

Session Meeting Minutes

Date: July 9, 2026

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Westminster Hall, Grace Commons Church

Moderator: Elder Topher Fox

Present:

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

Kathy Haddock, President of Trustees

Clerk Greg Parr

Lindsay Waymire, Dave Pommer, Assistant Pastor candidates

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

The meeting was opened with prayers of hope and expectation for the new Ministry Year.

The consent agenda was moved and passed. There were minor corrections.

Agenda Approval:

6:30pm	Establish Quorum; Call Meeting to Order		Motion
6:30-6:45	Opening prayer	Session Members	
	Consent Items for approval	Greg Parr	Yes
6:45-7:00	• Session meeting agenda • Session meeting minutes: June 11, 2026,2 • Covenant Partnership Report • Accept committee reports: - o Trustees - o LDT - o Stewardship - o Interim Staff Hiring and Evaluation - o MESH		
7:00-7:15	Clerk's report	Greg Parr	
7:15-7:25	Staffing Committee Charter	Jen Wilger	yes
7:25-7:40	Trustee report	Kathy Haddock	
7:40-7:50	Stewardship and budget update MY 2026	Geoff Babb	

7:50-8:10	Planning for Fall Circles	Topher Fox	
8:10-9:	Head of Staff and Pastoral updates	Anthony Ceder	
	Looking ahead		
August 13	Session meeting		

Devotional and Opening Prayer

The meeting opened with a devotional from *Seeking God's Face*, including readings from Psalm 9 and 1 Peter about refuge, humility, anxiety, endurance, and God's restoration. Members then named hopes for the coming ministry year, including leadership unity, joy in serving, generous hearts, leaning into the Grace Commons name, new believers and covenant partners, proactive leadership, youth ministry growth, children's ministry, the Annex, and the church's mission in Boulder County. The devotional ended with prayer for the items named by Session members.

Moderator and Assistant Pastor Voice/Vote

Elder Topher Fox was nominated and approved as moderator for the evening in the absence of Pastor Ceder. Before voting to approve the consent agenda, the group discussed whether assistant pastors have voice and vote on Session. The current Grace Commons bylaws indicate that assistant pastors called by Session automatically have voice and vote, though this differs from ECO polity, which gives the Congregation the authority to give assistant pastors voice and vote. Several members noted the issue may need future congregational clarification or bylaw review, but for now assistant pastors have voice and vote under the existing bylaws.

The consent agenda was approved after minor corrections related to the VUE/Boulder naming convention.

Clerk's report

The group discussed how emails sent to Session should be received, reviewed, and answered. Members favored having all of Session see incoming messages while

designating a smaller group to determine appropriate responses and prevent unnecessary reply-all discussion. Jen Wilger, Greg Parr, and Lindsay Waymire were identified as initial members of the triage group, with the goal of creating a practical procedure rather than a formal motion.

Bonnie Johnson and Jenn Ceder continue reviewing church facility guidelines for weddings.

The staffing committee's interim term was discussed, including whether it should be extended or made permanent. A motion passed to extend the current staffing/hiring/evaluation committee charter for three months while a permanent charter is drafted and reviewed.

The group also discussed an upcoming assessment process featuring DISC, emotional intelligence, and motivations facilitated by Shirley Davis, funded through a grant from the Grace Commons Foundation, with staff and Session expected to participate in debrief sessions. There was consensus to go ahead with scheduling for the debrief sessions.

Several upcoming dates were reviewed, including Lindsay's and Dave's ordinations and installations (Lindsay July 26; Dave September 13); an August family meeting (August 2), the Party in the Parking Lot (August 23), Foundation Sunday (October 4), and the Annex open houses. The group discussed whether August 2 would be an appropriate family meeting date and noted that fall communication should include ministry opportunities, service, stewardship, and Annex-related updates.

Trustees Report: Main Campus and Annex

The trustees reported that the proposed main campus work came in higher than the desired range. A large amount of that amount relates to necessary mechanical and HVAC improvements. The city's response to revising our building authorization may require the church to restart certain approval processes, potentially adding cost and time. For the Annex, trustees reported a letter of intent from a vendor for the first floor, though terms remain under negotiation. The Annex residential component appears to be progressing, with Brothers Redevelopment interviewing tenant applicants. The group also discussed how the Annex can bless the city and how the church might welcome tenants and neighbors through events, welcome bags, and broader congregational engagement.

Generosity, Budget, and Stewardship

The generosity report noted giving of approximately \$3.33 million for the year, exceeding the original expectation but falling a bit short of our goal. Due to some expense reductions, the final budget may be balanced. The next-year budget is set at \$3.5 million, viewed as achievable based on current giving trends. Trustees recommended quarterly budget reviews, with the possibility of adjustments as giving trends become clearer. Members emphasized celebrating the congregation's generosity while remaining attentive to future stewardship needs.

Simple Church, Circles, and Ministry Engagement

The group discussed how to move forward with the Simple Church work and the “Find Your Circle” concept. Staff and elders acknowledged that more Session involvement is needed in shaping the process, and a smaller group of Elders plan to work with the existing staff team to develop a fall plan. The discussion focused on helping people find circles for fellowship, study, neighborhood connection, service, and ministry involvement. Members noted the need to simplify messaging so that congregants understand how to connect, serve, and grow as disciples without being overwhelmed by competing initiatives.

Alan Williams Resigns from Session

Alan shared that, due to family circumstances and increased responsibilities at work, he needs to step down from Session at the end of July. Members expressed gratitude for his leadership, wisdom, humility, and service, and prayed for Alan, his parents, his work responsibilities, and the church’s ongoing leadership.

Communication Security and Document Management

Darren Davenport, Director of Ministry Operations (DMO), outlined proposed improvements to document security and communication practices. He recommended using Google Drive rather than email threads and attachments for Session documents, agenda packets, policies, and shared editing. Benefits include better permissions, version control, simultaneous editing, and reduced risk of sensitive information being forwarded or exposed. He also recommended communicating confidentiality expectations, updated policies, and training for Session members on safe document practices.

Executive Session

A motion was made, seconded and passed to move into executive session to discuss various staff and personnel matters.

The meeting concluded with a motion to exit executive session, close the meeting, and sing the Doxology at 9:15pm.

Topher Fox
Acting Moderator

Greg Parr
Clerk of Session

Approved by Session August 13, 2026