

July 2016

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant



COVENANT

Inclusive, Open-Minded and Home for Your Soul.

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SESSION DIGEST

The June 13, 2016, Session meeting was moderated by Reverend Mark Sandlin, interim pastor. Lora Farlow was present as a guest and member of the Communications Committee.

Sunday Morning Schedule

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

Important Dates ...

July 2: Church Work Day, 9:00—12:00, Fellowship Hall

July 3: Communion Sunday, Both Gatherings; all are welcome!

July 4: Happy 4th of July! CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

July 11 : Higher Ground Breakfast, 10:00am, 210 East Bessemer St.

July 11: Session Meeting, 6:00 pm, Faseló Room

NO Sierra Club Mtg. in July

July 25: CHNA Meeting, 7:00pm, Fellowship Hall

July 31: Joint Study Group Service Project, 10:00am, Fellowship Hall; IRC Lunches

Session actions:

- ◆ **New Business** - Approved a motion from the Communications Committee to begin a weekday meditation session in the sanctuary. The session will last approximately thirty minutes and begin at noon. The meditation's first meeting will be on June 21st.
- ◆ **Resource** – Received the monthly financial report. Heard the request from the Farrell Scholarship Committee (a sub-committee of the Resource Committee) to advertise that funds are available and that applications should be completed and submitted before July 15th. Approved a request to have some of the church's hand bells repaired and tuned. Funds will come from the Music Fund.
- ◆ **Interim Support** – Received a report that the five interim tasks the congregation needs to complete will begin over the summer. The committee chair also reported that a six month evaluation of the work of the interim minister is only a suggestion and not required by Salem Presbytery's Committee on Ministry.
- ◆ **Worship** – The committee will meet soon to evaluate the current schedule of worship.
- ◆ **Building** - Received and discussed a report concerning the chiller repairs and upcoming steam pipe repairs. Heard from the committee that there is a small leak in the "new" education building roof, possibly coming from the location of the old chiller tower that is currently being demolished. Issues with the east side door were also mentioned.
- ◆ **Personnel** – Approved Mark Sandlin's request for vacation leave in June and July.
- ◆ **Communications** –Received a report of the list of members of the committee.
- ◆ **Interior** – Received the report that improvements are being considered for the second floor men's bathroom and for a painting project in the main corridor on the first floor. Also heard the report of the successful completion of improvements to the second floor Sunday school classroom.

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

Kelley Griffith, Clerk of Session

July Sunday Service Information

July 3:

9:15 Host: Sarah Sills
 9:15 Music: Handbell Choir
 11:15 Ushers: Ann Finch, Charlie Finch
 11:15 Lay Asst.: Kelley Griffith

July 17:

9:15 Host: Sue Stinson
 9:15 Music: Keith Buckner
 11:15 Ushers: Nancy Schaefer, Lem Cox
 11:15 Lay Asst.: Sarah Sills

July 31:

9:15 Host: Jane Walter
 9:15 Music: Dan Seyfried
 11:15 Ushers: Ann Finch, Charlie Finch
 11:15 Lay Asst.: Mitch Fore

July 10:

9:15 Host: Morgan Glover
 9:15 Music: Neill Clegg
 11:15 Ushers: Celia Starling, Frank Starling
 11:15 Lay Asst.: Ralph Cauthen

July 24:

9:15 Host: Gratia Wright
 9:15 Music: Cookie Earnhardt
 11:15 Ushers: Clara Kelly, Barry Barber
 11:15 Asst.: Emily Seawell



Wednesday Night Fellowship Suppers at 6:00 pm

Join our weekly potluck dinners! Bring a dish to share and enjoy the contributions. After-dinner events are announced in weekly emails or bulletins.

Church Office Hours

Mark Sandlin: Mon.—Thurs., 9:00am—3:00pm
 (summer hours, effective 6/01/16)
 Kate Baird: Mon.—Fri., 9:00am—3:30pm

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!

Church Work Day, July 2, 9:00am to 12:00pm

We know it's a long holiday weekend, but if you'll be in town, come help out! We'll clean up the Walker Ave. parking lot in preparation for having it sealed and striped later this summer. The holly bushes need trimming back, so bring a hedge trimmer! A rake or two would help clean out debris accumulated along the eastside fence line. Indoor chores include the nursery, which is overdue for a good cleaning and straightening up. As always, coffee and the sign-up sheet will be in the Fellowship Hall. Come for one hour or three!

Breakfast at Higher Ground, July 11, 10:00am

Participate in our next monthly breakfast by volunteering, contributing food/supplies, or just stopping by to assist, at 210 E Bessemer Ave. Donated funds which exceed breakfast needs will be forwarded to HG to be used for bus passes (which are a lifeline for many clients), or other pressing needs. Drop your gift in the offering basket clearly marked for Higher Ground; if writing a check, mark "Higher Ground" on the memo line. Contact Sarah Sills/Sue Stinson for information: SarahBSills@gmail.com or suestinson1968@yahoo.com

Next Service Project: Sunday, July 31st—IRC Lunches

July's Outreach project is preparing and delivering sandwich lunches to the IRC for their Sunday guests. We will set up an assembly line, so just show up (of course, home-made cookies to make the lunches special would be appreciated!) Sunday, July 31, 10:00am—11:00am, in the Fellowship Hall.

The Interim Pastor Process

Mark Sandlin began his service to Covenant as Interim Pastor the second week of December, 2015. Having completed the first six months, we realize that there are some unanswered questions or miscommunications floating around the church that need to be addressed directly. We hope you find this helpful and clarifying. Additional questions are welcomed.

Ralph Cauthen, Chair of the Interim Support Committee

Frequently asked questions:

- ◆ Was Mark appointed for just one year? Will he be leaving in December?

An Interim Contract in Salem Presbytery is automatically written for a 12 month period. It may be renewed or extended by action of the Church Session as needed. The Presbytery and the Interim Search Committee never viewed Covenant's process of working through issues as a task that could be accomplished in just twelve months.

- ◆ What action may be taken to renew his contract?

The Session will be acting on this in October or November.

- ◆ When will we start to work on the Five Interim Tasks*?

We made a deliberate decision in May to begin this process at the end of the summer break. In the meantime, we are working to build mutual respect and unity within the congregation.

* The Five Interim Tasks:
 Coming to terms with our history
 Re-articulating the church's identity and mission
 Allowing new leadership to emerge
 Renewing ties to Presbyterian Church USA
 Preparing for new pastoral leadership

- ◆ What has been the process of evaluation regarding his first six months? What priorities were set for this period of time? Have these been accomplished?

We were surprised to find that the Presbytery did not require Covenant's Session to complete a formal evaluation at this time. The Interim Support Committee has been meeting with Mark monthly to provide congregational feedback and reaction. These have been mutually supportive sessions.

- ◆ How will congregational members be provided input into the Interim process?

Actually, the process of dealing with our history was started last December with the "period of Listening" that culminated with the trial restoration of the two Gatherings on Sunday mornings. The emergence of new leadership was begun in the restructuring of committees this spring, especially with regards to the children's area, outreach, and the church website (communications). The interim tasks are not so much linear and sequential as they are interwoven. Starting in August, we all will be more consciously focused on working on the Five Interim Tasks, recognizing, naming and appreciating our progress as we move forward. Stay tuned.

- ◆ What changes in priorities are anticipated in the coming year?

Following completion of the Interim Tasks, on the recommendation of the Interim Minister and with the advice and consent of the Presbytery, the congregation will be asked to choose a Pastoral Nominating Committee, which will begin a search process.

- ◆ What one thing about Mark Sandlin's ministry to Covenant has so far received the most approval?

His sermons and his theology are a good match for Covenant.

Worship Committee Survey Coming Soon

The Worship Committee will send a survey to PCoC members and attendees next week by email. We need your feedback on our Sunday offerings. Print out one copy per adult, fill it out, and return it to the box on the back table in the Sanctuary. All surveys are anonymous. If you are unable to print the survey, blank copies will be available at the table. It must be completed and returned by July 17th. Call the church office if you have any questions.



INSPIRE

MEDITATION

EVERY TUESDAY  NOON

Relax, Refresh and Enliven

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Check us out online!

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