

## July 2021 Session in Review

Session of Grace Commons Church, Boulder, Colorado, gathered on July 13 in Oerter Hall at 6:30pm. Rev. Randy Bare was moderator. The meeting opened in prayer followed by a tour of the children's wing to see the progress on the preschool and the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor upgrades.

Following the tour of the preschool, Randy led a devotion on the conversion of Saul focusing on Ananias response to God by going against his instincts to obey God. Think of Ananias as an early church elder. Elders must execute when they are sure of the Lord's word.

Session approved the minutes and ministry reports from Session, Deacons, Trustees, Grace Commons Foundation, Global Missions, Kids and TED. Session received the June Covenant Partner report which indicates we have 1101 covenant partners as of June 30, 2021.

### Session Discussions:

Session reviewed the agreement between Pathways Learning Academy (the nonprofit division of Learning Care Group) and Grace Commons including the role of the church to deliver the Christian curriculum. Grace Commons needs to designate a person to be our liaison to the preschool and the preschool will have a similar person on their staff. As with our past preschool relationship, the church staff will provide Christian curriculum support. Randy will take the lead and engage with Children and Family Ministry at Grace Commons to determine the best ways to connect.

Randy gave a brief update on his opening few days on staff. Staff is working on exciting ideas for reimagining worship and paying attention to good sabbath practices. He also met with Deacons who are discouraged by the lack of new deacons in the incoming class of officers.

Elders took time to ask Randy some questions

- Who does Randy want to hear from? Anyone is welcome to contact him.
- What should we be doing to re-engage? It is universal among churches that families are staying home (even before COVID). Consider the mission field of returning college students and the 20-30's in our community. Need to develop a strategy to engage with people frustrated.
- What is the best way to answer questions about the budget and the building project? Communication work continues on all fronts. Questions can be sent to [transitions@gracecommons.org](mailto:transitions@gracecommons.org). The Finance Committee is providing an update on July 18 to answer some questions.

Braden provided an update on the Boulder Vision Project. The preschool is in the process of recruiting staff. Many families are interested in touring once staff is in place. The delay in opening the preschool does not impact the project significantly because there are no additional out of pocket expenses during any delay. \$875K is the approximate cost to the church for the remodeling of the first and second floors including the cost of the new playground and fixtures and furniture. The Annex and the Main Campus are still in the review stage with the city. The BVP lead team has received proposals from 3 contractors to gauge the status of the costs. The city's modifications have not significantly impacted the costs. Next step is a joint meeting with trustees and elders which will be followed by an update to the congregation. Current thinking is to proceed with the Annex first. It provides space that can be available to the church while the main campus is under construction. Also allows time to prove the preschool as a funding source. The Annex funding options include grants for the affordable housing. Grants for the first floor are also being considered for the mercy ministries.

Jim Remnant representing the T.E.D. team presented Doug Walter as a Deacon for the class of 2024. Session approved Doug. T.E.D. is also working to fill the open positions on the nominating committee. Currently Lisa Schone and Clark Oldroyd will be presented to the congregation. Sessions needs to vote at the August Session meeting to hold a congregational meeting.

Greg Parr gave an update on the Stewardship campaign planning. Pledges can be received online. Pledges do not roll over from a previous year. Following the Financial Update on July 18 to the congregation, the stewardship work will begin in earnest including messages through video to the congregation.

The meeting adjourned at 9pm with the singing of the doxology.