

Grace Commons Church Session Meeting Minutes

Date: May 8, 2025

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Westminster Hall, Grace Commons Church

Moderator: Pastor Anthony Ceder

Session Members present:

Kathy Baker
Debbie Carosella
Anthony Ceder
Deb DuPont
Lynnie Parr

Steve Rice
Doug Rutherford
Lisa Schone
Jen Wilger

Others present:

Greg Parr
Janet Schultz
Kathy Haddock
Dave Pommer
Carol Turpin
Cindy Avenell
Larry Drees

Clerk Greg Parr called the meeting to order at 6:33pm and a quorum was confirmed. Kathy Baker opened the meeting in prayer.

Agenda Approval:

The following agenda was provided in advance of the meeting. Session approved the meeting agenda and the consent items. Carol Turpin was introduced as the incoming moderator of the Deacons.

6:30pm	Establish Quorum; Call Meeting to Order	Anthony Ceder	Motion
6:30-6:40	Opening Prayer		
	Consent Items for approval	Anthony	Yes

6:40-6:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session meeting agenda • Session meeting minutes: April 10, 2025 • Covenant Partnership Reports: Apr 30, 2025 • Accept committee reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trustees ○ Deacons ○ Pastor Support ○ Stewardship ○ TED Committee <p>Approve the following search committee for the Director of Ministry Support and Hospitality Lynnie Parr (Moderator and elder rep) Meridi Williams Howard Anderson Shirley Berg Bill Hathaway-Clark Anthony Ceder</p>		
6:45-7:00	<p>Approval of the slate of officers for the class of 2028</p> <p>Call a congregational Meeting – June 1</p>	Topher Fox	Yes
7:00-7:20	Trustees Report	Kathy Haddock	
7:20-7:35	Ministry Year 2026 Budget, first reading	Larry Drees	
7:35-8:05	<p>Personnel Update:</p> <p>Review proposed organizational chart</p> <p>Update regarding open positions</p>	Anthony Ceder	
8:05-8:10	Set date for June Session Meeting	Greg Parr	
	Looking ahead		
June 1	Tentative Congregational Meeting to elect new officers		
June	Session meeting – date TBD		

TED Committee report: Debbie Carosella

Debbie presented the following motion which was made and seconded:

To approve the following slate of officers for the Class of 2028 and to approve one member at large for the TED committee.

TED Slate of New officers

Office	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
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Trustees		Barb Allan Darren Davenport Gene Koch Kent Thompson
Elders		Geoff Babb Diana Maxwell John Tucker Alan Williams
Deacons		Kenny Brown Regan Ebert Deb Gregory Judy Litsey Jany Teets Debbi Tucker Ellen Weekley
TED Committee Member at Large	Andi Anderson	

The motion passed with thanks to the TED committee for their wonderful work.

Debbie then presented the following motion:

To call a congregational meeting on June 1 at 9:30am to elect the officers for the class of 2028 and one member at large for the TED committee.

The motion was made and seconded. Following a brief discussion regarding the timing of the meeting, the motion passed.

Per our bylaws, the meeting will be advertised 2 weeks prior to the meeting. The meeting will also include a current year budget update.

Trustees Update: Kathy Haddock

- The trustees have a meeting scheduled with the Learning Care Group who manages the preschool to discuss their underperformance.
- The construction schedule for the 1603 Walnut project is on track overall. Xcel has impacted the project by the delay in relocating the overhead power lines.
- The Boulder Police Department will be providing a security training for the staff and any church officers who wish to attend.

Ministry Year 2026 Budget 1st reading: Larry Drees

In addition to the materials included in the Session Packet, Larry distributed an overview of covenant partner giving and a new summary of suggested budget modifications for MY26.

The MY26 budget under review is \$3.6mil. Trustees are recommending that Session do not approve a deficit budget. Larry recommended that the budget be \$3mil.

A lengthy discussion followed including how to increase giving among the current contributors, how to attract new giving units, and how to align the budget with the church's ministry needs and donations.

Anthony shared that our budget distribution closely aligns with ECO's recommendations:
60% personnel costs

4-5% missions
10% program costs
20% business/administration/facilities
5% contingency

Greg Parr, Doug Rutherford and any other elders who are available, will meet with Larry on Tues, May 13, 9:30am to review the options to match the MY26 budget to projected giving.

Personnel Organizational chart: Anthony

Anthony reviewed the proposed staff organizational chart that was included in the Session Packet.

The organizational chart allows for

- no staff layoffs by reallocating staff to other open or new roles
- a new position of Director of Engagement as a role for Jenn Ceder
- some future positions to remain unfilled in this next year

Dave Pommer is attending his last ECO ordination retreat with the hope that he is will be ready for ordination this summer.

Related to the personnel work, Debbie Carosella presented the following motion:

To approve the Search Committee as listed for the Director of Finance and Operations position.

Debbie Carosella, Elder & Chair

Kathy Haddock, Trustee

Kathy Baker, Elder

Howard Anderson, Trustee

David DuPont, member at large

Bob Stover, member at large

Doug Rutherford, Elder

Anthony Ceder, Pastor

The motion was made and seconded.

A discussion followed concerning the role of an outside firm. This formation of this committee does not remove the possibility of using an outside firm.

Motion passed.

The June Session meeting date of June 12 may change as Anthony will be away on the Puerto Rico Mission trip. Janet will send out other possible meeting options for consideration.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Anthony Ceder, Moderator

Greg Parr, Clerk

Date approved by Session: June 12, 2025