

## November 2022 Session in Review

Session of Grace Commons Church, Boulder, Colorado, met November 10, 2022. Rev Randy Bare was the moderator.

Lindsay Waymire led a time of prayer and personal reflection using the song *Fresh Wind*.

Session approved the minutes and ministry reports from Session, Deacons, Trustees, Governance, Personnel Committee, and the Racial Justice Ministry. In addition, Session approved 16 new covenant partners who had recently completed the fall covenant partner class. The elders who met with this class to hear their faith stories were enthusiastic in their support of these newest members. Session received the October Covenant Partner report which records 823 covenant partners. The addition of our new class of covenant partners will be reflected in the November report.

### **Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) update:**

Alan Williams, representing the Congregational Nominating Committee presented the names of the 5 proposed members-at-large for the PNC.

Jen Wilger  
Matt Koschmann  
Lindsay Rohan  
Jeff Gagliardi  
Bob Stover

In selecting these 5, the Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) looked for a broad range of gifts and the potential positive chemistry amongst the team. The CNC valued their positive outlooks as they looked to the future of Grace Commons. The CNC also appreciated the candidates' engagement with the Mission Study Report which will be a fundamental part of their beginning work. The CNC considered other factors such as the demographics of age and gender.

Randy reviewed the process to date which included a 3-month period when members could nominate covenant partners for consideration.

Dean presented the currently serving officers who will also serve on the PNC:

Shelly Zumsteg, trustee  
Bob Harlow, deacon  
Debbie Carosella, elder  
Spencer Dusebout, elder

Session approved with gratitude the recommendation of the CNC for the Pastor Nominating Committee. The process now moves to the congregation for a vote at the November 20 Congregational Meeting.

### **Boulder Vision Project (BVP) update:**

Gene Koch led a review and discussion on the status of the Boulder Vision Project.

The Preschool has had a recent disappointment with the resignation of the director and the need to close 3 classes due to staffing challenges. Trustee, Don Culver, and Randy have met the new director candidate and asked her specifically about her management style. The start date for the new director is estimated to be Dec 1.

Gene presented the plans currently under consideration for the Annex project. At the January Session meeting, trustees will present the pro-forma and funding models for the Annex. The plans under consideration include affordable housing, market rate housing, event space and a job training element. The

city plan approval provides a window of time to get both the Annex project and the Main Campus under construction or the approvals will be expired. It was a Trustees decision that we should finish the Annex project first which allows time for the Preschool to be fully enrolled and demonstrating funding to the church.

#### **Personnel Update:**

Jenny Fox presented a proposal from the Personnel Committee to approve Emily Crider as an Assistant Pastor of Family Ministry. The proposal to bring Emily on board as a permanent not interim assistant pastor speaks to our long-term commitment to Children and Family Ministry.

Jenny shared Emily's qualifications for this role as her pastoral experience, maturity, experience working with and training volunteers, a heart for our church and a hopeful optimism for our future. The Personnel Committee agrees that Emily has the skills and vision to pull ministries together.

A motion to Session to approve Rev Emily Crider into the role of Assistant Pastor of Family Ministries was unanimously and enthusiastically approved.

#### **Worship Update:**

Randy updated the elders on recent communication regarding our one blended worship service. The service is getting primarily positive remarks. The Music and Worship team are working well together to plan a service that follows a model now call Convergent Worship. Elders felt that the unity expressed through the Convergent service is positive, and they do not wish to lose that element.

Randy adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm with the singing of the Doxology.