

Session Meeting Minutes

Date: June 11, 2026

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Westminster Hall, Grace Commons Church

Moderator: Anthony Ceder

Present:

Elders: Geoff Babb; Topher Fox; Diana Maxwell; Lynnie 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 prayer regarding appreciation of outgoing elders and praise for the incoming class.

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	Anthony Ceder	
	Consent Items for approval	Greg Parr	Yes
6:45-7:00	• Session meeting agenda • Session meeting minutes: May 14, 2026 • Covenant Partnership Report • Accept committee reports: ○ Trustees ○ LDT ○ Stewardship ○ Interim Staff Hiring and Evaluation ○ MESH		
7:00-7:10	TED follow up after Congregational Meeting	TED team	
7:10-7:20	Trustees report	Kathy Haddock	
7:20-7:30	Staffing charter update, move from Interim committee	Jen Wilger	yes

7:30-8:00	Stewardship and budget update	Geoff Babb Alan Williams	
8:00-8:10	break		
8:10-9:00	Head of Staff and Pastoral updates	Anthony Ceder	
9:00-9:15	Approve MY 2026/2027 budget		yes
	Looking ahead		
June 12	Session retreat Ministry Planning	Session and staff	
July 1	All officer dinner/social	Trustees, Elders, Deacons	

Consent Items and Minutes Approval

The meeting opened with review of consent items and prior minutes. A correction was noted in the trustee notes, where Jonathan Anderson had mistakenly been referred to as Jonathan Edwards. After brief discussion, the consent items and minutes were approved with the understanding that a few related matters would be discussed further.

Session Communication and Email Plan

The group discussed the need for a clearer process for handling emails sent to the Session. The main concern was ensuring that messages are acknowledged in a timely way, directed to the appropriate person or group, and not lost or overlooked. A proposed solution was to create a small triage team, possibly including the clerk and a few elders, to review incoming messages, determine the appropriate response or referral, and then share relevant items with the full session. The intent is not to withhold communication from the Session, but to provide a process for timely care, confidentiality and orderly discussion. The group expressed general support for trying this approach, and Jen Wilger volunteered to help and develop a more specific plan.

Leadership Development and Officer Training

Leadership Development reported positively on the officer nomination and election process. The slate of officers was received warmly by the congregation, and several members expressed gratitude for the work of the committee. The group noted that the process had required significant effort but had resulted in a strong class of incoming officers. Training for the new officers will begin soon, followed by examination by Session in August and installation shortly afterward. The discussion also clarified the timing of outgoing elders' service and participation in upcoming meetings. July is the last regular meeting for outgoing elders.

Trustees, Annex and The Vue Event Space

The trustees provided updates on the Annex and The Vue event space. Construction is progressing well, with completion and inspections anticipated before the planned opening target in September. The group discussed the need for updated wedding

guidelines, especially as inquiries may increase once The View opens. Particular attention was given to how requests for weddings in the chapel should be handled, what theological and relational guidance should be provided and how staff and coordinators can speak consistently on behalf of the Session. There was a request to review existing guidelines for use of the chapel for weddings by Bonnie Johnson and Jenn Ceder. Session also discussed the church's ability to use The Vue for a limited number of prime-time events each year, the need for clarity about costs, catering requirements, scheduling windows and possible uses such as church-wide gatherings, mission events or ministry celebrations.

A significant discussion centered on the first-floor coffee shop concept in the Annex. The discussion emphasized that the Annex was intended to generate revenue for the church while also supporting mission where possible. Session recognized that additional discernment and communication would be important as decisions move forward.

The trustees reported significant progress on insurance coverage. The church has returned to the primary insurance market, greatly increasing coverage levels without a major increase in premiums. This was viewed as an important improvement in protecting church assets. The group also discussed ongoing planning for the main campus, including potential future use of Geneva, a gym, and other spaces. The city's response to changes to usage and cost estimates for the changes are still pending, so further decisions will depend on additional information.

Staffing Committee and Charter

The staffing committee noted that its interim charter is nearing the end of its approved period. The committee expects to recommend continuing the work, likely with minor revisions to the charter, and will provide updated language for review. Session discussed whether the committee should continue as interim, conclude its work or become a standing committee.

The vote to continue this charter was tabled until the next regular Session meeting.

Budget Presentation and Financial Assumptions

The finance representatives presented the proposed budget and summarized key assumptions. The trustees recommended adopting the "sustained" budget scenario rather than a deficit budget or a more aggressive growth scenario. The sustained budget assumes approximately \$3.5 million in giving, avoids a planned deficit, includes a facility reserve requested by Trustees, and maintains a 3% cost-of-living adjustment for staff. The group also discussed stewardship trends, pledge-card participation, and the need to improve the timing and process of future pledge campaigns.

Budget Approval

After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the sustained budget scenario for the coming ministry year. Session voted unanimously in favor of the motion, approving the budget as proposed.

Personnel Matters

Session voted to enter executive session to discuss various personnel matters,
Session voted to leave executive session at 9:00

Session reviewed and approved letters to be sent from Pastor Carl Hofmann to the congregation, and a letter from Session to the congregation.

Session moved and voted to approve a separation agreement with Pastor Hofmann, along with a schedule of his last sermon on June 21st, and a congregational celebration on June 28th of his 24 years of service to First Presbyterian and Grace Commons.
Motion passed.

The meeting ended with the singing of the Doxology at 9:25.

Anthony Ceder, Moderator

Greg Parr, Clerk

Approved by Session July 9, 2026