

October 2020 Session in Review

Session of Grace Commons Church met October 13, 2020 with Pastor Daniel Susenbach as moderator.

Carl opened the meeting with prayer and Daniel Susenbach led a devotion. Daniel reminded elders of the current Common Space Group practice of stopping to listen to the Lord. We need to take time to be still and ask what God has to say.

Each year, Session members sign a covenant that supports their commitment to one another, to unity and to proper communications. Each elder read over the Session Covenant, signed the Covenant and sent it to Janet. In a typical year, the Session covenant is signed in person by all elders. Today because of meeting virtually, they individually signed a covenant.

Alan Williams provided a brief Trustees report. Things are somewhat quiescent with minimal use of the building. Expecting things to pick up as building use expands. Also, greater activity related to building planning. Pledged giving has held up quite well, but unpledged giving is down.

Christelle de Wit was introduced as our new Director of Communications. Christelle shared a bit of how she ended up at Grace Commons and her background and work experience. She is in the process of meeting with each of the ministry areas to find out what they are doing for both internal and external communications. She will be looking for opportunities for cross-fertilization between the ministry areas.

The Boulder Vision Project update was presented by Braden Mark. The BVP team is working to add a member of the Trustees to the BVP team. The team has lost Jane Filkin and Kim Bixel and is working to get Christelle involved in the communications areas where Jane played an important role. We are moving ahead with the needed improvements in the Children's Wing to accommodate the preschool as well as 2nd floor improvements where other weekday ministries will move with the full use of the 1st floor by the preschool. Costs for the 2nd floor changes may be less than originally expected. Doug will be meeting with the city Planning Board on October 27. Sometime in the first two months of next year we are hoping for approval first on the main campus and later the Annex. The Capital Campaign essentially met its goal and only a small number have had to adjust their pledges due to changed economic conditions. The BVP team wants to bring the campaign to a formal conclusion with a celebration in the spring. The expenses so far have been covered by pledge receipts. Work still needs to be done on an Events Space Use Policy to determine if the space will be income generating.

The Regathering Team of Kha Le, Kent Thompson and Cathy Marquis continue to review the current health guidelines for Boulder County in response to COVID. Specifically, this team reviews and guide Grace Commons services, worship, and ministries to have safe and appropriate guidelines for gathering. Changes since September include a trial run for worship this past Sunday. In addition, most ministries are submitting plans and requests for gathering. This team provides approval, suggestions or sometimes a rejection of the plan. Session voted that beginning Oct 25 we will have one in-person worship service per Sunday. A second service will be considered in the future.

Session worked in small groups to discuss the book, *Redisciplining the White Church*. Members of the Racial Justice Commission joined the discussion.

Carl, Daniel, Cathy and Ash provided brief reports on their ministries in light of Erik's current leave. Additional responsibilities related to worship planning and preaching are coupled with their existing responsibilities.

The remainder of the meeting was held in executive session to hear a report from the Personnel committee. The meeting closed in prayer.