

# Session Meeting Minutes

Date: April 9, 2026

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Westminster Hall, Grace Commons Church

Moderator: Anthony Ceder

## **Present:**

Elders: Alan Williams, Jennifer Wilger, Diana Maxwell, John Tucker, Linnie Parr, Lisa Schone, Topher Fox, Geoff Babb,

Kathy Haddock, President of Trustees also attended.

Clerk Greg Parr

Pastor Anthony Ceder

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 after a quorum was determined.

## 1. Opening and Easter Reflections

- The meeting began with informal sharing and gratitude centered on the **Easter season**.
- Participants were invited to reflect on how they saw **God at work through Grace Commons Church**, particularly during Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.
- Elders shared that they appreciated:
  - Unexpected visitors and unchurched families attending Easter services.
  - First-time or infrequent attendees feeling welcomed.
  - Encounters with friends, neighbors, and acquaintances showing renewed interest in church.
  - Strong emotional and spiritual responses to Good Friday and Easter worship, including the choir anthem.
- Other comments emphasized:
  - Hospitality, warmth and authenticity of the church community.
  - Children's ministry, youth involvement and volunteer engagement.
  - Contrast between church community and more secular neighborhood Easter experiences.

## Pastoral Reflections

The importance of resurrection hope.

Gratitude for staff, volunteers and unseen prayer support.

A focus on ongoing spiritual fruit, not just Easter attendance.

- Session entered into a time of prayer of thanksgiving and petition for lasting impact on those who attended Easter services.

## 2. Agenda and Old Business

- Review of agenda and previous meeting minutes.

- Motion made and passed to approve the consent agenda.
- Motion made and passed to accept prior minutes without corrections.

6:30pm	Establish Quorum; Call Meeting to Order		Motion
6:30-6:45	Opening prayer		
	Consent Items for approval	Greg Parr	Yes
6:45-7:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Session meeting agenda</li> <li>● Session meeting minutes: March 12, 2026 March 13, 2026</li> <li>● Covenant Partnership Report</li> <li>● Accept committee reports:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Trustees</li> <li>○ Deacons</li> <li>○ LDT</li> <li>○ PSC</li> <li>○ Stewardship</li> <li>○ MESH</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		Yes
7:00-7:10	Clerk's Report	Greg Parr	Yes
7:10-7:20 7:20-7:45 Break	TED update  Ministry planning and Budget update  Break	TED Team  Finance	
7:55-8:25	Old Business—postponed vote on Ordination candidates	Greg Parr	Yes
8:25-9:00	Head of Staff and Pastoral updates-budget	Anthony Ceder	
	Looking ahead		

March and April	Ministry planning and Finance committee Budget work for MY 2027	Session and subcommittees	
May 14	Session Meeting		
June 7	Family/Congregational meeting		

### Clerk's Report

- Introduction of the **second reading of the Security Team Charter**.
- Confirmation that revisions incorporated prior feedback.
- Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the charter.

### 3. TED overview

- Discussion of current and upcoming needs for:
  - Elders
  - Trustees
  - Deacons
- Desire to fill full slates for each leadership class.
- Explanation of a personalized outreach process to potential nominees.
- Emphasis on:
  - Confidentiality
  - Prayerful discernment
  - Respect for personal timing and life circumstances
- Recognition that additional followup may be needed to clarify next steps for nominees.
- Explicit concern raised about the **need for more female elders**.
- Recognition that current leadership is less balanced than in prior years.

Prayer offered asking God to guide and confirm the right individuals for church leadership roles.

### 4. Budget and Financial Overview

- Update on giving trends:
  - Slower January and February.
  - Exceptionally strong March giving.
- Estimated annual giving range discussed. Trend indicates \$3.2 to \$3.3 million by end of year
- Discussion of realistic targets for the upcoming year.
- Presentation of **three financial scenarios** (pessimistic, moderate, optimistic):
  - Staffing adjustments
  - Program funding

- Facilities and reserve contributions
- Optimistic scenario includes “**wish list**” items, moderate and pessimistic scenarios include reductions from that level, and may not include cut to existing staff and ministries.
- Discussion of reserve study results showing long-term needs, especially HVAC replacement.
- Acknowledgement that current reserve funding is far below ideal levels.
- Agreement that Session and Trustees need to be considering contingency plans if major systems fail.
- Decision to eliminate rented offsite parking to reduce costs.
- Discussion of safety, accessibility and staff logistics related to parking.

#### 5. Stewardship Strategy

- Only a portion of giving households submit formal commitments, though these represent a significant share of total giving.
- Recognition that commitment data is very helpful in determining annual total revenue.
- Plans to:
  - Revisit commitment cards at May family meeting for MY 2027
  - Improve giving accessibility and technology
  - Explore external stewardship consulting resources from ECO (Fuel training)
- Acknowledge that pastoral leadership and clear communication significantly influence generosity.

#### 6. Budget Timeline and Governance Process

- Budget review underway with trustees, session, staffing and finance committees.
- Timeline laid out for:
  - Feedback
  - Revised drafts
  - First and second readings-May Session and Trustees
  - Final approval -Planned for June
- Anticipated family meetings to provide updates and maintain transparency.
- Future congregational meeting to affirm officer slate.

#### 7. Pastoral Calls and Staffing Decisions

- Reintroduction of postponed motions to call **Dave Pommer** and **Lindsay Waymire** as assistant pastors.
- The discussion centered on:
  - Long-term pastoral calling, not just immediate job descriptions
  - Growth, development and flexibility of roles over time

#### Motions and Votes

- After discussion, motions were made and passed unanimously to:
  - Call Dave Pommer as **Assistant Pastor in the area of Generational Ministries**
  - Call Lindsay Waymire as **Assistant Pastor in the area of Congregational Care**

## Communication and Implementation

- Acknowledgement that roles will mature gradually, shaped by:
  - Budget realities
  - Staffing transitions
  - Ministry needs
- Salaries and benefits to adjust beginning July 1, and terms of call to be sent to ECO.
- Plan to address session voice/vote status and installation details in future meetings.

## 8. Pastoral Comments

Pastor Ceder introduced “Find Your Circle” Framework

- Introduction of a unifying ministry vision focused on:
  - Small groups and microcommunities
  - Shared experiences
  - Biblical learning
- Aim to simplify and align adult ministries (men’s, women’s, home groups).
- September envisioned as a churchwide push for connection and belonging.
- Common language and branding to be used across generations.
- Periodic unified teaching experiences planned throughout the year.

## 9. Transition to Executive Session and Adjournment

- Motion made and passed to enter executive (closed) session to discuss confidential staffing and budget matters.
- Motion made and passed to leave executive session.  
The meeting was adjourned with the singing of doxology at 9:15.

Anthony Ceder, Moderator

Greg Parr, Clerk