

Grace Commons Church Session Meeting Minutes

Date: Jan 11, 2024

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Westminster Hall, Grace Commons Church

Moderator: Rev. Emily Crider/Anthony Ceder

Session Members present:

Kathy Baker

Shirley Berg

Debbie Carosella

Anthony Ceder

Emily Crider

Topher Fox

Willie Knierim

Lynnie Parr

Steve Rice

Lisa Schone

Dean Stull

Others present:

Steve Fries

Cindy Avenell

Janet Schultz

Carl Hofmann

Shirley Davis

A quorum was confirmed, and Emily Crider called the meeting to order. Debbie Carosella opened the meeting with a devotion leading the elders in small groups through a time of discussion and reflection on busyness and a desire to control our time using Ps 46:10, Matt 11, and Phil 4. Following the devotion, Anthony opened the meeting in prayer.

Agenda approval:

The following agenda was provided in advance of the meeting. Session approved the agenda, minutes, matters of record, committee reports with minor corrections to the minutes and packet. The serving of communion as part of worship and in the visitation of shut-ins was approved for 2024.

6:30pm	Establish Quorum; Call Meeting to Order	Anthony Ceder	Motion
6:30-6:55	Devotion	Debbie Carosella	
6:55-7:00	Consent Items for approval	Anthony	Yes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session meeting agenda • Session meeting minutes: Nov 9, 2023 • Covenant Partnership Reports: Dec 31, 2023 • Accept committee reports (NS=not submitted): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trustees ○ Deacons ○ Finance ○ Governance ○ LDT (NS) ○ Mercy Ministry Task Force ○ MESH (NS) ○ PSC ○ Stewardship ○ TED • Accept ministry reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Foundation ○ New worship experience ○ RJM ○ Young Adult ministry <p>Approve the celebration of the Lord's Supper for calendar year 2024, to include all worship services of Grace Commons, as necessary with shut ins and at any ministry programs provided the sacrament can be properly administered by an approved celebrant.</p>		
7:00-7:05	<p>Clerk's report:</p> <p>Motion to approve the TED slate expectations.</p> <p>Motion to Approve housing allowances for 2024 for Anthony Ceder, Carl Hofmann, Emily Crider and Rich Bledsoe.</p>	Dean	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>
7:05-7:25	Stewardship update and prayer celebration	Kathy/Willie	
7:25-7:35	Break		
7:35-7:55	MESH: Local Missions	Shirley Davis	
7:55-8:05	Mercy Ministry Task Force update	Lisa	
8:05-8:20	Trustees update:	Steve Fries	

	BVP update Financial report		
8:20-8:30	Worship topics: Communion New Worship Experience	Anthony	
8:30-9:00	Executive Session and Adjournment	Moderator/Clerk	
	Looking ahead		
Jan 29-Feb 1	ECO National Gathering		
Jan-May	TED officer nominating process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> January: recruiting March: interviewing April: compiling slate May: Session approval June: Congregation approval 		
Feb-Mar	Stewardship Pledge campaign for Ministry Year 2025.		
Feb 8	Session Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stewardship report MESH Report Mercy Ministry Task Force Recommendations Finance Update Update on 1603 Walnut ECO National Gathering update 		
Feb 25	Installation service for Anthony Ceder. Jim Candy to preach.		
Mar 14	Session Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stewardship report MESH Report Mercy Ministry Task Force Recommendations TED report/update Finance Update Update on 1603 Walnut 		

June 2	Congregational meeting to approve the slate of new officers.		
--------	--	--	--

Clerk Report: Dean Stull

Dean presented the following motion for approval.

MOTION: Having received no comments or questions since the November Session meeting, the Clerk of Session moves that Session request that the Nominating Committee (TED) as part of the Leadership Development Committee, seek to fill the following open slots for the elected offices of deacon, trustee, and elder:

- *Deacons: 8 deacons, Class of 2027*
- *Trustees: 3 trustees, Class of 2027, 1 trustee, Class of 2025*
- *Session: 3 elders, Class of 2027*

The motion passed.

Dean presented the following motion for approval.

MOTION: To approve the housing allowances for Grace Commons pastors as listed:

Hofmann: \$35,000

Ceder: \$85,000

Crider: \$41,000

Bledsoe: \$25,000

The motion passed.

Dean distributed the Devotion schedule for this year.

Stewardship Update: Kathy Baker

Kathy led a time of prayer and thanksgiving for all that God did during our Prayer Campaign, which was followed, by a second time of prayer for trust in God.

MESH: Shirley Davis

Shirley provided an overview of the work of the Local Missions department following her 5-month assignment of leading the Local Missions committee while Russ was on sabbatical.

Mercy Ministry Task Force Update: Lisa Schone

Lisa gave an update on the work of the Mercy Ministry Task Force and their efforts to form a team and begin their work.

After a discussion, Dean Stull, Lisa Schone and Lynn Parr will meet to prepare a strategy to move forward and bring a proposal back to Session for review at the February meeting.

Trustees Update: Stephen Fries, President of Trustees

Steve reported on the following:

- Preschool status, particularly issues with their playground

- Boulder Vision Project/1603 Walnut update
- Human Resources and Staff policy updates

Worship Topics: Anthony Ceder

Anthony reported that the January communion experience of passing the plates of bread and juice was well received.

Anthony presented the following motion for approval.

MOTION: to approve the distribution of communion by passing the plates of bread and juice elements through May 2024.

The motion was made and seconded.

The motion passed.

Executive Session:

Dean presented the following motion for approval.

MOTION: to move to executive session for the final items of discussion and extend the meeting until 9:15pm.

The motion was made and seconded.

The Motion passed.

Following executive session, the meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Anthony Ceder, Moderator

Dean Stull, Clerk

Date approved by Session: February 8, 2024