

September 2020 Session in Review

Session of Grace Commons Church met September 8, 2020 with Pastor Erik Hanson as moderator.

Devotions: Erik Hanson shared several paragraphs from *The Cape Town Commitment*. We love because God first loved us. From John 3: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Session members met in breakout groups to reflect on the questions: How would you explain the love of God to a non-Christian? Some people's experiences make it hard to believe God loves them. Why do you think this is? How would you help such a person?

Erik opened the meeting with prayer.

Bob Groneberg presented a report on the work of the Deacons. The Deacons' Closet is currently serving clients from the parking lot. This ministry is transitioning to Local Missions with expanded services in addition to clothing distribution. The new class has seven deacons including three new deacons.

Session approved trustee, Alan Williams, as President of the Trustees and of the Corporation.

Each month a different ministry reports to Session on the status of their ministry. Steve Cartwright provided a report on the Men's Ministry. Men's Life has been cancelled for the fall. The Zoom format does not fit well with the dynamics of this ministry based on the responses of previous participants. Perhaps will try for a half term next year. A number of small groups are still meeting regularly. Jim Remnant prayed for Men's Ministry.

The Boulder Vision Project status was updated by Doug Smith.

- a. **Preschool:** Work has begun with Learning Care Group to identify the required improvements to the Children's Wing. Learning Care Group is the company that will manage our new preschool. Coburn has begun programming the improvements and the design team has met a couple of times to review their findings. Coburn has also met with the Children's Ministry team to identify improvements to the second floor. It is expected that Coburn will complete design of these improvements by the end of 2020, and construction will commence in January 2021, be completed by May 2021 so that LCG can take over the property in May 2021. Handover of the school in May will allow students to enroll and school to begin in August 2021.
- b. **Plan Review:** The concept plan for improvements to the main campus and the Annex were submitted to the City of Boulder on Aug 24. The city's early response was favorable, but a written response will be received next week. Planning Board review is set for October 2020. The Landmarks Board will meet on Oct 22 to review the proposed demolition of the Geneva Wing and the modifications to Westminster. Portions of the main campus site is in the 100-year floodplain. City of Boulder regulations require that the building be flood proofed two feet above the 100-year flood elevation. This requirement will affect much of the building and could have impacts on the design and construction costs. We are working with our civil engineering consultant (JVA) to minimize those impacts. Site review package is to be submitted to

City of Boulder in November 2020. This submittal will detail more specific design elements for City of Boulder review.

- c. **The Annex:** Element Properties was chosen to be our developer partner for the Annex project. Tax credit financing applications will be submitted when the project is entitled by the City of Boulder, which is expected in July 2021.
- d. Solicitations for General Contractor partners on both projects is expected in early 2021 and estimates of cost expected in first quarter 2021. Construction on the main campus renovations is expected to start in early 2022 and on the Annex in summer 2022. Capital campaign completion is planned for November 2020.

A motion was passed to call Jane Filkin as a short-term 20hr/week Assistant Pastor of Discipleship and Community. The length of service is to be revisited every 2 weeks by the Personnel Committee.

Christelle de Wit has been hired as a parttime Communications Director. She has “officially” begun as she participated in the staff meeting. In addition, the Personnel Committee is in the process of a search for an interim parttime Director of Discipleship and Community.

Session continued to consider a Racial Justice Commission charter. Session has been reading a variety of articles and books on the subject of the church and racial justice. Elders broke in small groups to discuss how the church and Grace Commons specifically should or could interact with the issue of racial justice. Is there a godly way to engage? Erik asked Session members to read the book *Rediscipling the White Church* by David Swanson.

The Regathering Team reminded us that we will continue our evening outdoor services at Calvary Bible Church through the end of September.

The meeting was closed with the singing of the Doxology.