

Session Meeting Minutes

Date: May 14, 2026

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Westminster Hall, Grace Commons Church

Moderator: Anthony Ceder

Present:

Elders: Geoff Babb; Topher Fox; Diana Maxwell; Lynnie Parr; Lisa Schone; 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 with a group prayer for various concerns and joys on the hearts of Session members.

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
6:45-7:00	• Session meeting agenda • Session meeting minutes: April 9, 2026 • Covenant Partnership Report • Accept committee reports: ○ Trustees ○ Deacons ○ LDT ○ Stewardship ○ Interim Staff Hiring and Evaluation ○ MESH • Approve new Covenant Partners - Kasey Adams - Andrew Adams - Darren Carter - Sue Clark (transfer) - Adriana Farmer - Austin Farmer - Chelsey Joseph - Haylie Lott - Harry Lott		Yes

	Curtis Robbins Lisa Tice Thomas Tice Gordon Weiss Calvin Welsh David Wier Heather Wier		
7:00-7:10	Clerk's report	Greg Parr	
7:10-7:25	Ministry Planning Fall 2026	Jim Candy	
7:25-7:35	MESH review and Session discernment	Lynnie Parr	
7:35-7:55	TED nominations	Diana Maxwell	Yes
7:55-8:15	Budget /Stewardship update	Finance team	
8:15-8:20	Break	Anthony Ceder	
8:20-9:00	Head of Staff and Pastoral updates		
	Looking ahead		
March through May	Ministry planning and Finance committee Budget work for MY 2027	Session and subcommittees	
February June 1	Congregational meeting Session meeting		

New covenant partners were approved

The group reviewed and approved a list of new covenant partners.

One potential partner decided not to continue for now because she felt unsure about the level of commitment expected. There was discussion about following up with her to clarify that partnership does not require taking on major leadership roles immediately. New Covenant Partners will be recognized at worship on May 17.

Motion was made and passed with a unanimous vote to accept the new Covenant Partners as presented in the agenda.

Session discussed the joint meeting on May 8 with Elders, Trustees and Annex partners. Attendees who joined the joint meeting with trustees gave **positive feedback** about the Annex partners, and their leaders.

A major discussion centered on whether the coffee shop could carry the current name or develop a new Boulder-based identity.

The group leaned toward creating a locally rooted brand rather than copying another city's story, while still honoring the original influence.

Branding, naming, and ownership were seen as urgent because of financing and lease timing.

Clerk's Report:

- Recognition for outgoing officers
- There was discussion about hosting a **special dinner or gathering** to honor outgoing officers and possibly their spouses.
 - Bonnie offered her home as a possible venue.
- Need for a clearer communication process with Session
- A long discussion focused on how people communicate concerns or requests to session.
 - The current process—sending emails to all Session members—can lead to confusion, inconsistent responses, or no response at all.
 - A possible solution discussed was to have **one designated person (such as the clerk)** receive concerns, acknowledge receipt, and bring them to session for in-person discussion.
 - The goal is to encourage **healthy, transparent, in-person handling of potentially sensitive matters**.
 - The Clerk will propose a policy at the next Session meeting.
- Scheduling and calendar issues
 - The group discussed whether to adjust the **September 6 family meeting / communion schedule** because of Labor Day weekend.
 - The preference seemed to be to **keep communion as scheduled** and simply skip the family meeting if necessary.
 - Installation dates for new officers were also discussed, with some timing still in progress.

Ministry strategy discipleship vision-presented by Jim Candy

- Key ministry ideas:
 - The church was compared to an **“old growth forest”**: rich, diverse, and full of life, but difficult for newcomers to navigate.
 - Leaders want to preserve that richness while creating **clearer pathways** for growth and connection.
 - Three proposed growth elements:
 - **Authentic relationships** – people grow through connection and groups.
 - **Epic experiences** – meaningful events, trips, or ministry moments that shape faith deeply.
 - **Intimate knowledge** – not just information, but a deeper relationship with Jesus and understanding of faith.
- Strategic initiatives discussed:
 - Stronger emphasis on helping people find **circles/groups**.

- Creating a few memorable, church-wide discipleship experiences.
- Developing a “**14er**” concept: short, structured classes or learning experiences designed to help people grow spiritually.
- Possibility of using Sunday mornings, a hybrid Sunday timing format, or other scheduling models to make these accessible.
- Concern raised:
 - Session members emphasized that this strategy work is **important and weighty**, and should not be rushed.
 - A retreat or dedicated time for deeper discussion was suggested.

Ministry Evaluation for Spiritual Health (MESH)

The MESH team summarized its work around:

- **Covenant partner relationships**
- **Ministry effectiveness**

Staff spiritual health

They suggested:

- Hearing regularly from ministry leaders during session meetings
- Gathering feedback from covenant partners
- Doing entrance and exit interviews
- Monitoring new ministries and ministry health more intentionally
- There was interest in using better tools or assessments to understand staff and ministry health over time.

Approval of new officers

New officers for the class of **2029** were presented.

After discussion, a motion was made and passed to present this slate to the Congregation for a vote in June.

Slate of Officers for Election: June 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028	Class of 2029
Elders to fill three-year term	Topher Fox (1yr)		Emily Coleman Steve Rice Ellen True
Deacons to fill three-year term	Laura Hurbace (1yr) Gay Van Dorn (1yr)		Shirley Berg Elizabeth Boeve Wendy Day Amy Englehardt Holly Harding Dave Pedersen Kenna Quiller Patsy Sessions Sandi Woodward
Trustees to fill three-year term		Stan Nicholas (2yr)	Stephen Fries Paul Schultz Justin Wells

- The nominations process was described as thoughtful, prayerful, and encouraging.

- There was appreciation that some people are willing to continue serving beyond their original term.

Budget and stewardship updates

Trustees recommended:

- Keeping at least **\$150K in facility reserve funding**
- Using a **3% Cost of living raise for staff**
- Avoiding a deficit budget
- There was also discussion about directing any current-year surplus into the facility reserve.
- Stewardship updates noted that giving in May had been somewhat light, but leaders planned continued encouragement through June.
- There was interest in connecting the offering more directly to **stories of ministry impact** rather than only financial appeals.

Executive session began

A motion was made and passed to move into **executive session**, including Dave Pommer and Lindsey Waymire, to discuss staff budget and employment matters.

Dave and Lindsay were dismissed from executive session at 9:15.

A motion was made and passed to leave executive session.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 with the singing of the Doxology.

Anthony Ceder, Moderator

Greg Parr, Clerk

Approved by Session June 11, 2026