

## December 2021 Session in Review

Session of Grace Commons Church, Boulder, Colorado, met December 14, 2021. Rev Randy Bare was the moderator.

Elder, Jim Remnant, shared an Advent devotional with the story of the cobbler who spent his days working and watching for Christ's return. Over the course of his watching he met and engaged with many strangers teaching us the value of meeting Jesus through strangers. Jim shared scriptural examples and closed in prayer.

Session approved the minutes and ministry reports from Session, Deacons, Trustees, Finance Committee, Grace Commons Foundation, Global Missions, Kids, Local Missions, Racial Justice Ministry and Students. Session received the November Covenant Partner report which indicates we have 1076 covenant partners as of November 30, 2021.

Session spent time reviewing and discussing the recent presentation by Katie and Chuck Fowler on Nova Church in Denver—a church plant within Corona Presbyterian Church. Observations ranged from excitement at the concept a church within a church to uncertainty regarding the governance of such a church to the lack of intergenerational richness that comes when a church focuses on a single demographic (young adults). This “church within a church” concept is one of many that Session will be considering in the upcoming months.

Greg provided an update on the stewardship campaign. Progress is being made toward the budget shortfall. Stewardship will become a more intentional part of the annual rhythm. There is a little confusion surrounding the calendar year vs the ministry year. The ministry/fiscal year runs from July–June.

Boulder Vision Project is coming up on an important Planning Board meeting with a final project determination in January. Preschool is still looking at a January open date. The Annex was not approved for the Worthy Cause Grant but the city encouraged the team to reapply. The pledges are stable toward project. Future joint meetings of Session and Trustees will happen biannually.

Ministry and Session communication plans along with the development of committee charters continues to evolve. The staff will be working to align their work with the mission of the church. Current committee assignments are listed below for elders.

Finance Committee: Greg Parr, Terri Evans, Mike Scott, Staff Resource: Cathy Marquis

Leadership Development Team: Jim Remnant, Tim Chiles. (TED is a subcommittee of LDT)

Trustees: Mike Scott

Deacons: Jim Remnant

MESH: Glenn Bean, Jonathon Anderson, Mike Scott, Staff Resource: Carl Hofmann

Personnel Committee: Craig Rahenkamp, Christopher Lietz, Jenny Fox, Staff Resource: Randy Bare, Cathy Marquis

Governance: Dean Stull, Greg Parr, Craig Rahenkamp

Kyle Rohan shared updates regarding Middle School Ministry. He highlighted their focus on the connections across grades and the family/community aspect of their ministry. 2 student leaders have joined their team: Bradyn Chiles and Nic Pedersen. Middle School switched to Tuesday nights which allows for high school students to serve in the ministry.

Jim Remnant and Randy Bare led a discussion on the future on Mercy Ministries. They presented the need for a holistic strategy and partnerships with other churches. Our own ministries such as the Deacons Closet and Lamb's Ministry struggle to find volunteers.

The responses from the latest edition of the MESH survey to the congregation were reviewed. The concept of a bimonthly to 1/6<sup>th</sup> of our congregation continues to provide regular feedback to Session on the opinions of our membership.

Reminder that the Racial Justice Ministry will be hosting a seminar on the Multiethnic Church in February led by Scott Anderson. More details will be come.

The meeting adjourned at 9pm with prayer and singing of the Doxology.