

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MEETING OF SESSION
Monday, April 13, 2026
7:00 PM
CONSENT AGENDA

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of March 9, 2026, Session Meeting Minutes (pp. 2-5). Philip James, Clerk of Session, moves that the minutes of this meeting be approved as written.
2. Approval of Called Session Meetings Minutes from March 2026 to receive new members (p. 6). Philip James, 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).
5. Approval of 2026 Holiday / Summer Worship Schedule (p. 9).

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. March 2026 Treasurer's Report (pp. 10-11).
2. Extended Communion Report (pp. 12-13).
3. Room in the Inn & Kinship — End of Year Report to Session (pp. 14-15).
4. Clerk's Communications (p. 16).

FUTURE EVENTS

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • April 18 | Called Presbytery Meeting | 9:00 AM Memorial PC |
| • April 19 | Youth Sunday | |
| • May 11 | May Session Meeting with Quest | 6:30 PM |
| • May 16 | Charlotte Presbytery Meeting | 9:30 AM Bethpage Kannapolis PC |

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Minutes of the Session Meeting On
Monday, March 9, 2026

Session Members in Attendance:

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

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

Class of 2028: T. Coley, L. Hall, J. Hamilton, E. Holloway, K. Moseley, L. McCormick, A. Morrow, D. Thomas, C. Tucker, V. Bouknight, B. Brown

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

Other Staff: E. Bender, M. Rencher, C. Shudak

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Bob Henderson, Moderator

The Moderator called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Peek Music Room and invited Session into an Exegesis of Space experience as the devotion for the evening. After engaging in and discussing that spiritual practice Henderson transitioned to the business portion of the meeting.

Determination of Quorum and Adoption of Agenda

The Moderator declared that a quorum was present and made a motion to adopt the meeting agenda and the Consent Agenda (with the addition of a weddings information action item to the Consent Agenda which was sent out via email). The motion was approved on vote by the attendees.

Administration

Vince DiSandro Treasurer

DiSandro shared that his report was for the purpose of providing the bi-annual update on the Cornerstone Fund and to present the 5-year plan for the fund for Session approval. DiSandro reviewed the overview of the fund's history, purpose and structure that was included in the Session packet and then went over the proposed 5-year plan (also included in the Session packet). After brief discussion the Moderator called for a Motion to approve the Cornerstone 5-year plan. The motion carried.

Personnel

John Beyer, Chair

Beyer shared three personnel updates: That an offer has been extended and accepted for a new Contemporary Worship leader, that Ben and Tameka Thomas will help support that leader through the transition and that Katherine Kerr will be taking a well-earned sabbatical from May 17-August 2.

Planning and Evaluation

Derek Thomas, Chair

As part of the ministry overview series, Thomas shared background information about the role of the Planning & Evaluation Board (P&E) and its focus for 2026. Thomas explained the membership of the board which consists of a chair, vice-chair, the ministry vice chairs and 4 at-large members. This year's members are Allen Brown, Tom Coley, Bill Fryling, Leigh Ann Hall, Jim Hamilton, Alan Morrow, Kim Moseley, Lauren Sawyers, Ellen Schubert, Molly Spearman, Campbell Tucker, and Derek Thomas. Bob Henderson and Eva Bender are the Covenant staff representatives.

Thomas then shared the role of the board is to “on an ongoing basis, plan for and evaluate the church’s long-range implementation of its mission including ministry structure, projected problems and future direction.” The Board makes periodic recommendations to Session and when needed appoints and oversees short term task forces to study and make recommendations on specific initiatives. Thomas offered examples such as the stained-glass windows and support strategy for affordable housing. Thomas added that P&E also has responsibility for the development of policy recommendations to Session regarding special fundraising campaigns and regular (every 3 years) updating of the Operations Manual.

After the overview, Thomas provided an update on the urban garden project. He shared the exciting news that the Robert Haywood Morrison Foundation has approved Covenant’s grant and reported that the next step for the project is to invite congregational input, which will be happening in the coming weeks.

Ministry Reports:

Congregational Care: No Report

Congregational Life:

Judy Emken, Chair

Emken provided an overview of the purpose and current focus of Congregational Life, beginning by recognizing the current Congregational Life team which includes Vice Chair Kim Moseley, Ellen Holloway, Jim Dobbins, Breiten Brown and staff liaisons Serenitye Taylor and Lora Borrelli. Emken reminded Session of the new structure following the separation of Care and Life which brings about new opportunities.

Emken then outlined two new areas of focus for this year that reflect the expanded vision for Congregational Life. The first is the formation of partnerships with other congregations and organizations with the goal of better understanding the social and cultural issues and the various ministries that fell under that combined ministry. The second new ministry area is Covenant Pride, focused on supporting LGBTQIA+ with community events such as the Pride Parade and other initiatives. Emken went on to describe the ongoing areas of responsibility for Congregational Life which include:

- Engagement ministry: new member gatherings, joining meetings and integration
- Travel, Learn, Connect (TLC)
- Women's Ministry
- Men's Ministry
- Open Table
- 3rd Quarter
- Outdoor Ministry

- August kick off lunch and gathering
- Christmas Craft /Santa visits in December

Emken concluded by reminding Session of the joining meetings in the parlor on Sundays and encouraging elders to attend so that we have a broader, more intergenerational range of elders engaging with our new members.

Education: No Report

Mission and Outreach: No Report

Worship

Lou Watson, Chair

Watson shared a ministry overview beginning by recognizing the members of the Worship ministry leadership team: Ellen Schubert, vice-chair, Jacquelyn McAbee, Virginia Bouknight and Bill Cathey. Watson then reminded Session of its collective role in Worship via serving through the sacraments of Communion and Baptism. She went on to present the areas of responsibility for the Worship Ministry which include:

- Extended Communion: chaired by Judy Grubbs and Mary Woods Stallings
- Communion chaired by Bill Keith
- Baptism chaired by Tricia Rudisill
- Weddings chaired by Nancy Atwell
- Worship Arts chaired by Carla Leaf
- Ushers chaired by Bill Cathey

Watson then invited Bill Cathey to share more detailed information about the usher team. She closed by recognizing Music ministry and the Audio/Visual team as key partners and outlining the ministry's goals for the year: outreach to more members to serve, mentoring new ministry leaders, welcoming and supporting new music directors and supporting each of the Worship Ministry Teams.

Clerk's Report

Philip James, Clerk

James began his report with a celebration of the recent Mission Remarkable event which raised \$56,000 for our continued Mission & Outreach work. He commented that the event was fun and generated an electric atmosphere on campus. James extended thanks to Mandy Rencher, Amanda Abrahm, Courtney Shudak and the many volunteers for their good and hard work to make this year's event so successful.

He followed by sharing that while the recently scheduled trip to Reynosa was cancelled due to safety concerns that the team engaged in alternative outreach activities during the week they would have been on the trip. James continued his report with an update on the recent Presbytery meeting held at Sharon Presbyterian Church. Covenant was represented at the meeting by James, Bob Henderson and Jim Hamilton. Kim Spivey attended virtually due to illness. James held up the rich balance of worship and community experienced at the meeting and reminded Session of the opportunity to attend future meetings and that sign-up is available via the Session SharePoint site. Finally, James

shared that he, Virginia Bouknight and Breiten Brown recently visited with the Quest class to discuss church polity.

Old Business/New Business

Staff Announcements/Pastoral Concerns

Bob Henderson called out the upcoming Pastors' Master's golf event on April 6 as a relationship and community building opportunity. Katherine Kerr announced that the soup freezer is now full and church leaders can pick up batches of soup to take to people who would benefit from that comfort. Mandy Rencher mentioned that the Reynosa team (from previously referenced cancelled trip) was able to engage in build days at Hope Springs.

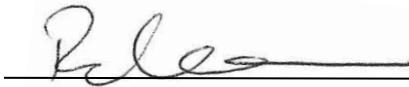
Closing Prayer

Katherine Kerr closed the meeting in prayer at 8:35pm

Respectfully submitted,



Philip James, Clerk



Robert W. Henderson, Moderator

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Called Session Meetings
Sundays, March 1, 15, 22, 29, 2026**

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

March 1, 2026

Mary Phillips Reaffirmation

March 15, 2026

Tammye Layer Transfer Letter--First United Presbyterian, Charlotte

March 22, 2026

Sally Nichols Reaffirmation

Larry Nichols Reaffirmation

Ashley Preston Reaffirmation

Michael Preston Reaffirmation

March 29, 2026

Chiedza Hooker Reaffirmation

Matthew Hooker Reaffirmation

Active (confirmed) members as of 2/28/2026: 2902

2026 new members as of 2/28/2026: 20

2026 new affiliate members as of 2/28/2026: 0

2026 transfers as of 2/28/2026: 4

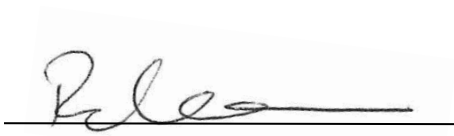
2026 deaths as of 2/28/2026: 3

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

Respectfully submitted,



Philip James, 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:
-------------	------------------------

None to report

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Action Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: Baptisms 2026

DATE: April 7, 2026

Report From: Baptism Committee

Worship Chair: Lou Watson

Background: Baptism must be approved by the Session.

Process to Date: Parents requested that their children be baptized in 2026.

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 in 2026:

May 10, 2026, at the 9:30 AM service in the Covenant Sanctuary
Mark Francis Sutton
Parents – Mary and Jon Sutton

May 24, 2026, at the 11:00 AM service in the Covenant Sanctuary
Mateo Levi Kraak
Parents – Michelle and Bryan Kraak

July 12, 2026, at the 11:00 AM service in the Covenant Sanctuary
Gracie Rae Boster and Wesley Charles Boster
Parents- Emily and Kyle Boster

Motion: Motion to approve the baptisms of Mark Francis Sutton, Mateo Levi Kraak, Gracie Rae Boster and Wesley Charles Boster.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Action Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: 2026 Holiday / Summer Worship Schedule

DATE: April 7, 2026

Report From: Worship Ministry

Worship Chair: Lou Watson

Background: Per the Book of Order (W-2-0303), the Session is responsible for providing for the church's worship and making provision for the regular preaching of the Word and celebration of the Sacraments.

Process to Date: No significant changes to the worship service schedule from 2026 are noted at this time.

Budget Impact: None

Actions Taken or Recommendation: The Worship Committee recommends that session authorize:

Single worship services around major holidays:

On Sunday, May 24, 2026, there will be one service in the Sanctuary at 11:00 A.M., with a traditional format.

On Sunday, July 5, 2026, there will be one service in the Sanctuary at 11:00 A.M., with a contemporary format.

On Sunday, September 6, 2026, there will be one service in the Sanctuary at 11:00 A.M., with a traditional format.

On Sunday, December 27, 2026, there will be one service in the Sanctuary at 11:00 A.M., with a contemporary format.

Summer Worship Schedule:

The Chapel worship service (8:45 A.M. on Sundays) and the Fellowship Hall Family Service (11:00 A.M. on Sundays) will pause for the summer.

The final worship service before summer pause in the Chapel and Fellowship Hall will be May 17, 2026.

The Chapel and the Fellowship Hall worship services will resume September 13, 2026.

Motion: Motion to approve the holiday / summer worship schedule as outlined above.

Covenant Presbyterian Church
Monthly Financial Comments
March 2026

Income Statement Comments

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

Income: Pledge receipts were above budget by \$158K for the month and by \$105K on a YTD basis. On a YTD basis, pledge receipts represent 35% of the annual pledge budget, which is five percentage points higher than the prior year, and is one percentage point higher than the historical 3-year average for the first three months of the year. Total income was above budget by \$221K for the month and by \$181K YTD, primarily due to timing of Trip Income and other ministry income.

Expenses: Total expenses were below budget by \$49K for the month and \$149K YTD, primarily due to timing.

The Bottom Line: Net Income for the month was \$51K, which was \$270K above budget. Net income on a YTD basis was \$460K, which was \$330K above budget.

Balance Sheet Comments

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

Line 25: Reflects the month's net cash income.

Lines 29 & 35: Reflects market value decreases in the Endowment funds.

Line 36: Increase primarily reflects receipt of Urban Garden grant.

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

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Information Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: Extended Communion Report

DATE: March 1, 2026

Report From: Judy Grubbs and Mary Wood Stallings, extended communion chairs

Background: Extended communion was served on Sunday, March 1, 2026.

Process to Date: Extended communion was served on Sunday, March 1, 2026. Sixteen teams, each comprised of two members, at least one of whom was an elder, served 37 recipients.

Budget Impact: None

Actions Taken:

Teams serving:

Deana and Wilson Cooper
Louise Rogers and Deb Elder
Ann Ayers and Mike Ferone
Gwen and Bill Fox
Nancy Williams and Roger Dahnert
Marilynn Mickle and Loretta Brown
Alice and John Arwood
Chuck Morgan and Wade Cantrell
Mary Parrish Coley and Andy Wertz
Martha and David Isaacs
Jane Taylor and Irene Carroll
Janet Delery and Hank Stallings
Lou and Jim Watson
Martie Griffin and Sherry Ward
Katherine and Tommy Lawson
Judy Grubbs and Mary Wood Stallings

Members and additional recipients:

In their homes:

Becky Rencher and daughter, Rebie
Gerry Smith and Dave Syfert
Betty Moak
Thomas McLawhorn
Rhonda Williamson
Beth and Gillie Spratt
Bethany Mackenzie

Aldersgate:

LeRoy and Frances Hendricks

The Barclay at Southpark:

Emma Sylvester

Brightmore of South Charlotte:

Nancy Mackey

Matthews Glen:

Bev Rotert

The Pines, Davidson:

Ham Cooke

The Sharon at Southpark:

Chapel:

Bob Majeski

Deloris Davis

Joan Foard

Joe Sutterlin

Rufus Dalton

Mark Gordon

Independent living served in their apartments:

Kay Majeski

Jerusha and Murray Fadiel and companion

Assisted Living and Healthcare:

Fredda Kimball

Helen Collins

Helen Cathey

Elaine Scoles

Buddy Love

Ada Offerdahl

Marcia Morton

Rita Simpson

Molly Savage

Mary Ann Tilley

Southminster:

Embrace Care:

Beth Whitfield

The next scheduled extended communion date is Sunday, May 3, 2026.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Information Item
Summary**

SUBJECT: Room in the Inn / Kinship End of Year Report

DATE: April 8, 2026

Report from: Mission & Outreach Ministry Chair: Amanda Abrahm

Opening: I want to take a few minutes to share what God did through this congregation this winter — and to make sure this body knows what was happening in the rooms of this building while most of us were home in our beds.

Room in the Inn — By the Numbers

This season, Covenant hosted Room in the Inn for 22 nights, running from December 2nd through March 31st.

Across those 22 nights, we welcomed 295 total guest-nights of shelter — meaning 295 times, someone who needed a safe, warm place to sleep found one here. Our average night hosted 14 guests, and on our three highest nights — December 30th, January 12th, and January 20th — we welcomed 15 people through these doors as a result of the particularly cold winter Charlotte experienced.

That is not a small thing. That is 295 nights someone was not outside.

Who We Served

The people who stayed with us this season reflect the full complexity of what housing insecurity looks like in Charlotte right now.

We hosted at least 11 distinct family units, mothers, fathers, and children navigating homelessness together. Among our guests were 4 infants under the age of one and nearly 50 children and young people under the age of 18. We tucked babies in and pulled out the pack 'n' play. We welcomed kids and read bedtime stories. We made space for families who had nowhere else to go.

We also hosted guests who had been with us before, returning season after season, and guests who were with us for the very first time. Some came once. A handful came six or more times across the winter. Every one of them is known by name in our records.

A Moment Worth Naming

There are moments from this season that deserve to be spoken aloud before this body.

One family, the Richardsons, spent two nights with us and told our volunteers on their second night that it was their *last night in the shelter system*. They were moving into housing the next morning. We had the privilege to be the last place they stayed before they crossed that threshold.

There were also harder moments. We lost a guest this season. Rachele, age 47, died during the January winter storm. She had been with us three times early in the season. We remember her and the community that mourns her loss. Our unhoused neighbors may slip by

many Charlotteans as anonymous and nameless, but, we know that each human being has dignity. Time and time again, we witness the community, solidarity, and support that is built within communities that are otherwise extremely vulnerable. And so, the loss of Rachelle deeply impacted our RITI guests and the Roof Above staff.

We also hosted a mother, Tiffany, who was dealing with serious kidney issues and was hospitalized on and off throughout the season, while her family continued to need shelter. Our volunteers showed up for her family in the middle of that.

This program asks things of our volunteers that go beyond logistics. They showed up anyway.

Kinship — Community Dinner Series

Alongside Room in the Inn, our Kinship Program continued this March as a companion ministry — creating space not just for shelter, but for shared meals and genuine relationship between congregation members and our unhoused neighbors. Using Kevin Nye's *Grace Can Lead Us Home* and Luke's gospel as our foundational texts, Kinship invited participants to move beyond hospitality as service and into hospitality as mutuality.

The conversations at those tables were not always easy. They were not meant to be. But they were real and that is exactly what we hoped for.

What Held This Together

None of this happened by accident. This season was sustained by innkeepers, van drivers, meal preparers, morning clean-up crews, evening set-up teams, weekly and monthly coordinators, youth volunteers, and staff working across 22 nights.

A full volunteer survey is going out this week to gather volunteer feedback, assess what worked, and plan for an even stronger season next year.

Closing

Matthew 25 asks us: when did we see you? When did we welcome the stranger, shelter the vulnerable, sit at the table with someone the world had passed by?

This season, Covenant Presbyterian answered that question **295 times**.

On behalf of the Mission and Outreach team, thank you for the resources, the trust, and the vision that makes this ministry possible. We look forward to bringing you what we learn from our volunteers as we head into planning for next winter.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Session Information Item
Summary**

Subject: Clerk's Communications

From: Philip James, Clerk

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

- Freedom School Partners
- Princeton Theological Seminary
- MeckMIN
- Presby Psych
- Freedom Communities