

## January 2022 Session in Review

Session of Grace Commons Church, Boulder, Colorado, met January 11, 2022. Rev Randy Bare was the moderator. The meeting began with an examination of the incoming officers for the Class of 2024.

Following the examination of the new officers, Session **approved the following new officers:**

Trustees: Gene Koch, Don Otero

Deacons: Debbi Tucker, Doug Walters

Elders: Shirley Berg, Spencer Dusebout, Dean Stull

Session approved the minutes and ministry reports from Session, Deacons, Trustees and Finance Committee. Session received the December Covenant Partner report which indicates we have 1074 covenant partners as of December 31, 2021.

Session also approved the **celebration of the Lord's Supper** for all worship services of Grace Commons, as necessary with shut ins and at any off-site ministry programs provided they can be properly administered by an approved celebrant for calendar year 2022.

**Session approved outside pastor**, Matt Rucker, St Peters Anglican Church, to perform a wedding at Grace Commons on June 25.

Session received a report from the Fire Response team. The Fire Response team consists of Terri Evans, Craig Rahenkamp, Linda Carlson, Debbi Tucker, and Elizabeth Boeve. The Fire Response team has been meeting daily. One primary work has been to get our work/offerings coordinated with other agencies – gov't and NGOs. Deacons are personally connecting with families from Grace Commons who were affected by the fire. The Deacons Closet is offering expanded hours to make clothing available. A benevolence policy is being prepared by Terri Evans and Gary Johnson to assist in the distribution of monetary gifts to those in need. Elders prayed for the victims and the response workers.

Greg Parr shared a plan for the Ministry Year 23 stewardship campaign. The intent is to finish a campaign before the end of the ministry year (proposing a March 2022 deadline). Communication plan includes monthly communications, pulpit announcement and physical mailing.

The Personnel Committee is looking at a variety of options to align personnel with the church budget. In addition, staff is working to match programming with the church mission statement and ministry priorities. Session will have recommendations to consider in April.

Steve Cartwright shared the status and future of Men's Ministry. Steve is retiring and a successor will be named soon. Although Steve is volunteer staff, the process and confidentiality of hiring is the same as for the paid staff. An announcement will be made following the appropriate application/approval process. Elders prayed for and celebrated Steve for his service and his future.

Session communication procedures is still being evaluated. Finding a single place to store all Session documents and communications in part of the solution. The church ByLaws are in review with the target of completion for a late spring congregational meeting.

Braden Mark provided an update on the Boulder Vision Project. On Dec 18, the Planning Board approved the main campus and Annex projects. Preschool will be opening in January. The preschool is an important piece in our engagement with young families. The BVP team will be reapplying for the Worthy Cause Grant in addition to investigating other grants for the Annex. Confirming financing for the Annex is key work for the next 6 months. There will be a town hall gathering on Feb 6 to communicate any updates on the Boulder Vision Project. This will be followed by updates on the first of each month – in person. Elders prayed for the preschool.

Randy shared another model of the “Church of the Future.” This time the model was from Bellevue Presbyterian Church in Washington. The church is one church with one lead pastor but 4 different models of worship expressions. Randy also presented the idea of meeting with a consulting firm such as AE Sloan Leadership, founded by Tod Bolsinger, author of *Canoeing the Mountains*. AE Sloan Leadership is consulting with churches to reach the next generation. Randy is working to include a Zoom meeting with another pastor for the next Session meeting. Demographic study through ECO will be done. Our university interns have valuable insight into understanding the Gen Z perspective.

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