

July 2023 Session in Review

Session of Grace Commons Church, Boulder, Colorado, met July 13, 2023. Rev Randy Bare was the moderator. Session met a second time, via zoom on July 20.

The meeting began with an “examination” of the incoming officers guided by the currently serving elders. In small groups, the officers took time to discuss aspects of leadership.

At the conclusion of this time, the new officers were dismissed allowing the elders to formally vote to receive these officers. The elders commented on the character of this class of officers – their humility, faithfulness to prayer, vulnerability in sharing of hardships and steadfastness.

Session approved these candidates to proceed with ordination on July 30.

Session approved the minutes and ministry reports from Session, Trustees, Governance, the New Worship Experience staff team, Racial Justice Ministry and Young Adult Ministry. Session also gave permission to Pastor Rich Bledsoe to serve communion at the adult education class, *Chapel Experience*, on Sunday mornings. Session received the June Covenant Partnership Report, which records 819 covenant partners.

Clerk's Report:

Dean Stull presented the Deacons Charter and the Leadership Development Charters for final approval. Prior to the meeting one conflict between these two charters was identified. Shirley Berg will modify the Leadership Development Charter to include a Deacon in the composition of the nominating committee, aka T.E.D. The motion to approve the charters passed.

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) Update:

Debbie Carosella shared that the PNC is in the final weeks of their work. They are interviewing and evaluating three finalists this month, finishing with the third the weekend of July 23. The in person meetings include a dinner with candidates and spouses and a six-hour interview with the candidates. The PNC created the interview questions based on a longer questionnaire that each candidate completed during the process. Some questions are the same for each candidate and some are specific to the candidate based on what additional information the PNC might consider in their written questionnaire. Following the third interview, the PNC will meet multiple times in late July to discern which candidate to call to Grace Commons.

Executive Session:

Session spent some time in Executive Session to discuss recent staffing changes.

New Pastor Job Description and Terms of Call

Jonathon Anderson led a discussion on a new Pastor/Head of Staff Job Description and a draft of Terms of Call. There were several items in the job description and the terms of call that need clarifying or modification. The Pastor Support Committee will review both documents and return to Session for a final approval. Due to the time sensitive nature of these items, Randy suggested that a zoom meeting might need to be called in the next week.

At a July 20 zoom meeting, Session approved the modified Job Description and a draft Terms of Call which will be used by the Trustees to negotiate the final Terms of Call with our next Pastor/Head of Staff. The terms of call include a maximum salary of \$180K (including a housing allowance), retirement contribution, health insurance, minimum of 4 weeks of vacation and 2 weeks of study leave, a 3-month sabbatical after 7 years, life insurance, disability insurance and continuing education funding.

Stewardship Update:

Willie Knierim gave a brief update on the status of the Stewardship campaign. We have received 67% of the pledges needed and have \$1.55mil pledged to the Ministry Year 24 budget. Willie considers the situation to be a combination of people who have left Grace Commons and people who remain but have

chosen not to pledge at this time. Elders will have an opportunity through phone calls to listen to people and express our need for their financial support.

Boulder Vision Project:

Gene shared that the 1603 Walnut project is in a holding pattern. The team is looking at the schedule to reapply for the CHFA 9% funds. Pinkard Construction is looking at construction cost savings. Element Properties is communicating with the City of Boulder regarding our approval timeline. Trustees are investigating the possibility of proceeding with the demolition of the building to save utilities and insurance costs.

Annex Fundraiser Dinner:

Randy made the following motion:

Motion: to authorize the Annex ministry to host worship on the 3rd Sunday in September and a November fundraising banquet at a date tentatively set for the weekend of November 3-5, 2023. Funds raised will be designated to support Annex Ministry only.

Although this is not entirely replacing the Messenger Dinner of past years, it is a way to help University Ministry bridge the gap between the funding that the church budget can support and their greater ministry needs. It also provides a specific opportunity to connect and invite many alumni who are no longer nearby or attending Grace Commons by giving them a vehicle to support the ministry.

This motion passed.

Randy adjourned the meeting at 9:15pm with the singing of the Doxology.