

June 2021 Session in Review

Session of Grace Commons Church, Boulder, Colorado met on June 8 with Daniel Susenbach as moderator.

Terri Evans led a devotional time from a Saddleback Church podcast based on unity. Terri highlighted the value of unity as the soul and mark of the church, the expectation of Jesus that we work at unity, and the responsibility and call of Session to unity. Session broke into small groups to talk about ways they can be more unified – focus on what unites, restart on how decisions are made, more fellowship in and out of Session, build trust through God's truth. Time closed in prayer.

Bob Groneberg presented an update on the work of the Deacons in recent months. Deacons are reviewing their responsibilities and priorities as in recent years, the number of new deacons were not sufficient to fill the duties of the deacons. They continue to provide hospitality, communion, and short term emergency financial assistance. Giving to the Deacons Fund is currently above estimates. August 2022, the Deacons Closet's transition to the Missions department will be complete. A new name for the Deacons Closet is under consideration. Plans for Annex construction will displace ministries such as the Deacons Closet and Casa de Dios Shalom church. Space in the main building will be identified for temporary use.

Session approved the minutes and ministry reports from Session, Deacons, Equipping, Global Missions, Kids, Racial Justice and Students. In addition Session received the May Covenant Partnership report which indicates 1102 covenant partners as of May 31, 2021.

Sessions Discussions:

Cathy Marquis presented the terms of call for our new Transitional Pastor, Randy Bare. The terms include financial compensation as well as agreed upon paid time off. Session approved the terms.

Cathy Marquis and the Finance Committee review the Ministry Year 2022 budget. No changes were made since the first reading of the budget in May. Session has continued to stress the importance of the budget being connected to our ministry priorities and goals. The subcommittee/task force is at work and will bring a first draft of recommendations to Session in August. The deadline for establishing goals is set for Sept 2021 meeting with implementation to begin in Jan 2022. A fuller picture of the budget will be presented to the congregation this summer. A stewardship team and campaign will be part of work this Fall as regathering continues.

Deb DuPont presented a partial slate of officer candidates for Session's consideration. Session approved the slate which will be presented to the congregation for approval at a late summer congregational meeting. The TED team continues to work to fill out the officers for the class of 2024.

Ash provided a brief update from the Racial Justice Ministry. It was a requirement of Session that a ministry plan be presented at the June meeting. Although the RJM is ready with a ministry plan, they are also patient to wait for further direction from Session and for Randy Bare, our new transitional pastor to begin.

The elders closed the meeting with prayer in pairs followed by the singing of the Doxology. The meeting adjourned at 9pm.