

# Grace Commons Church Session Meeting Minutes

Date: Sept 14, 2023

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Westminster Hall, Grace Commons Church

Moderator: Rev. Emily Crider

## Session Members present:

Kathy Baker

Shirley Berg

Emily Crider

Topher Fox

Willie Knierim

Lynnie Parr

Steve Rice

Lisa Schone

Dean Stull

## Others present:

Gene Koch

Janet Schultz

Carl Hofmann

Jonathon Anderson

A quorum was confirmed, and the moderator called the meeting to order. Carl Hofmann opened the meeting with a devotion and a reflection on his sabbatical. Carl read Paul's prayer from Philippians 1:3-11, which is an encouragement to unite through joy and togetherness. Elders broke into small groups to pray.

## Agenda approval:

The following agenda was provided in advance of the meeting. Session approved the agenda, minutes, matters of record and committee with two modifications: Elder Dean Stull will serve as the elder representative to the upcoming Presbytery meeting. Stephen Fries was identified as the vice president of Trustees.

6:30pm	Establish Quorum; Call Meeting to Order	Emily	Motion
6:30-6:55	Devotion	Carl	
6:55-7:00	Consent Items for approval	Emily	Yes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Session meeting agenda</li> <li>● Session meeting minutes: Aug 10, 2023</li> <li>● Congregational meeting minutes: Sept 10, 2023</li> <li>● Revised Session meeting minutes: Oct 11, 2022</li> <li>● Covenant Partnership Reports: Aug 31, 2023</li> <li>● Accept committee reports (NS=not submitted): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Trustees</li> <li>○ Deacons</li> <li>○ Governance</li> <li>○ LDC</li> <li>○ MESH (NS)</li> <li>○ PSC (NS)</li> <li>○ Stewardship</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Accept ministry reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New worship experience</li> <li>○ RJM</li> <li>○ Young Adult ministry</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Elect officers of the corporation according the bylaw requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gene Koch, President,</li> <li>○ TBD, Vice President;</li> <li>○ Dean Stull, Secretary,</li> <li>○ Larry Drees, Treasurer</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Select 1 elder delegates for the Sept. 29-30, 2023 presbytery meeting</li> </ul>		
7:00-7:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Clerk's report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Covenant of Session</li> <li>○ Second reading for motion to Dissolve the Governance Committee and integrate governance under the Clerk duties</li> <li>○ Interim Head of Staff discussion under executive session.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Dean	Yes
7:10-7:15	Executive Session	Dean	
7:15-7:25	Interim Head of Staff compensation vote	Dean	yes
7:25-7:35	New Pastor update	Emily/Gene	
7:35-7:50	Stewardship update/Phone call debrief	Kathy/Willie	

7:50-8:00	Break		
8:00-8:15	Maui Fire Relief fundraiser Marshall Fire task force acknowledgement	Emily	
8:15-8:25	Mercy Ministry Task Force update	Lisa	
8:25-8:40	Trustees update	Gene	
	Looking ahead		
Sept 17	UMin Sunday		
Sept 29-30	Presbytery of the West meeting at Grace Commons Church		
Oct/Nov	Initiate MY 2025 pledge campaign		
Oct 12	Session Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stewardship update</li> <li>• MESH ministry report</li> <li>• Trustees report</li> <li>• Foundation presentation with Merry Lynne Hamilton</li> </ul>		
Oct 15	New covenant partners to meet with elders		
Nov 9	Session Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MESH ministry report</li> <li>• Trustees report</li> <li>• Stewardship report</li> </ul>		

#### Clerk Report: Dean Stull

The Covenant of Session was distributed and all elders signed the document.

The following motion was put forth by the Governance Committee:

*That the Governance Committee be dissolved effective immediately and that future governance questions or requirements be referred to the Clerk of Session.*

The motion passed.

A Motion was made to move to Executive Session and transfer moderator duties to Dean Stull during the executive session.

Motion passed.

The regular meeting reconvened.

The following motion was made and seconded:

*Elder Dean Stull serving as Clerk of Session moves that Emily Crider's compensation be increased by 25% of her monthly compensation per month while serving as Interim Head of Staff and that said compensation be retroactive to August 1, 2023.*

Motion passed.

Pastor Emily Crider returned to the meeting and resumed her duties as moderator.

#### **New Pastor Update: Emily Crider**

Emily briefly updated Session to report that Anthony Ceder is set to begin the end of October.

#### **Stewardship Update: Kathy Baker**

Kathy reported that the Stewardship team meets monthly, and their minutes are included in the Session Packet. Stewardship will be an annual process with weekly, monthly and quarterly communications to the congregation that include a clear vision and partnership in mission.

#### **Maui Fire Relief Fundraiser: Jonathon Anderson**

Jonathon, as a representative of the Marshall Fire Task Force, proposed that the congregation be encouraged to support the efforts to recover from the recent Maui fire in response to the support the church received following the Marshall Fire. Jonathon will provide the name of an agency or two to whom anyone interested could direct giving.

Dean recommended that the Marshall Fire Task Force disband with great gratitude from Session. No formal action of Session is required.

A more complete reporting of the distribution of donated funds for Marshall Fire Relief will be prepared by the Marshall Fire Task Force for communication to the congregation.

#### **Mercy Ministry Task Force Update: Lisa Schone**

This group has not begun to meet as moderator Jim Remnant has been out of town.

#### **Trustees Update: Gene Koch, President of Trustees**

Gene reported on the following:

- Boulder Vision Project status
- Financial update
- Church liability related to the transportation with the church vans.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm with a singing of the Doxology.

Emily Crider, Moderator

Dean Stull, Clerk

Date approved by Session: October 12, 2023