

October 2021 Session in Review

Session of Grace Commons Church, Boulder, Colorado, met October 12, 2021. Rev Randy Bare was the moderator.

Elder Jenny Fox led devotions with a look at the value of relationships in leadership from the book *LEAD*. Ministry is spiritual warfare and it is easier to have generous assumptions about people you know. Easier to do hard work when you care about the people with whom you are working. There is value in working on relationships with our fellow elders.

Session approved the minutes and ministry reports from Session, Deacons, Trustees, Finance Committee, Kids, Global Missions, Grace Commons Foundation, Local Missions, Personnel Committee, Roots and Racial Justice Ministry. Session received the September Covenant Partner report which indicates we have 1084 covenant partners as of September 30, 2021.

Session discussed best practices for ministry reports and communications between Session and church ministries. This conversation will be ongoing to facilitate efficient and appropriate communications.

The recent congregational meeting was discussed and the decision to table to approval of officers. Doug Smith has removed his name from consideration as an elder. 3 additional names have been submitted to the TED team to consider as replacements. In addition the Bylaws will continue to undergo revisions before being presented to the congregation for a final vote. Session sees the need for improved communication with the other offices of Trustee and Deacon as well as with the congregation.

In terms of Session governance, there are 6 committees of Session. Dean Stull is working with these committees to create charters and guidelines for operations. The committees working on charters are listed below.

- Personnel Committee (PerCo)
- Finance Committee (FinCo)
- MESH (Ministry Evaluation and Spiritual Health)
- LDT (Leader Development Team aka TED: Trustees, elders and deacons)
- Deacons
- Trustees

The 1st Listening Session was well attended and will be followed by 2 more: Oct 14 and Oct 24. The dominant themes include: poor communication and confusion surrounding the Boulder Vision Project, hurt feelings regarding Erik's departure, and the need to rebuild trust with leadership.

Session voted to hold a Congregational Meeting on Nov 14 between services to elect a new slate of officers. TED team is reviewing the slate and will bring the final slate to Session in Nov.

Stewardship update indicated 163 pledges received plus an additional 22 regular givers. Some recommendations include making the pledging and giving opportunities easy to find on our website.

Ministry Priorities Mission Statement:

Following the previous meeting's discussion, an interim mission statement was created with Braden, Glenn and Terri. Session voted to approve the following mission statement: *To build a flourishing church that makes disciples of Jesus Christ*. Additional work on the mission statement is in the future and will include members of the congregation.

Officers of the Corporation were elected for Ministry Year 2022 as follows:

President: Jack Fellows, Treasurer: Cathy Marquis, and Secretary: Dean Stull pending his election as an elder at the next congregational meeting).

Explanation provided as to how the president is selected: the trustees select the vice president who becomes the president in the second year of his/her term. 3rd year president is president emeritus. Jack Fellows was selected last year as vice president; he will serve this year as president. Legal entity is the church which needs a legal set of officers for its corporation. One responsibility of the president is to sign large contracts such as with LCG.

Braden Mark provided an update on the Boulder Vision Project.

Annex funding is the priority. Matt Koschmann is helping with grant applications. The team is talking to people out the church who might be interested in investing in the project. 1st and 4th floors will be financed through debt that is covered by 4th floor revenue. Affordable housing will be financed through city grants and tax credits. Deed restricting for affordable housing or encumbering debt will require a vote of the congregation. After city approvals the exterior will be pretty set. The congregation will be engaged for all discussions regarding the interior of the project. There is a need to proactively communicate with the congregation. Quarterly is proposed as the right rhythm with updates on all projects. Quarterly communications should include printed communications. Nov 7 response sessions will layout all estimates, anticipated debt, timelines including anticipated congregational votes.

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