

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MEETING OF SESSION
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026
7:00 P.M.
CONSENT AGENDA**

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of August 10, 2026, Session Meeting Minutes (pp. 2-4). Philip James, 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. 5). 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. 6)
4. Approval of baptisms (p. 7)

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. August 2026 Treasurer's Report (pp. 8-9)
2. Presbytery Meeting Minutes (pp. 10-11)
3. Congregational Care Ministry Report (p. 12)
4. Clerk's Communications (p. 13)

FUTURE EVENTS

- | | | |
|----------------|--|---------------------------|
| • September 20 | Congregational Meeting | 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary |
| • September 20 | Courtney Shudak ordination | 4:00 p.m. Sanctuary |
| • October 4 | World Communion Sunday | |
| • October 12 | Elder Dinner | 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall |
| • October 24 | Presbytery of Charlotte Meeting | 9:30 a.m. Providence PC |
| • November 1 | All Saints' Day | |
| • November 9 | Session Meeting | 7:00 p.m. Peek Room |
| • November 15 | Commitment Sunday and Covenant Impacts Charlotte | |
| • December 14 | Session Meeting | 6:30 p.m. Peek Room |

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING ON
MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2026**

Session Members in Attendance:

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

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

Class of 2028: T. Coley, J. Hamilton, E. Holloway, L. McCormick, A. Morrow, E. Schubert, D. Thomas, C. Tucker

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

Other Staff: C. Shudak, M. K. Sykes, M. Keith

Call to Order and Opening Prayer-Bob Henderson, Moderator

The Moderator called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm in the Peek Music Room and opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

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 one edit to the minutes from the June 29 called Session Meeting to acknowledge that Anne Gildea was present. The motion was approved on vote by the attendees.

Administration: Vince DiSandro, Finance Committee Chair

DiSandro distributed a current financials handout. He reminded Session that our Operations Manual stipulates that Session be made aware of any budget variance over \$25,000. To that end he shared detail about a current expense variance of \$96,000 for the Administration Ministry. Most of this variance is due to a necessary accounting reclassification of income items that should actually reflect as expenses and HVAC repairs expense. Because of the reclassification this variance is not a net negative. DiSandro emphasized that the intent of reviewing such variances is to provide ongoing transparency to Session. He then opened the floor for questions.

Personnel: John Beyer, Chair

Beyer provided an update on two staff openings. The Children's Ministry Co-Director Search Committee has a strong candidate and they are hopeful that this position will be filled very soon. Regarding the Dean of the Center for Spiritual Formation a job description has been written and a search committee has been formed.

Beyer then introduced John McAlister chair of the Transition Team to give a report. McAlister shared that the team is currently focused on communication to the congregation, upcoming information/listening sessions, preparations for the celebration of Bob's ministry on September 13 and identification of an interim pastor. He shared that our last senior minister transition took 2 years from retirement announcement to new minister's first Sunday in the pulpit and that we should anticipate a similar duration for this transition. He answered a few questions and told the group that the next Windows update will focus on who is carrying which responsibilities between September 13 and the arrival of an interim senior minister.

Planning and Evaluation: Derek Thomas, Chair

Thomas informed Session that plaques have been installed in the Sanctuary that reference the change in images as a result of the Arts Task Forces' social justice work. He then shared copies of a brochure detailing the stained-glass windows revisions. These brochures will be available in the narthex and the Welcome Center.

Congregational Care: No Report

Congregational Life: No Report

Education: Jordan Schriefer, Chair

Schriefer opened her report by sharing an update on the new Milestone's focus for the Children's and Youth Ministries and the ways that . She then shared an update from Vacation Bible School week and celebrated the good work of staff and volunteers that resulted in a great week.

Mission and Outreach: Amanda Abrahm, Chair

Abrahm reported on the recent collaboration between M & O and Education that enabled Covenant to send high school youth to Reynosa. She also shared updates on the Davidson/Stapleton and People In Mission program and the Avery County trip during which \$203,000 in grants were awarded to organizations involved in Hurricane Helene relief.

Worship: No report

Clerk's Report: Philip James, Clerk of Session

James recognized Janet Delery who provided an update on the work of the Elder Nominating Committee. Delery began by expressing appreciation for Sarah Wilson who served as co-chair and the other members of the committee. She noted that the committee received over 70 nominations from the congregation. She then shared the recommended slate of elders for the Class of 2029 and asked that they be held on confidence until the fall newsletter is published. Delery closed by presenting a motion that the Session call a congregational meeting for the purposes of hearing a report from the Elder Nominating committee electing 10 adult elders to the class of 2029, electing two youth elders to serve a one-year term beginning January 1, 2027, and

electing those qualified and accepting of the status of Elder Emeritus/Emerita. This meeting will also serve as the annual meeting of the Corporation. The Clerk noted that other business at this meeting will be the congregational vote on the dissolution of relationship with Bob Henderson (a Presbytery requirement). The motion carried.

James resumed the Clerk's report by noting that Committee on Assignments work will begin in September. He shared a reminder that the September 14 Session dinner meeting will be held at the Rise on Clanton and that Katherine Kerr will moderate. Henderson recommended that Session endorse Kerr as moderator. That endorsement was moved, seconded and approved.

Old Business/New Business: None

Staff Announcements/Pastoral Concerns

Katherine Kerr expressed thanks for her recent sabbatical. The Moderator and members of staff lifted up current prayer concerns.

The Moderator then offered a message of appreciation for the work of this Session and the vibrant partnership he has shared with the group citing Proverbs 17 and sharing a token of remembrance with each Session member.

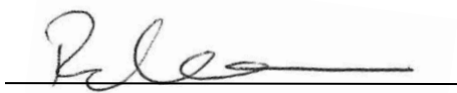
Closing Prayer

Kim Spivey, Assistant Clerk invited Session into a time of shared prayer of gratitude for the many ways Bob Henderson has positively impacted the lives of individuals and the collective congregation of Covenant. Katherine Kerr concluded the prayer with a blessing at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Philip James', written over a horizontal line.

Philip James, Clerk

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Robert W. Henderson', written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Henderson, Moderator

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CALLED SESSION MEETINGS
Sundays, August 16, 30, 2026**

Covenant held two 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, 2026

Lilli Gerardi Restored to active membership from Affiliate Membership

August 16, 2026

Shelby Stanley Reaffirmation

August 30, 2026

Kindl Detar	Transfer Letter—Dilworth United Methodist Church, Charlotte
Scott Detar	Transfer Letter—Dilworth United Methodist Church, Charlotte
Philip Dusek.	Transfer Letter—Independent Presbyterian Church, Savannah, GA

Active (confirmed) members as of 8/30/2026: 2928

2026 new members as of 8/30/2026: 69

2026 new affiliate members as of 8/30/2026: 0

2026 transfers as of 8/30/2026: 11

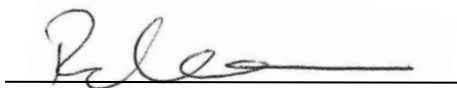
2026 deaths as of 8/30/2026: 17

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:
Brian Cole	transfer to Holy Comforter, Charlotte, NC
Sabrina Cole	transfer to Holy Comforter, Charlotte, NC
Ty Shaffer	transfer to St Peters Catholic Church, Charlotte, NC
Elizabeth Shaffer	transfer to St Peters Catholic Church, Charlotte, NC
Annie Foster	transfer to Highland Presbyterian, Winston-Salem, NC

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION ACTION ITEM
SUMMARY**

SUBJECT: Baptisms

DATE: September 10, 2026

Report From: Baptism Committee

Background: Baptisms must be approved by the Session.

Process to Date: Parents request that their children be baptized.

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:

September 13, 2026, at the 8:45 service in the Covenant Chapel

Collins Hunt Gaither

Parents: Sommer Lynn Gaither and Joseph Andrew Gaither

Motion: Motion to approve the baptism of *Collins Hunt Gaither*.

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION INFORMATION ITEM
SUMMARY**

SUBJECT: Treasurer's Report

FROM: Vince DiSandro, Treasurer

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Monthly Financial Comments
August 2026**

Income Statement Comments

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

Income: Pledge receipts were above budget by \$11K for the month and below budget by \$89K on a year-to-date ("YTD") basis. Pledge receipts represent 62% of the annual pledge budget, which is even with the prior year and approximately two percentage points below the historical three-year average for the first eight months of the year.

Total income was above budget by \$150K for the month and above budget by \$97K YTD. The month and YTD positions reflect lower pledge income and non-pledge contributions, offset by favorable Investment/Other income and Schools income, and a \$185K transfer from restricted funds for Avery County flood relief, which is matched by an equal expense in Mission & Outreach.

Expenses: Total expenses were above budget by \$155K for the month and by \$56K YTD. The Mission & Outreach Avery County flood relief disbursement of \$185K is the primary driver for the variance for the month. Administration is above YTD budget by \$47K, an improvement of \$14K from July. Personnel remains below YTD budget by \$49K.

The Bottom Line: Net Loss for the month was \$183K, compared to a budgeted loss of \$178K. On a YTD basis, Net Loss was \$344K, compared to a budgeted loss of \$384K.

Balance Sheet Comments

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

Line 25: Reflects the month's net cash activity (inclusive of the transfer referenced in Line 26).

Line 26: Reflects transfer to operating cash.

Lines 29 & 36: Reflect market value changes in the endowment funds.

Line 37: Decrease reflects ministry operations expenses, offset by member donations.

Line 40: Reflects the month's Net Loss.

Covenant Presbyterian Church				Period ending:	08/31/26	Y-T-D Actual as % of Annual			
INCOME STATEMENT		YTD Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Variance	Annual Budget	2026	2025	2024	2023
Income:									
1	Pledge Receipts/ Anticipated Contributions	\$ 2,364,121	\$ 2,275,511	\$ (88,610)	\$ 3,680,406	62%	62%	66%	65%
2	Miscellaneous Contributions	278,293	258,869	\$ (19,424)	399,500				
3	Investment/Interest Income	390,639	422,130	\$ 31,491	420,000				
4	Transfer from Restricted Funds	91,000	202,333	\$ 111,333	513,250				
5	Other Income	36,100	42,400	\$ 6,300	56,000				
6	Total Schools	1,341,396	1,371,653	\$ 30,257	2,104,374				
7	Child Dev. Ctr. Income	1,073,240	1,113,162	\$ 39,922	1,645,905				
8	Preschool Income	268,156	258,491	\$ (9,665)	458,469				
9	Food Service	122,900	134,138	\$ 11,238	198,000				
10	Recreation Wing Income	68,903	74,305	\$ 5,402	181,200				
11	Ministry Trip Income	184,685	193,792	\$ 9,107	207,800				
12	Ministry Other Income	\$ 37,625	\$ 37,235	\$ (390)	\$ 43,500				
	Total Income	\$ 4,915,662	\$ 5,012,366	\$ 96,704	\$ 7,804,030	64%	66%	67%	59%
Expenses:									
13	Worship	\$ 95,164	\$ 80,310	\$ (14,854)	\$ 144,600				
14	Congregational Care	12,425	\$ 11,250	\$ (1,175)	19,700				
15	Congregational Life	66,136	\$ 52,954	\$ (13,182)	82,000				
16	Mission & Outreach	575,235	\$ 685,127	\$ 109,892	773,600				
17	Education	273,938	\$ 249,266	\$ (24,672)	328,375				
18	Total Schools	1,365,561	1,368,818	\$ 3,257	2,078,707				
19	Child Dev. Ctr.	1,057,697	1,080,912	\$ 23,215	1,608,465				
20	Preschool	307,864	287,906	\$ (19,958)	470,242				
21	Food Service	66,848	75,085	\$ 8,237	109,500				
22	Recreation Ministries	38,463	28,224	\$ (10,239)	53,600				
23	Administration	538,549	585,893	\$ 47,344	806,658				
24	Personnel	2,267,498	2,218,968	\$ (48,530)	3,407,290				
	Total Expenses	\$ 5,299,817	\$ 5,355,895	\$ 56,078	\$ 7,804,030	69%	65%	68%	62%
	Net Income	\$ (384,156)	\$ (343,529)	\$ 40,626	\$ -				
BALANCE SHEET			August 31, 2026	July 31, 2026	Change				
Assets:									
25	Truist (BB&T) Checking/Savings		\$ 1,606,338	\$ 1,274,604	\$ 331,734				
26	Wells Fargo & Morgan Stanley Holding		3,186,856	\$ 3,829,735	(642,880)				
27	Petty Cash		350	\$ 350	-				
28	Accounts Receivable and Advances		36,170	\$ 62,536	(26,366)				
29	Endowment Fund Mkt Value		19,978,053	\$ 19,632,795	345,259				
30	Real Estate Funds		2,425,000	\$ 2,425,000	-				
31	Other Prepayments		15,195	\$ 7,695	7,500				
	Total Assets		\$ 27,247,962	\$ 27,232,715	\$ 15,248				
Liabilities:									
32	Accounts Payable and Misc. Accruals		\$ 14,531	(1,101)	15,632				
	Total Liabilities		\$ 14,531	\$ (1,101)	\$ 15,632				
Fund Balances:									
33	Donor Advised		\$ 266,274	\$ 291,274	\$ (25,000)				
34	Infrastructure Fund/Cornerstone Income		188,517	\$ 195,012	(6,495)				
35	Payable to Endowment Corpus		1,550	\$ 3,590	(2,040)				
36	Restricted End/Cornerst & Real Estate		22,403,053	\$ 22,057,795	345,259				
37	Restricted Funds		3,747,415	\$ 3,993,551	(246,136)				
38	Non-Budgeted Benevolences		139,102	\$ 22,855	116,247				
39	Section 125 Plan		(1,129)	\$ (472)	(657)				
40	Genl Fund Balance		347,414	\$ 530,717	(183,303)				
41	Columbarium		26,978	\$ 24,662	2,316				
42	Reserve Fund Balances		\$ 114,257	\$ 114,832	\$ (575)				
	Total Fund Balances		\$ 27,233,432	\$ 27,233,816	\$ (384)				
	Total Liab. & Fund Balances		\$ 27,247,962	\$ 27,232,715	\$ 15,248				

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION INFORMATION ITEM
SUMMARY**

SUBJECT: Charlotte Presbytery Meeting Highlights DATE: August 15, 2026

Teaching Elders in attendance: Jacquelyn McAbee, Amanda Abrahm, Jordan Schriefer, Campbell Tucker.

Presbytery of Charlotte Meeting Highlights: The Presbytery of Charlotte gathered with joy and thanksgiving at Myers Park Presbyterian Church. The meeting opened with prayer by 2026 Moderator Rev. Deborah Conner of Davidson College Church, followed by a warm welcome from Rev. Millie Snyder, Executive Pastor of Myers Park Presbyterian Church.

The gathering included a meaningful time of worship and the installation of Rev. Steven Werth as the Presbytery's new General Presbyter. Rev. Dr. Ronald E. Peters of Pittsburgh Presbytery served as guest preacher. The Myers Park Church Choir, under the direction of Mark Kemp, Director of Worship Arts, provided music, with Tom Robak serving as organist. Rev. Werth led the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, assisted by elders from Myers Park.

In his first report as General Presbyter, Rev. Werth shared highlights from his visits to congregations throughout the Presbytery and the mission and ministry he has encountered. Videos from these visits are being shared through YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram. He also invited pastors to a monthly prayer gathering on the third Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Charlotte 24-7 Prayer Room. The Presbytery's "World Communion Day of Worship and Service" is planned for Saturday, October 3, at Locust Church.

The Commission on Ministry recognized the retirements of Rev. Frank Spencer, Rev. Dot Killian, and Rev. Bob Henderson. Rev. Daniel Heath spoke in honor of Rev. Henderson, who is retiring as Pastor of Covenant-Charlotte Church effective September 15. Rev. Snyder presented Rev. Henderson with a certificate of retirement and led the Presbytery in a special prayer, including the laying on of hands by members of the Commission on Ministry, as he enters this next season of life.

Rev. Rodger Sellers, Co-Moderator of the Ministry Resource Committee, provided an update on fall Lunch & Learn workshops and events. Commissioners to the 227th PC(USA) General Assembly in Milwaukee also shared highlights and reflections from their experience.

The Commission on Preparation for Ministry reported that Allison Blackwell of Caldwell Church and Nicole Thompson of The Grove were approved as Candidates in the preparation for ministry process. Rich Lambert, Amanda Shanks, and Courtney Shudak were approved for ordination as Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Rich will serve as

Transitional Pastor at Mallard Creek Church, pending his ordination, while Amanda will serve as Chaplain at Union Presbyterian Seminary. Courtney Shudak will serve as a Pastoral Resident at Covenant-Charlotte, beginning her ministry in a role that provides an opportunity to grow in pastoral leadership and service.

The Presbytery also approved Rev. Reginald Avant to serve as Associate Pastor at Caldwell Church and Rev. Lia Benton to serve in a shared ministry as Pastor of Third and MorningStar Churches. The Presbytery welcomed Rev. Antonio Lawrence as Temporary Pastor at Bethpage United Church and Rev. Caitlin Werth as a Chaplain with Atrium Health.

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION INFORMATION ITEM
SUMMARY**

SUBJECT: Congregational Care Ministry Report DATE: September 9, 2026

Report From: Congregational Care

Chair: Anne Gildea

Vaccine Clinics: Wednesdays in October from 3:30 to 6pm and Sunday 10/11 from 8am to 12pm in the Welcome Center

Pet Remembrance Gathering: 10/11, 10:30-10:55am in the Chapel – this is a place for anyone who has lost a pet to remember them.

Blood Drive: September 20th 8am-1pm

Also, Covenant Serves is well into the process of collecting recipes and stories for the upcoming cookbook.

Deadline for submissions is December 1st.

**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:

- Bright Stars of Bethlehem
- Volunteer Avery
- Crossnore Communities for Chikdren
- Lees-McRae College

**Volunteer Avery
PO Box 474
Newland, NC 28657**

August 17, 2026

Dear Friends of Avery County,

As the Director of Volunteer Avery, I have been humbled each day since September 27, 2024 with the amount of care that has been shown to the people of Avery County. The donations we have received has allowed us to rebuild and heal during this hard time. This generosity has truly been a blessing.

Volunteer Avery has been involved with relief and now recovery throughout this process. We could not have done this without the generosity of organizations and individuals. From generators and food in the beginning, we have been able to meet so many needs. Donations like yours enable us to continue to fix roofs. Springs, decks and many other survivor needs.

Covenant Presbyterian has been critical throughout this process. Your kindness and generosity could never be measured. I so appreciate the love you have shown. Getting a smaller vehicle will help us in so many ways. Most days I am visiting and the price of gas was draining the money we set aside for these visits.

Thank you just does not seem enough. You have kept us warm in the winter and gave us a chance to recover when all things seemed impossible on September 27th.

Sincerely,

Ruth Shirley
Director
Volunteer Avery