,600       |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 23                           | Administration                         | 465,469      | 492,021        | 26,552        | 717,962      |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 24                           | Personnel                              | 2,135,843    | 1,961,395      | (174,448)     | 3,207,087    |                             |      |      |      |      |
|                              | Total Expenses                         | \$ 4,937,670 | \$ 4,770,040   | \$ (167,630)  | \$ 7,345,875 | 65%                         | 68%  | 62%  | 53%  |      |
| Net Income                   |  |              | \$ (233,829)   | \$ 69,131     | \$ 302,960   | \$ -                        |      |      |      |      |
| BALANCE SHEET                |  |              | August         | July          | Change       |                             |      |      |      |      |
| Assets:                      |  |              |                |               |              |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 25                           | Truist (BB&T) Checking/Savings         |              | \$ 1,610,575   | \$ 1,867,154  | \$ (256,578) |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 26                           | Wells Fargo Holding                    |              | 3,043,569      | 3,035,430     | 8,140        |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 27                           | Petty Cash                             |              | 350            | 350           | -            |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 28                           | Accounts Receivable and Advances       |              | 57,486         | 50,331        | 7,156        |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 29                           | Endowment Fund Mkt Value               |              | 18,359,566     | 17,989,590    | 369,976      |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 30                           | Real Estate Funds                      |              | 2,425,000      | 2,425,000     | -            |                             |      |      |      |      |
|                              | Total Assets                           |              | \$ 25,496,547  | \$ 25,367,854 | \$ 128,693   |                             |      |      |      |      |
| Liabilities:                 |  |              |                |               |              |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 31                           | Accounts Payable and Misc. Accruals    |              | \$ 4,204       | (67)          | 4,270        |                             |      |      |      |      |
|                              | Total Liabilities                      |              | \$ 4,204       | \$ (67)       | \$ 4,270     |                             |      |      |      |      |
| Fund Balances:               |  |              |                |               |              |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 32                           | Donor Advised                          |              | \$ 402,493     | \$ 402,493    | \$ -         |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 33                           | Infrastructure Fund/Cornerstone Income |              | 43,988         | 145,618       | (101,630)    |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 34                           | Payable to Endowment Corpus            |              | 525            | 225           | 300          |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 35                           | Restricted End/Cornerst & Real Estate  |              | 20,784,766     | 20,414,600    | 370,166      |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 36                           | Restricted Funds                       |              | 3,341,729      | 3,325,717     | 16,012       |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 37                           | Non-Budgeted Benevolences              |              | 21,896         | 22,321        | (424)        |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 38                           | Section 125 Plan                       |              | (1,875)        | (2,454)       | 579          |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 39                           | Genl Fund Balance                      |              | 760,074        | 927,956       | (167,882)    |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 40                           | Columbarium                            |              | 41,937         | 44,421        | (2,484)      |                             |      |      |      |      |
| 41                           | Reserve Fund Balances                  |              | 96,811         | 87,034        | 9,777        |                             |      |      |      |      |
|                              | Total Fund Balances                    |              | \$ 25,492,343  | \$ 25,367,931 | \$ 124,412   |                             |      |      |      |      |
|                              | Total Liab. & Fund Balances            |              | \$ 25,496,547  | \$ 25,367,864 | \$ 128,683   |                             |      |      |      |      |

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SESSION INFORMATION ITEM  
SUMMARY**

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**SUBJECT: Charlotte Presbytery Meeting Highlights      DATE: August 16, 2025**

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Teaching Elders in attendance: Sarah Wilson, Bill Saunders, Whitney Bouknight, Terry Horne, Tommy Lawson.

It was with great joy and thanksgiving that we gathered at Harrisburg Presbyterian Church! The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by our 2025 Moderator, Elder Gary Blackmon. Rev. Meg Shaw Skidmore, Pastor of Harrisburg Church welcomed the body on behalf of the staff and members of our host congregations, Harrisburg, Newell, New Hampton and Rocky River Presbyterian Churches.

The Presbytery entered into a time of worship. Rev. Dr. E. Neal Carter, Pastor, Rocky River, led the Call to Worship. Rev. Dr. David Cagle, (FirstRockingham) led the prayer of confession and gave the assurance of pardon. Dr. Phyllis Sanders (Cedar Grove), led the Prayer of Illumination and read the Old Testament Scripture. A special selection was led by the combined choirs of our host churches, led by Eric Bond, Director of Music and Heather Hruska, Pianist, Harrisburg Church.

Rev. Dr. Floretta Barbee-Watkins (Presbytery of the James), preached the sermon entitled, "Unconventional Strategies", based on the Joshua 6:1-5;12-17;20 and Mark 2:1-12. Poet Anne Boaf (Harrisburg), did a special reading of her poem, "Red, White and Blue". The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was led by Rev. Meg Shaw Skidmore and Rev. Shelia Council (New Hampton).

During the General Presbyter's report, Rev. Dr. Jan Edmiston announced that our former Associate Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Alice Ridgill will soon be receiving a promotion to the rank of Major as a Chaplain in the United States Air Force National Guard. Jan also provided information about Rev. Liz Walker, a PCUSA Pastor in Boston who leads a community sharing support program for those that have been affected by trauma.

During the Commission on Ministry Report, presented by Rev. Millie Snyder, the Presbytery welcomed Rev. Dr. David Cagle, Transitional Pastor at First-Rockingham Church, and Rev. Tom Robinson.

Rev. Gail Henderson-Belsito and Rev. Rodger Sellers, Co-Moderators of the Ministry Resource Committee, gave an update on the MRC Grants process. They also highlighted upcoming Fall training events for our congregations. A series of "Lunch & Learn" Zoom training events will be held on 2nd Wednesdays at Noon, beginning September 10th. There will also be a "Nuts & Bolts" Church Leader Training Event on Saturday, October 4th at Covenant-Charlotte Church, beginning at 8:45 am.

A big thank you to Harrisburg, Newell, New Hampton & Rocky River Churches for an outstanding job hosting our meeting! The 167th Stated Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at Mount Olive Presbyterian Church.

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SESSION INFORMATION ITEM  
SUMMARY**

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**SUBJECT: August & September Congregational Life Ministry Report**

**DATE: September 8, 2025**

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**Report From:** Congregational Life

**Chair:** Bill Saunders

**Fall Kickoff Sunday, August 24!**

**TLC (Betty Graybeal)**

- Sept 24 - AI program at Covenant with UNCC speaker
- Oct 15 - program on The Pearl with 2 speakers at Covenant
- Nov 12/19 - NC Music Hall of Fame & NASCAR facility in Kannapolis
- Dec 3 - Annual Christmas Bingo Party

**Outdoor Ministry (Mary Gaertner)**

- Bruce Chapman and Terry Loeb are leading an Outdoor Ministry team to create a Children's Nature Garden which will adjoin the Child Development Center's (CDC) playground. They have worked with Grace and Janice Price to ensure the native garden will meet children's needs for outdoor exposure and experience, recreation and environmental learning. Mulching began last week and work will continue through the fall.
- Strawberry picking was a great success in the spring so we are working with Lineberger Maple Farms to go back for pumpkin picking.
- We met with Serenitye, discussed ideas for Open Table discussion and opportunities to potentially partner with other congregations for our Solstice walk in December.

**Health and Wellness (Erin Weeks)**

First meeting after summer break today (11aug) to plan for the fall kickoff weekend and other events for the fall. Upcoming blood drives:

- September 14
- November 16

### **Pet Ministry (Alex McKinnon)**

- We kicked off our partnership with the Young Adults Ministry by attending their Work from Church event last Thursday and provided Canine Therapy to all in attendance. We also got some ideas for new unmet needs we will explore. All went well, and we were invited back to regularly attend some of their meetings.
- There are ongoing conversations about other partnerships with other Covenant ministries, and we should have some concrete news soon
- We were invited back to continue to provide canine therapy by the new head of school at Epiphany School for the foreseeable future.
- Our relationship with Queens University continues to grow as this fall, to complement our canine therapy program for final exams week, we will also provide this during mid-term exams for students and staff
- Courtney has confirmed that we will continue to partner with RITI and provide canine therapy to our homeless neighbors
- Our annual Blessing of the Animals event is scheduled for **March 1st**

### **Third Quarter (Bill Saunders):**

- Sunday, June 22 - Annie Leibovitz exhibition at the Mint Museum
- Saturday, July 19 pool party at the Lewis's
- Saturday, September 6 (new date) - 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

### **Bereavement Committee (Pay Viser)**

May 7 – August 11, 2025

We continue to be busy serving Covenant families experiencing a loss. We welcomed Sally Jackson to our team and welcomed Jane H. Taylor back after a six-month health hiatus.

Condolence notes written by Lynn Morrow to:

- Michelle and George Richards on the death of her mother, Jayne Oakley Beucher, on May 7
- Shayna and David Yoder on the death of his father, Bill Yoder, on May 9
- Lauren and Jeff Sawyer on the death of her father, Bill Yoder, on May 9
- Lori Collins on the death of her husband, Moses Luski, on May 10
- Catherine Phelan and family on the death of her husband, Scott Joseph Phelan, on April 30

Condolence notes written by Kaye McMullen to:

- Mary and Paul Stratos on the death of her brother, J. Layton Mauze, on June 7
- Vel Gallegra on the death of her sister, Joyce Wilhite, on June 13
- Suzanne and Shade Mecum on the death of her brother, Charles Chapman, on May 20
- Linda Dowd on the death of her husband, Ken Dowd, on June 10
- Stacey Mills on the death of her husband, David James Mills, on June 2
- Wilma Pinter on the death of her husband, John Pinter, on June 2
- Mary Ellen Vernon on the death of her mother, Edith Vernon, on July 17
- Alexander and Tyler Morten on the death of her father, Martin Carstarphen, on July 13
- Mike Ramsey on the death of his mother, Mary Jane Ramsey, on July 15
- Lilli and Richard Gerardi on the death of his mother, Joan Gerardi, on July 3
- Bob Cunningham, Jr. on the death of his mother, Lina Heden Cunningham, on July 6
- Drew and Beth Quartapella on the death of his mother, Mary Quartapella
- Emily and Adam Schauer on the death of her mother, Marilyn Hedgpeth, on July 23

Condolence notes written by Catherine Bracey:

- Don Moricle, Dee Newton, Molli Bucher and Julie Stanton-Ludden, on the death of Don's wife, and Dee, Molli and Julie's mother, Brenda Moricle, on July 30.

Bereavement Committee members assisted with memorial services for:

- Columbarium and memorial service in the Chapel on June 20 for Ken Dowd. Pat Viser picked up flowers from The Blossom Shop and she and Sherry Ward served the family. Katherine Kerr officiated.
- Columbarium and memorial on June 9 for David James Mills. Sherry Ward picked up flowers from The Blossom Shop. Sherry, Ann Ayers and Pat Viser served the family. Bob Henderson officiated. Reception in the Fellowship Hall. Very large attendance at reception that overlapped the next service.
- Memorial for Elder, John Pinter, on June 9, with reception in the Welcome Center. Pat Viser and Sherry Ward served the family. Katherine Kerr officiated.
- Columbarium and memorial on July 23 for Mary Jane Ramsey. Pat Viser picked up flowers from The Blossom Shop. Kathryn Phinney and Pat Viser served the family. Katherine Kerr officiated.
- Columbarium service for Mary Quartapella on July 1 with memorial at Southminister. Ann Ayers picked up flowers from The Blossom Shop. Bob Henderson officiated.

Follow-up phone calls made to each family after the service by Pat Viser to see how they are and offer more support.

**Congregational Life update to Session, September 8, 2025**

## **Successful Fall Kickoff Sunday, August 24!**

Serenity's prayer sent to volunteers:

*Gracious and Loving God,  
Thank You for the gift of this incredible day.  
Thank You for every hand and every heart that came together to make this day so special for our children.  
For those who prepared food with care,  
For those who set up and cleaned up with dedication,  
For those who welcomed visitors with warm smiles,  
For those who labored under the sun without complaint,  
For those who shared their voices in beautiful song,  
For those who served quietly behind the scenes,  
And for the staff who give of themselves tirelessly and with passion—  
We give You thanks.*

*Thank You for this community of faith,  
A people eager to serve, to celebrate, and to embrace new beginnings.  
May we continue to reflect Your love in all we do.  
Amen.*

## **Health and Wellness (Erin Weeks)**

Upcoming blood drives: September 14, November 16

New project: congregational cookbook:

The Health and Wellness Ministry strives to support the Covenant community in healthy living as an expression of faith. One way the H&W Ministry does so is through education. To that aim, this ministry's members would like to develop a **congregational cookbook**, with contributions from Covenant members. Content would include potluck favorites and other traditional components of church cookbooks, but it would also share knowledge and best practices for food safety and sanitation practices, as well as healthy eating and cooking guidance.

### **Upcoming Third Quarter events:**

- Pickleball at Babb/Saunders' home Sunday, **September 28 – 1-3pm** – Panthers versus the Cowboys will be on the TV on the patio near the pickleball court too
- **Sunday, Nov 2** - bowling and watching Panthers game at Green Bay (1:00 game)

## **Stephen Minister program (LeAnne Stipp)**

- 27 active – as of today, 5 men and 17 women have care receivers
- Continuing Education focused on Caregiver Mental Wellness

**TLC (Betty Graybeal)**

- Sept 24 — AI program at Covenant with UNCC speaker
- Oct 15 — program on The Pearl with 2 speakers at Covenant
- Nov 12/19 — trip to N.C. Music Hall of Fame and NASCAR facility in Kannapolis
- Dec 3 — Annual Christmas Bingo Party

**Outdoor Ministry (Mary Gaertner)**

- Pumpkin picking event on October 11th at the Lineberger's Maple Springs Farms.

**Pet Ministry (Alex McKinnon)**

- Our relationship with Queens University continues to grow as this fall, to complement our canine therapy program for final exams week, we will also provide this during mid-term exams for students and staff
- Our annual Blessing of the Animals event is scheduled for **March 1st**

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SESSION INFORMATION ITEM  
SUMMARY**

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**Subject: Clerk's Communications**

**From: Janet Delery, Clerk**

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

- Bright Stars of Bethlehem
- Nourish Up