Introducing the Committee on Sacred Relationships



By Ariel Mcbryde-Gritter

Covenant's work in the community has long been a vital and core aspect of our ministry.

The newly formed Committee on Sacred Relationships: Build, Connect, Transform, part of the Congregational Life Ministry, will continue this focus by forming relationships outside our walls and increasing our own awareness of how issues of faith and society are perceived differently depending on one's perspective.

The committee is comprised of Sandra Boozer, Ellen Holloway, Rachel Humphries, John McAlister, Elizabeth McHenry, and Ariel McBryde-Gritter. Serenitye Taylor and Aisha Council serve as staff liaisons.



The committee has adopted the following guiding principles:

"Guided by the Spirit, we bravely work toward Covenant Presbyterian Church's vision of a whole and just world. We do this through three practices: reflecting personally and communally; cultivating authentic, loving, and healing relationships across racial and cultural differences; and taking courageous action to uproot prejudice and systemic oppression in all its forms."

Building Relationships and Learning Together

Some examples of the work we will be doing, or have already begun, include:

- Supporting the initiatives of the anti-racism ministry cohort of Charlotte Presbytery.
- Attending the Homecoming Service at St. Paul Presbyterian Church.
- Hosting a speaker series, in conjunction with Meck Roots, highlighting various perspectives on Charlotte's history and present, including Chaplain Daniel Heath discussing his family's historical connection to Davidson College.
- Hosting celebrated author, poet, and Davidson alumnus Clint Smith in January 2027.
- Arranging a series of pilgrimages to Civil Rights-related sites across North Carolina in conjunction with Smallwood Presbyterian Church and Covenant's Center for Faith Formation.
- Engaging in self-reflection to better understand our own relationship to race and how that informs the relationships and connections we aspire to build.

Get Involved

We welcome all into this work, recognizing that while it will be transformative in many ways, it may not always be easy. If you're interested in being involved or learning more, please contact Aisha Council at aisha.council@covenantpresby.org.

The committee also covets your prayers as we discern our way forward and seek to follow Christ's call toward wholeness and healing for ourselves and our broader community.