

## December 2020 Session In Review

Session of Grace Commons Church met December 8, 2020 with Pastor Daniel Susenbach as moderator.

Alan Williams presented a report on the work of Trustees including a budget report and the accounting for additional designated COVID donations. The staff is doing a good job controlling their budgets and spending.

Each month a different ministry reports to Session on the status of their ministry. Jennie Fletemeyer provided a report on what is happening in Grace Commons Kids. Jennie highlighted a number of activities taking place in Children's Ministry and how they have adapted to the changed circumstances of the pandemic. The emphasis has been on keeping in contact with kids and their families. These have included outdoor activities where physical distancing could be maintained, staff visiting families, and calling and texting families.

Jennie and her staff have been involved cleaning out the old preschool furnishings and in planning for the physical changes, especially the second floor of the Children's Wing. She is especially thankful for the four part-time staff members. Terri Evans thanked Jennie for the work of the Children's Ministry and prayed for those involved.

The Boulder Vision Project status was updated by Braden Mark. Costs to update Children's Wing for the new preschool may come in under initial budget. Because there is not much in building activity at present the construction on the Children's Wing will have minimal impact on the use of the space. Site review for the main campus is December 20. We are investigating and working with the groups that will use the first floor space in the Annex to work out space requirements. Letters went out thanking those making pledges to the capital campaign and a second letter was sent to those who have not pledged encouraging them to participate before the campaign wraps up at the end of the year.

The church continues to consider ways to regather. The team of Cathy Marquis and Kha Le presented latest information on COVID-19 in Boulder County and how the church is responding. Session's request for the Regathering sub-committee is to cover the following core guiding principles:

- Protect our members and visitors from COVID-19 risks based on federal, state and local government requirements and regulations
- Consider the Boulder community's perception and comfort with Grace Commons Church's approach to regathering
- Work with and guide our Pastors and Department Head staff to regather our church for worship, ministries, programs, etc. to create workable solutions and options to continue services of the Church

More ministries and activities are beginning to take place in the church such as the Thanksgiving Grab & Go dinner with coat distribution, Lamb's Lunch on Saturdays, Lamb's Café on Thursdays, 5th Sunday Lunch, Deacons' Closet, and Christmas in the Courtyard. It is the Regathering Team's recommendation that we do not resume additional in-person programming and worship until it is clear that the conditions will allow those opportunities to continue.

Braden Mark and Chris Lietz continue to work on a new motion to establish a racial justice ministry. No action is requested at this meeting as there is still more work to develop an action plan. There are reservations about this ministry with some elders. Some elders are

recommending that we create guidelines in which the RJM can operate. Volunteers are needed to work with RJM to develop a framework that moves things forward in alignment with the Session governance process.

Upon hearing a report from the Personnel Committee, Session expects Erik to return from his leave in mid-December and that his sabbatical will begin Feb 1, 2021.

Staff provided updates on some of what is happening around the church. The main event for Advent/Christmas is a drive about to decorated homes ending in the courtyard. Commons space groups resume in January with the continued emphasis on prayer. Jeff Pratt will be speaking at worship on January 17. Planning for a possible pilgrimage to Italy. Marriage class will begin in January.

The meeting was closed with the singing of the doxology.