

May 2016

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant



COVENANT

Inclusive, Open-Minded and Home for Your Soul.

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The Covenant Compendium

SESSION DIGEST – April 11, 2016

The April Session meeting was moderated by Reverend Mark Sandlin, interim pastor. Ralph Cauthen received an excused absence. No guests were present.

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:15–10:00 9:15 Gathering
10:00–10:15 Fellowship time
10:15 –11:00 Study Time
11:00–11:15 Fellowship time
11:15–12:00 11:15 Gathering
Nursery 9:00–12:00, Rm101

Important Dates ...

May 1: Communion Sunday,
11:15 Gathering; all are
welcome!

May 2: Higher Ground
Breakfast, 10:00am,
210 East Bessemer St.

May 2: “Doing Our Work”
Monthly Meeting, 7:00pm,
Congregational UCC

May 7: Church Work Day,
9:00—12:00, Fellowship Hall

May 8: Mother’s Day!

May 9: Session Meeting,
6:00 pm, Faselso Room

May 10: Sierra Club Mtg.,
7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

May 23: CHNA Meeting,
7:00pm, Fellowship Hall

May 29: Joint Study Group-
Outreach Project, 10:00am,
Fellowship Hall

May 30: Memorial Day,
Office closed

Session actions:

- ◆ Received and approved a new lease agreement to be effective May 1, 2016. All renters will be required to agree to the terms of the agreement. Existing tenants will need to sign the new lease when their prior lease term expires.
- ◆ The status of delinquent rent payments was discussed.
- ◆ Discussed a request from Epiphany Presbyterian Church for a reduction in their monthly rent. The request was tabled to allow for further review.
- ◆ Received a report from the chair of the Interim Support Committee advising the Session of the upcoming schedule to complete the five tasks required during the interim pastorate.
- ◆ **Spiritual Formation** – Received a report that someone has been found to help with the children’s program for readers. Cheryl Michaelis will begin work pending a favorable background check.
- ◆ **Building** – Heard the report from the chair that progress is being made on the issues from the fire inspection.
- ◆ **Personnel** – Received the report from the chair listing the members of the committee. Approved Mark Sandlin’s request for study leave the week of April 24th.
- ◆ **Communications** –Received the report of the successful launch of the new church website. The Session voted to express its appreciation to Anthony Taylor for all his hard work in getting the website updated and upgraded. Approved the inclusion in the church bulletin of a link to Mark Sandlin’s blog post.
- ◆ **Fellowship** – The committee chair reported on the addition of new committee members Joy Saleeby, Robin Cable, and Ann Finch.
- ◆ **Salem Presbytery** - Nancy Schaefer agreed to be the church’s delegate to the next presbytery meeting on April 30th.

The complete draft minutes of this meeting are available in the Session notebook, located in the church office.

Kelley Griffith, Clerk of Session

May Sunday Service Information

May 1:

9:15 Host: Sue Stinson
 9:15 Music: Nancy Pitkin/Elaine Penn
 11:15 Ushers: Clara Kelly, Barry Barber
 11:15 Lay Asst.: Emily Seawell

May 15:

9:15 Host: Jane Cauthen
 9:15 Music: Tyler Millard
 11:15 Ushers: Celia Starling, Frank Starling
 11:15 Asst.: Julie Strobe

May 29:

9:15 Host: Anthony Taylor
 9:15 Music: Walt Lott
 11:15 Ushers: Clara Kelly, Barry Barber
 11:15 Lay Asst.: Ralph Cauthen

Church Office Hours

Mark Sandlin: Mon.—Thurs., 9:00am—5:00pm
 Kate Baird: Mon.—Fri. 9:00 am– 3:30 pm

May 8:

9:15 Host: Morgan Glover
 9:15 Music: Carol Rauch
 11:15 Ushers: Ann Finch, Charlie Finch
 11:15 Lay Asst.: Mitch Fore

May 22:

9:15 Host: Jane Walter
 9:15 Music: Will Ridenour
 11:15 Ushers: Nancy Schaefer, Lem Cox
 11:15 Lay Asst.: Kelley Griffith

Every Week ...

Mon.: Yoga, 6:00pm, Parlor **
 Meditation, 6:00m, Marty's Room (106)
 Tues.: Pilates, 5:30pm, Fellowship Hall **
 Wed.: Coffee Group, 9:00am, The Green Bean
 WNFS Potluck, 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall
 Choir rehearsal, 7:00pm, Sanctuary
 Thur.: Yoga, 5:30pm, Fellowship Hall**
 Fri.: Coffee Group, 9:00am, Panera (New Garden Rd.)
 ** \$10 per class; \$7 for church members!

Wednesday Night Fellowship Suppers

Join us every Wednesday at 6:00pm for our potluck dinner. Bring a dish to share; enjoy all the contributions. Afterward, there's usually a program, music, a special event. It's always fun; guests are always welcome! Upcoming after-dinner speakers and programs will be announced in Sunday bulletins or weekly emails.

Sunday Study Groups 10:15–11:00; Visitors Welcome !

New Study Group Begins May 1st! Share in reading and discussing Matt Kahn's "Whatever Arises, Love That". Books are available for \$12; contact the church office to order, or join us in the Faselo room (Room 205) to use a class copy. An easy-going study!

Children & Youth New Class Begins May 1st! Great news, parents! We have a new teacher for the elementary school-aged children. Cheryl Michaelis will teach the "Joyful Path" progressive Christian curriculum during the 10:15am study period. Meeting in Room 206 on the second floor.

Sunday Theme Discussion Group provides a weekly opportunity to delve more deeply into Sunday Reflections topics beyond the gatherings. Mark Sandlin will help start conversations and will respond to thoughts, questions; the group will keep the discussion going. Meets in the Fellowship Hall, Room 103.

Progressive Christianity Group continues its year-long study of Brian McLaren's "We Make the Road by Walking". Books are available in class for \$12. Class members share in facilitating the lively discussions. Join the group at any time. Meets in the Parlor, Room 102.

Table Talk Sharing Group, Marty's Room (Room 106): Jane Cauthen leads the sharing and open discussion group. The talk is always lively! Come share!

Contemporary Issues Group meets in the Library, Room 212. Facilitator Sarah Sills says, "We look forward to exploring and learning from each other as we tackle local and national issues. We plan to examine the facets of our own beliefs and practices, while discovering and appreciating new concepts from others."

The Conrad Brunch, April 24, 2016

A wonderful time was had by all as Covenant gathered for a potluck brunch in our beautifully-decorated Fellowship Hall between our two Sunday services to honor Ken Conrad, his "sidekick", Lee, and their family. Ken was, first and foremost, a splendid human being. He worked behind the scenes to create some of the "glue" that holds a community together. His efforts on and in the church kitchen still generate many stories, as did his life in general. We were fortunate to share some of those stories at the brunch and to dedicate our kitchen in his memory.

Thanks to all who made this event happen!

*Joyce & Joy, Fellowship Committee
Co-Chairs*



Covenant Outreaches!

**** Remember to practice “RAOK”****

Breakfast at Higher Ground, May 2, 10:00am

Our next monthly breakfast is Monday, May 2, at 10:00am. You can participate by volunteering, contributing food/supplies, or just stopping by to hang out, at 210 E Bessemer Ave. Breakfast once a month is just one need among dozens at Higher Ground. Any donated funds which exceed breakfast needs each month will be forwarded directly to HG to be used for bus passes (which are a lifeline for many clients), or other pressing needs. We are falling in love with the clients and staff at Higher Ground, and would love to be a positive impact in their lives in all ways possible. Just drop your gift in the offering basket clearly marked for Higher Ground; if writing a check, please mark “Higher Ground” on the memo line.



Book Drive for the IRC Begins Wednesday, May 4th

Another new opportunity for service will begin at the Wednesday Night Fellowship Supper on May 4th: Covenant will begin an ongoing effort to collect and donate used books to the IRC. We're told fiction and Bibles and other spiritual writings are in the most demand. There will be a bin in the Fellowship Hall for your contributions. Liz Seymour will collect the books and deliver them to the IRC.

StepUp Greensboro Lunch on Friday, May 6th

The Outreach Committee has begun reaching out to StepUp Greensboro (stepupgreensboro.org), which offers comprehensive programs for men and women who have come through some rough places but are now ready to begin transforming their lives. We will be providing lunch on Friday, May 6, during *Job Skills Week*. Jane Walter, Lem Cox, and Sue Stinson will be participating in other aspects of this week. If anyone would like to participate in the lunch endeavor, or observe any of the *Job Skills* sessions (M—F daytime) or the *Life Skills* program (Tuesday evenings 6 - 8pm), please contact Sue Stinson (336) 202-8427 or suestinson1968@yahoo.com. Observing doesn't obligate you to do anything, but it's a great way to learn what this community program is about!

Church Work Day: Saturday, May 7, 9:00—12:00

It will be a beautiful day to be outdoors, so come help us tackle a few chores around PCoC. The coffee will be on, and the sign-in sheet and chore list are in the Fellowship Hall. Come for an hour or two (or three!) Many hands make light work!

Next Joint Service Outreach Project: Sunday, May 29th

After our first successful group outreach project, The Outreach Committee is pleased to announce our second collaborative activity. On May 29th, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00am to assemble care packages for Higher Ground clients. Items needed include toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap, toilet paper, snacks, stamped envelopes with paper and pen, socks, feminine hygiene products, condoms, and reusable water bottles. We will have collection boxes in the Sanctuary beginning May 8th.

Charity Begins At Home...

Bring your spare change to donate to the Presbyterian Hunger Program; there's always a collection basket on the back table in the Sanctuary for donations. Funds are distributed through Salem Presbytery. Many thanks for your ongoing generosity!

A Message from the Interim Search Committee

A Congregational Update on the Interim Process

In the fall of 2015 the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant was strongly encouraged to enter into an Interim Pastor arrangement to properly prepare for the future life of the church as we move toward a new permanent (installed) pastor relationship. Salem Presbytery recognizes this interim time as a transition time of preparing for the future. It should be a time of focus and renewal. The larger and deeper questions of the church should come to resolution prior to the selection of the permanent minister.

Mark Sandlin is preparing to lead us through this process. Mark came to Covenant on December 8, 2015 as our Interim Minister on a twelve-month, renewable contract. He received an initial warm welcome from the congregation. His first month was spent in listening, and at the end of the second the morning schedule was revised to incorporate a 9:15 AM gathering. Tenant issues in the building took a good bit of time in March for the pastor, Lem Cox, George Lockhart, Mark Cable and Kate Baird.

We are now ready to deal with the five specific issues of the Interim Process. These are:

- ◆ Come to terms with the church history.
- ◆ Focus and articulate our identity and mission.
- ◆ Emergence of new lay leadership.
- ◆ Renew links to the denomination.
- ◆ Prepare for new pastoral leadership.

The Interim Pastoral Support Committee and Mark will be working together in May to begin a process for accomplishing these tasks. Mark is working on creative ideas to eliminate congregational surveys as we move forward. 'Reformed and always reforming.'

Ralph Cauthen for the Interim Pastor Support Committee



Welcome To The New Covenant Website!

Church of the Covenant pccoc2010@gmail.com 936-275-6403

Home Location/Hours University Parking Donate

About Sundays Gather Listen Engage

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
Inclusive. Open-Minded. Home For Your Soul.

Welcome to Church of the Covenant

Located in Greensboro, NC, between two institutions of higher learning, Greensboro College and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, we are a PCUSA congregation focused on meeting the spiritual needs of people today. We embrace the values expressed in Jesus' life as a guide for our lives, while being open to the wisdom of all approaches to the sacred

Presenting Covenant's new and improved website! The web address is the same:

www.athinkingchurch.org

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation go to Anthony Taylor for all his hard work and long hours helping to create the site, writing copy, and uploading and formatting pictures and sound files. The result is a fresh, attractive site we'll enjoy for a long time. Thanks also to the Communications Committee!

And Finally...

Doing Our Work:

2015-2016 Series on Race, Racial Inequity,
and our Future in Greensboro



First Monday of Every Month
7pm—8:30pm at Congregational UCC
400 W Radiane Drive, Greensboro

October 5: Origins of the concept of "race" The monthly series will bring local experts to present and lead dialogue on concepts to help us develop a firmer understanding of roots and nature of racial inequity, and what we can do about it together. While we will focus our outreach on our white colleagues and friends, all are welcome, and we very much appreciate the on-going support and collaboration of our colleagues of color.

November 2: Implicit Bias

December 7: Race and wealth

No session in January

February 1: Race and education

March 7: Race and law enforcement

April 4: Race and the judicial system

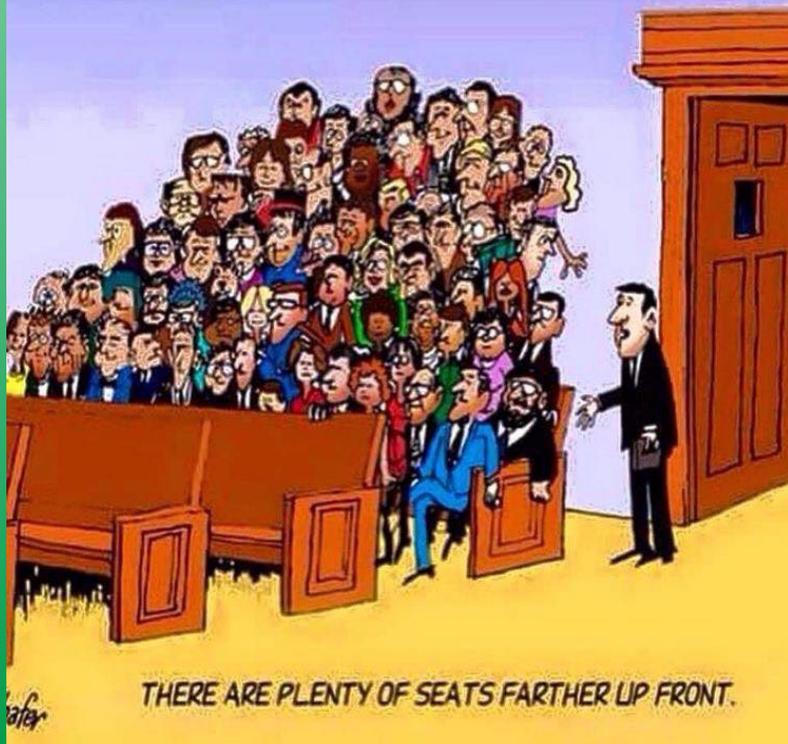
May 2: Color-blind racism

Hosted by the members of a Community-City Working Group:

Michelle Kennedy, Bayard P. Love, Bishop Chip Marble, Reverend Julie Peebles, Lewis Pitts, Reverend Alan Sherouse, Register of Deeds Jeff L. Thigpen, Mayor Nancy Vaughan in partnership with the Guilford Anti-Racism Alliance, that designed the series:

www.meetup.com/Guilford-Anti-Racism-Alliance/

Please contact CCWG or GARA for more information. PLEASE NOTE: NO RSVP REQUIRED (disregard earlier message re: Facebook invite)



Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

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Check us out online!

www.athinkingchurch.org



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