

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Athens, GA

Stated Session Meeting

June 24, 2025

A Stated Session meeting, called according to the Book of Order, was held at Covenant Presbyterian Church on June 24, 2025. Moderator Tom Buchanan welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m.

Elders present: Karl Barnett (ZOOM), Bob Brewster, Dennis Calbos, Warren Combs, Caly DePalma, Kathryn Fowler, Ansley Tweedell Land, Rich Reaves, Rebecca Silver, and Pam Thompson

Elders absent: Melissa Cobb and Brian Herndon

Others present: Tom Buchanan, Brian Striggow, and Luanne Rigsby

Devotional

Pam Thompson's devotional expanded on Father's Day and how we thank God for the influence of our parents and for the things we learned from them. Pam opened the meeting with prayer.

Review of Minutes

The minutes from the May 27, 2025, Stated Session Meeting were reviewed. Warren Combs moved and Dennis Calbos seconded that the minutes be approved as amended to say that the cost of one spray buff from Lewis Flooring was \$500 rather than \$250. Following discussion, the motion carried.

Approval of the Agenda

Caly DePalma moved and Bob Brewster seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. Following discussion, motion carried.

Clerk's Report

Luanne Rigsby reported that Covenant had received a thank you letter from UGA School of Law for our gift of \$580.00 that was directed to the Immigration Law Support Fund. Karl expanded that the gift was for a specific need and was paid out of Rev. Buchanan's discretionary fund.

Financial Report

Kathryn Fowler, co-chair of Finance Ministry Team, reviewed the Financial Summary and the detailed financial report for May. Kathryn reported that pledges received in May exceeded anticipated pledges. Several ministry teams have not spent the money in their budget, and Kathryn encouraged them to submit any unpaid expenses before the end of the fiscal year on June 30th. Kathryn and Bob Brewster will check on couple of unpaid

items from the M&O budget (Thornwell contribution and PW dues to PCUSA). The Financial Report was accepted into the official record.

Business:

Approval of 2025-2026 Budget

A copy of the revised budget was included in the Session packet. Kathryn Fowler reviewed the revised budget which totaled \$477,623.00. That amount is about \$4,000.00 less than the proposed budget for the stewardship campaign but an increase of \$12,404.00 over the 2024-2025 budget. In the future, Finance Ministry Team will request a yearly check for the interest earned on our three \$50,000 CDs, rather than rolling that money back into the CDs, so that we can use that money as income. All the ministry teams got what they requested for their budgets. **Kathryn Fowler, on behalf of the Finance Ministry Team, moved that Session approve the revised 2025-2026 fiscal year budget. Coming from a ministry team, the motion needed no second. Following discussion, motion carried.** Tom Buchanan thanked Finance Ministry Team for their hard work in presenting a balanced budget for 2025-2026.

Maintenance of New Floor in the Fellowship Hall

Caly DePalma, co-chair of Building and Grounds, reported that the new flooring has been installed and thanked all who helped with the re-set of the fellowship hall. We now need to consider maintenance of the floor. Currently, there is no money in the budget for floor maintenance. Lewis Flooring quoted of \$500.00 for each spray buffing and \$2000.00 for stripping and waxing the floor, which is needed at least once a year depending on use. We own a buffer, and B & G will get more quotes for the floor maintenance. Session thanked Caly for her hands-on leadership in getting the job done.

Elder Nominating Committee Update

Warren Combs, chair of the Elder Nominating Committee, reported that Phil Hale will serve as the inactive elder on the committee. They will nominate a third person, who is not an elder, to be elected by the congregation in an upcoming congregational meeting.

Session Visioning Exercise – A New Beginning

See the document “A New Beginning: A Vision for Covenant Presbyterian Church Summer 2025 – Session Visioning Exercise and Pastor’s Notes”.

Communion Servers for June 6th

Elders Caly DePalma, Bob Brewster, Dennis Calbos, Rich Reaves, and Warren Combs will serve communion on July 6th, meeting in the narthex at 9:40 a.m.

Session Fellowship

On July 22, 2025, there will be a brief Session meeting at 6:15 p.m. at the church. Following the meeting, the Session will go to DePalmas for their annual fellowship social. Spouses/partners are invited. Tom will send out an email for RSVP so we will know how many people to expect.

Announcements - Ministry Teams

Fellowship – Since Rebecca Silver is about to have knee replacement surgery, Fellowship MT needs extra help for the upcoming Coffeehouse on July 9th. There are volunteers who will set up at 5:00 p.m. on July 8th, but Fellowship MT needs help with making coffee on July 9th and with setting out the desserts. Linday Rogers and Pam Knox are in charge of the acts. They will talk to Austin about setting up sound.

Congregational Care – Ansley mentioned that new member, Raquel Bartra, is suffering from an auto-immune disease and needs help with grocery shopping.

Pastor's Report

Tom reported that the trip to the Montreat Youth Conference was everything he had hoped for. Hank and DeLynda Tweedell did a super job as chaperones. The youth bonded with each other and with the youth from Milledgeville Presbyterian and had a great experience.

Motion to Adjourn & Closing Prayer

There being no further business, Ansley Land moved and Kathryn Fowler seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Following discussion, motion carried. Tom closed with prayer at 9:03 p.m.

Next Stated Meeting: Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 6:15 p.m. with Session Fellowship at DePalmas at 7:00. No one has signed up for a devotional.

Tom Buchanan, Moderator

Luanne Rigsby, Clerk