

Session Meeting Minutes

Date: August 13, 2026

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Westminster Hall, Grace Commons Church

Moderator: Pastor Anthony Ceder

Present:

Elders: Geoff Babb; Topher Fox; Diana Maxwell; Doug Rutherford; John Tucker; Jen Wilger.

Kathy Haddock, Barb Allen- Trustees

Clerk Greg Parr

Lindsay Waymire, Dave Pommer, Assistant Pastors

A quorum was determined and the meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

The meeting was opened with prayers of thanksgiving for the new officer candidates.

Agenda Approval:

6:00pm	Establish Quorum; Call Meeting to Order		Motion
6:00-7:00	Opening prayer, examination of new Officers	Session Members	
	Consent Items for approval	Greg Parr	Yes
7:00-7:15	● Session meeting agenda ● Session meeting minutes: June 11, 2026,2 ● Covenant Partnership Report ● Accept committee reports: ○ Trustees ○ LDT ○ Stewardship ○ Interim Staff Hiring and Evaluation ○ MESH		
7:15-7:30	MESH report-Children and Youth Staff	Sarah James and Kyle Rohan	
7:30-7:35	Communications to Session	Topher Fox	

7:35-7:45	Staffing Committee charter-second reading	Jen Wilger	
7:45-7:55	Trustee report	Kathy Haddock	
7:55-8:05	Planning for Fall Circles	Geoff Babb Topher fox	
Break			
8:10-8:30	Head of Staff and Pastoral updates	Anthony Ceder	
	Looking ahead		
August 13	Session meeting		
August 23	Party in the parking lot		
September	Session meeting		
10	Dave Pommer ordination		
September	Family meeting and Foundation Sunday		
13			
October 4			

New Officer Election

After the examination of officer candidates for Elder, Deacon, and Trustees, a motion was made and passed to accept all candidates (names following) as new officers.

Emily Coleman, Topher Fox (1yr), Steve Rice, Ellen True
Stephen Fries, Stan Nicholas (2yr), Paul Schultz, Justin Wells
Elizabeth Boeve, Wendy Day, Amy Engelhardt, Holly Harding, Laura
Hurbace (1yr), Dave Pedersen, Kenna Quiller, Patsy Sessions, Sandi
Woodward, Gay Van Dorn (1yr)

The new Deacons and Trustees were dismissed with thanksgiving for their willingness to enter into church leadership.

Devotion and Church Vision

- Leaders reflected on Acts 2:42 as a simple model for church life: devotion to prayer, Scripture teaching, fellowship, and communion.
- The group emphasized that Jesus, not pastors or elders, is the head of the church.
- Prayer focused on unity, dependence on God, and following Christ's leadership.

Children and Family Ministry

Presented by staff members Sarah James and Kyle Rohan

- The ministry's stated vision is to create a safe, joyful place for children and families to experience and live out the gospel.
- Key priorities for the year are **consistency** and **presence** for children, families, volunteers, and staff.
- Major challenges include facility disruptions, Sunday-morning competition from sports and activities, and volunteer/staff difficulty participating in worship and communion.
- Current and future rhythms include family Sundays, Wednesday programming for 1st–5th graders, family circles, date nights, family dinners, kid's camps, and family camps.
- Leaders requested prayer and practical support, especially Sunday help and communion access for volunteers.
- Pastor Dave Pommer prayed for the children's and youth programs and for staff leadership.

Stewardship and Giving

- Session was informed about a stewardship program through ECO.
- The program, called FUEL, reframes stewardship as discipleship and aims to strengthen generosity.
- Churches that used the program reportedly saw improved giving and clearer stewardship focus.

Communication and Conflict

- Leaders discussed a concern from a covenant partner about whether the church should publish the preaching schedule.
- The group generally affirmed the current practice of not publishing it, partly to avoid favoritism, consumerism, or avoidance of certain preachers.
- The discussion highlighted a broader lesson: difficult or sensitive conversations are better handled relationally and in person rather than by email.

Staffing and Evaluation Committee

- The staffing committee charter is being revised from an interim committee to a standing committee.
- Leaders discussed adding clearer language about the committee's role in compensation planning.
- Further clarification is needed on what the committee can decide independently versus what must return to Session.

Trustees and Facilities

- Trustees introduced upcoming leadership changes and identified needs for Session representatives on trustee-related committees.
- The children's ministry move to the first floor of the children's wing has been very positive.
- Trustees are considering future uses for the second floor of the children's wing, including classrooms, meeting space, or music storage.
- The Annex opening has been delayed, affecting scheduled events and open-house planning.
- Session was asked to consider Vue Boulder use priorities and future ministry partnerships for workforce training.
- Trustees are also reviewing Boulder Vision Project funds and unfulfilled pledges.

Fall Strategy: "Find Your Circle"

- Leaders introduced a churchwide strategy centered on helping people "find your circle."
- Circles are intended to function as small-group communities that help people connect, grow spiritually, and stay engaged in the church.
- The strategy includes home circles, women's circles, men's circles, and ministry-specific circles for children, youth, college, and families.

- Sermon-based home circles will provide a simple entry point, allowing people to join without needing to catch up on a long study.
- Training for Circle group leaders will be a major priority, led by Staff, and using *Sticky Church* as a guiding resource.
- Circles are viewed as essential for discipleship, pastoral care, communication, service, and closing the “back door” of the church.

Discipleship, Teaching, and Experiences

- Leaders discussed a broader vision that includes circles, deeper teaching, and “epic experiences.”
- The deeper teaching vision, referred to as “14er,” would help form mature disciples through more substantial theological training.
- “Epic experiences” could include retreats, mission trips, camps, and other life-shaping experiences.
- The goal is to create multiple on-ramps for people to grow in Christ and become more deeply connected to the church.

Intern Housing

- The church has an urgent need to find housing for a youth ministry intern.
- Leaders noted that intern housing has been an ongoing problem and needs both a short-term solution and a long-term strategy.

Missions and Commissioned Lay Pastor Role

- Leaders discussed a possible commissioned lay pastor role focused on local and global missions.
- The envisioned role would help reconnect mission strategy with staff leadership, Session, circles, and churchwide discipleship.
- Priorities include increasing mission-trip participation, strengthening global mission engagement, and connecting local service opportunities to circles.
- Session will continue prayer and discernment before formally affirming the role.

Request for Session Input

Pastor Ceder requested that all Elders send a note or paragraph to him on the topic of “what does maturity in Christ look like to you?” This will be helpful in further forming overall vision for Circles.

Many Elders had already answered this in a previous retreat, focusing on the marks of a healthy Christ follower. He asked that we send new or modified comments about this topic before Labor Day.

The meeting adjourned with the singing of the Doxology at 9:10.

Anthony Ceder
Moderator

Greg Parr
Clerk of Session

Approved by Session:
September 10, 2026