

June 2022 Session in Review

Session of Grace Commons Church, Boulder, Colorado, met June 21, 2022. Rev Randy Bare was the moderator.

Cathy Marquis led a devotion based on the *Sermon on the Mount* and encouraged those present to not to judge others but to live in relationship with others. At times we are to sit in disagreement with one another, valuing the relationship more than the disagreement. She reminded us that the meeting agenda is full with a potential for robust conversations. Cathy reminded us to seek Jesus' heart and mind in conversations.

This is Cathy's last Session meeting. The elders spent time sharing with Cathy words of encouragement and praise as she moves on to retirement at the end of June. Her joy, patience, thoughtfulness and thoroughness in her job were sited.

Session approved the minutes and ministry reports from Session, Deacons, Trustees, Governance, Finance Committee, the Grace Commons Foundation and Racial Justice Ministry. Session approved 8 new covenant partners. Session also voted to appoint Larry Drees as the Treasurer of the Corporation in light of Cathy's retirement. Session received the May Covenant Partner report which indicates the recent purging of old records which a normal process during a transitional period. The records now indicate 830 covenant partners.

Lindsay Waymire and Linda Carlson joined the meeting for an update on the Deacons. Before they began their presentation, Randy took the opportunity to thank the Deacons for their role in supporting the community following the recent fire. On staff, Lindsay is transitioning to lead the work in spiritual formation and discipleship and this will include leadership of the Deacons. Lindsay and Linda (current moderator of Deacons) will be working together over the summer along with Dean Stull to write a charter for the Deacons. The hope is to increase the visitation opportunities within Deacons. A primary objective for the Deacons is to care for, empower, and equip those within the congregation to go out and serve. Lindsay, Linda, and Debbi (incoming moderator) will be meeting together once a week to draft the roles for the Deacons looking at hospitality, congregational care and hospital visitation.

As a member of the Mission Study Team (MST), Linda Carlson shared a progress report of the work of the MST. In addition to Linda the committee members are Sandy Bracken, Cindy Avenell, Stan Benjamin, Mary Woodson Felker and Matt Koschmann. They have been using the 2010 Mission Study Report as a format guide. The team is looking at our country, our community and our church. They have taken advantage of demographic information provided from an ECO resource: MissionInSite. They are including church data that is both current and projected into the future. They are working toward the August Session meeting to present the document to Session. Jonathon Anderson and Terri Evans prayed for this process.

Session approved the slate of new officers which will presented to the congregation for a vote. The slate includes:

Elders:

Kathy Baker
Debbie Carosella
Willie Knierim
Steve Rice

Deacons:

Lee Ann Nickerson (extending her current term for one year)
Cindy Avenell

Lynne Kendal-Wilson
Sarah Danford
Meridi Williams
Julie Scott
Bob Harlow

Trustees:

Warner Andrews (extending his term for one more year)
Michelle Killpack
Shelly Zumsteg
Gary Johnson

Following a vote by the congregation, the new officers will receive training prior to their ordination later in the summer.

Session voted to call a Congregational Meeting for July 17, to elect the slate of officers and to communicate information on the upcoming Ministry Year 2023 budget.

The Pastor Support Team of Jonathon Anderson, Shirley Berg and Jenny Fox provided the beginning of an evaluation of Transitional Pastor, Randy Bare. Randy excused himself from the meeting for this discussion. Jonathan Anderson served as moderator during for this item. The team's first responsibility is to review and renew Randy's contract for a period of one year. Session voted to renew Randy's contract with a minor change to the payment of social security benefits.

After several months of review and approvals, Dean Stull presented the final Charter of the Trustees. Session voted to approve this charter. It will serve as a model for the charters for all committees of Session.

Randy led a presentation of a new staff organizational chart.

Beginning July 1, Ash McDonald will be moving to a new half time role as Director of Guest Experience, and she will build a team focused on hospitality. Randy will continue to function as the Missions Pastor. Randy pointed out that churches are moving away from pastors for some ministry position and filling the positions with director level staff. This may be the case with the Missions Department.

A key aspect of the staff organization will be its focus on people under the age of 40. The roles of Middle School and High School Director will be merged into one position: Director of Student Ministry. The Director of Children and Family Ministry is being filled on a part-time volunteer basis by Emily Crider. University Ministry will include Dave Pommer as a director and intern(s). A new Director of Young Adult Ministry will be created.

Lindsay Waymire will lead the Spiritual Formation and Discipleship ministry. Shirley Davis is continuing in her role as the volunteer for Equipping. In Music and Worship, Joe Cutshall will continue fulltime as the Director of Worship and Creative Arts. Jim Keller is transitioning to a part-time position focusing on choirs. Business Office changes include the addition of Larry Drees, the interim Director of Administration and Operations. Outsourcing of some of our accounting and bookkeeping work will also be required and is designed to provide stability while reducing costs for the church over the long term.

Randy presented a motion for consideration regarding the Ministry Year 2023 budget. The narrative was based on the results of the Personnel Committee's work to put together an organization staffed to achieve mission and includes Co-Directors of Young Adult Ministry. Although there are significant reductions in personnel costs, the proposed budget still exceeds the anticipated income. Randy pointed out that while other options exist within the personnel budget to meet the target, they would be challenging at this time to absorb. Staffing to meet the goal of ministering to young adults is too important to the future of the

church. Randy also reminded Session of the steps Corona Pres in Denver took to hire 2 young pastors to minister to young adults. However, they waited to take that step until they were a congregation of 50 people. Elders challenged one another to take this risk now. The Ministry Year 2023 budget passed.

The budget will be communicated to the congregation through email and the upcoming Congregational Meeting.

Randy adjourned the meeting at 9:30pm with the singing of the Doxology.