

Session Meeting Minutes

Date: February 12, 2026

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Westminster Hall, Grace Commons Church

Moderator: Anthony Ceder

Present:

Elders: Geoff Babb; Topher Fox; Deb DuPont; Diana Maxwell; Linnie Parr; Doug Rutherford; Lisa Schone; John Tucker; Jen Wilger; and Alan Williams.

Kathy Haddock, President of Trustees also attended.

Clerk Greg Parr

Pastor Anthony Ceder

A quorum was determined and the meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

The meeting was opened with reflections on some of the events surrounding Jesus' trials, interactions with Pilate, and crucifixion from John chapter 19, and prayer that the Ash Wednesday service would honor the sacrifice of Jesus.

The consent agenda was moved and passed. There were minor corrections. The annual Congregational meeting was confirmed for June 7 for the election of church officers.

Agenda Approval:

6:30pm	Establish Quorum; Call Meeting to Order		Motion
6:30-6:45	Opening prayer	Anthony Ceder	
	Consent Items for approval	Greg Parr	Yes

6:45-7:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Session meeting agenda ● Session meeting minutes: January 8, 2025 ● Covenant Partnership Report ● Accept committee reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trustees ○ Deacons ○ LDT ○ Stewardship ○ Interim Staff Hiring and Evaluation ○ MESH 		
7:05-7:20	Congregational care plan	Lindsay Waymire	
7:20-7:45 Break	Assistant Pastor interviews, discussion	Anthony Ceder	yes
7:50-8:20	Ministry planning for next year's budget	Anthony Ceder, Finance committee Elders, staff	
8:20-8:40	Head of Staff and Pastoral updates	Anthony Ceder	
	Looking ahead		
January and February	Ministry planning and Finance committee Budget work for MY 2027	Session and subcommittees	
March 12	Session Meeting, joint with Trustees?		

Budget and ministry objectives: Elder Geoff Babb presented preliminary MY2027 budget figures. These came from department requests and Trustee input. The Finance committee will be the primary group working on developing budget options to present to the congregation before the end of this ministry year in May. Geoff Babb and Alan Williams will represent Session in these meetings, along with Pastor Ceder and Trustees.

The concept of a “dream big budget” was discussed, so that there could be ministry aspirations as well as the practicalities of necessary operations. The presentation also identified budget items that have varying levels of flexibility, to help the Finance

committee discern areas that might be altered or reduced for final presentation. Session needs to approve a new budget before the ministry year ends on June 30.

Assistant Pastor matters: Pastor Ceder initiated a discussion reviewing the status of our ordination candidates and how as an ECO church, Session is responsible for calling Assistant Pastors. In our former denomination, Assistant and Associate Pastors could not be “promoted” from existing positions without full pastoral search and had to be called by the congregation. ECO allows a church to call pastors to Assistant roles by vote of Session. We are considering calling two existing staff members, Lindsay Waymire and Dave Pommer as Assistant Pastors.

Session will interview both candidates and spend time in prayer and discernment regarding their call as Assistant Pastors. The interview with Lindsay is tonight, and Dave will be interviewed at the next regular Session meeting. Elders will gather for a time to review and discuss both candidate interviews at a time to be determined, prior to the April Session meeting.

There was also discussion regarding changes to responsibilities and leadership that these staff members would likely encounter, if called to pastoral positions. Session’s Staffing committee will be bringing more information regarding these issues.

Interview with Lindsay Waymire. Session took extended time to interview Lindsay and hear her call as a pastor focusing on congregational care. A time of prayer for Lindsay concluded this portion of the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9:00 with the singing of the Doxology.

Anthony Ceder, Moderator

Greg Parr, Acting Clerk