

April 2021 Session in Review

Session of Grace Commons Church, Boulder, Colorado met April 13 with Daniel Susenbach as moderator.

Daniel began the meeting with a devotion looking at the ordinary and yet extraordinary burning bush. He reminded the elders to notice the activity of God in order to join in. Where are the burning bush moments in our church and in our lives?

Dean Stull was introduced as the new Governance Chair of Session. Regarding the new Clerk of Session, there is still some discussion around the requirements of the Clerk as an elder. A new clerk should be in place in the next month or 2.

Alan Williams provided an update on the work of the Trustees. The Preschool project will be completed soon. No budget changes since last month. Enrollment numbers will start to be known in July and August. A review with Learning Care Group points to continued optimism regarding preschool demand and expected enrollment.

The main campus city review should be completed this summer. The budget impacts to the main building due to the changes required by the city are not yet known. Revised budget numbers are expected this summer. Doug Smith and Doug Scheetz are developing a set of best practices and checks/balances for the oversight of the construction projects in order to control costs and make the best decisions. Alan reminded Session that congregation approval will be required for a construction loan which will then be refinanced upon construction completion. Current cost projections on the preschool forecast the return on investment to be realized at the end of year 4. Project timing is still under discussion.

Alan shared the latest general budget information. The church expenses are under budget by approximately \$100K but the pledged income is \$200K below the original budget.

Session approved the minutes and ministry reports from Session, Deacons, Trustees, Grace Commons Foundation, Kids, and Personnel. In addition Session received the March Covenant Partnership report which indicates 1101 covenant partners as of March 31, 2021.

Session approved the following new covenant partners: Charles (Chuck) Holliman, Linda Holliman, Harold "Gene" Koch, Stephen Kremer, Lynne Kendal-Wilson, Ash McDonald and Thomas Wesley. These new covenant partners joined through the Spring 2021 Covenant Partner class.

Sessions Discussions:

Cathy Marquis requested approval from Session regarding the hiring of a variety of support positions. Over the last year both custodian and administrative support positions have become available due to attrition. During the pandemic, the need for a night custodian for example was not necessary. With the forecast of opening the church over the summer months, these support needs are a higher priority. Session discussed the proposed positions, the desire to work toward clarity on the Personnel Committees work and responsibilities, budget constraints and the future work of considering staff realignment to match ministry priorities. For the short term these positions were approved. Funding for these positions must be identified in the 21-22 budget in order for the positions to be permanent.

Daniel proposed 2 items which require a congregational meeting. 1. There is a need for 1 elder to fill one of the unexpired terms of recently resigned elders in order to bring the number of elders to 12. 2. Changing the status of Daniel from an assistant pastor to associate pastor. Difference is a position called by Session vs called by the congregation. Session approved recommending Craig Rahenkamp to fill one unexpired term for the Class of 2023 and to present to the congregation Daniel Susenbach to be called as an associate pastor to Grace Commons. Proposed by laws changes were tabled until the annual

meeting. The slate of officers for the Class of 2024 is not ready for a congregational vote. A separate congregational meeting will be required to approve the new officers and the 2021-22 Nominating committee. Session approved May 2 as the date for the congregational meeting.

Mike Scott was selected to be a liaison to the Trustees. Terri Evans will be joining the Personnel Committee, and Greg Parr and Glenn Bean will lead our stewardship campaign this spring.

Jenny Fox, Jonathon Anderson, and Warner Andrews provided an update on the Transitional Pastor process. The team has had initial interviews/conversations with 3 candidates. The process has been encouraging and hopeful. They are currently looking into references and listening to sermons with more in-depth interviews to come. They hope to present a candidate to Session in the next 30 days. Session approved a budget for the search team and briefly discussed the costs associated with a transitional pastor.

The meeting closed with the singing of the Doxology at 9:20pm.