

May 2021 Session in Review

Session of Grace Commons Church, Boulder, Colorado met on May 11 and May 25 with Daniel Susenbach as moderator.

The first meeting in May was held for the purpose of hearing from the Transitional Pastor Search Team and the transitional pastor candidate that the team is bringing for Session's consideration.

The Transitional Pastor Search Team (Jenny Fox, Greg Parr, Jonathon Anderson, and Warner Andrews – Deb DuPont was absent) reviewed their process over the last 2 months. The team worked with an approved job description and focused on 5 key areas for the job related to healing the congregation, leadership and staff in addition to overseeing post pandemic regathering and the launch of our new preschool. During the search, they met with the Grace Commons' pastors and department heads to receive staff feedback. Working closely with ECO leadership, the team interviewed 3 candidates over zoom. They reviewed references, listened to sermons and evaluated start date implications. Their proposed candidate rose to the top.

During this meeting, the candidate presented a devotion and spent time with elders answering and asking questions. This candidate's connections to Grace Commons date back to Bob Oerter during the candidate's time in InterVarsity and college.

After the interview, Session spent time in prayer and discussion. Sensing the leading of the Holy Spirit, the Transitional Pastor Search Team presented a motion to enthusiastically call Randy Bare to serve the Lord here with us at Grace Commons Church as Transitional Pastor. The motion passed unanimously.

The employment agreement will be finalized by the Transitional Pastor Search Team and brought back to Session for approval.

A 2nd Business meeting was held in May. Craig Rahenkamp shared a devotion on the expanding calling of disciples and how the every expanding circles of sharing the gospel looks. From Luke 10, Craig read the charge of the sending out of 72 disciples, the results and Jesus' joyful response to their work. The work of sharing the gospel in Boulder emulates the examples of previous generations of disciples going back to the 72. Craig opened the Session meeting in prayer.

Session approved the minutes and ministry reports from Session, Grace Commons Foundation, Kids, Local Missions, Music and Worship, Personnel and Students. In addition Session received the April Covenant Partnership report which indicates 1105 covenant partners as of April 30, 2021.

Session approved Chris Gaddis to officiate an outside wedding in the Grace Commons Chapel on July 3, 2021.

Sessions Discussions:

Libby Brown provided an update on the work happening in the Roots Ministry. She gave a description of the various fellowship groups and service opportunities that are part of Roots. Libby reported on the resilience of our older members during COVID and the hope that many of the fellowship groups will return in the fall. Carl expressed his appreciation for Libby's pastor's heart. Craig prayed for Libby.

Glenn Bean from the MESH (Ministry Evaluation and Spiritual Health) Team presented the responses from a recent congregation-wide survey. The results highlighted the success for most of Common Space Groups and the consistent need for better communication particularly regarding the Boulder Vision Project.

Cathy Marquis and the Finance Committee presented the budget for Ministry Year 2022 – first reading. The presentation began with a review of the MY 21 budget. The budget and financial status of church will

be part of a summer presentation to the congregation. In order to best provide direction for both the Finance Committee and the Personnel Committee, Session formed a task force to develop a rough draft of ministry priorities and goals for the next 5 years.

Craig Rahenkamp asked the elders to review the training materials provided by ECO. Craig is proposing the elders consider the training recommendations of ECO and will plan to bring a motion to a future Session meeting to establish a consistent and ongoing elder training.

The staff reports at the end of the meeting highlighted the start of a return to “normal”. Daniel has had opportunities to work on missions; Carl has had more opportunities for visitations and gathering. The pandemic response team will be updating protocols and requirements. Ash reported that the staffing for Student and Family Ministry is changing. There will not be any interns for the 2021-22 school year. Instead Megan Gordon will become the assistant director for both Middle School and High School ministry. It is likely that MS and HS will change program nights to reflect budget and staffing constraints.

The meeting closed with the singing of the Doxology.