



Grace Presbyterian Church

Transforming lives through God's grace

Minutes from the Congregational Meeting held April 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Attendance: 68 people attended on Zoom.

- I. Opening Scripture Reading – Moderator**
Moderator, Rev. Mark Trembly, read from Ephesians 4: 15-16.
- II. Opening Prayer – Moderator,**
Rev. Mark Tremblay opened the meeting with prayer. He declared the meeting to be capable and competent for dealing with any business that comes before it.
- III. Grace's Vision, Mission, and Values** were reviewed by our three ministers:
Vision – Rev. Maren McLean Persaud
Mission – Rev. Christian Persaud
Values – Rev. Jake Van Pernis
- IV. Agreement to hold the meeting by Zoom – Moderator**
Moved by Richard Wilson, seconded by Mary Rozsa de Coquet that this congregational meeting be held by Zoom. Carried.
- V. Election of Recording Secretary – Moderator**
Moved by Richard Wilson, seconded by Mary Rozsa de Coquet that Barbara Henson be elected to be Recording Secretary for this meeting of Grace's Congregation. Carried.
- VI. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda – Moderator**
Moved by Richard Wilson, seconded by Mary Rozsa de Coquet that agenda for the meeting be adopted. Carried.
- VII. Approval of Minutes from Congregational Meeting, Sunday, January 31, 2021 – Moderator**
Moved by Richard Wilson, seconded by Mary Rozsa de Coquet that the minutes from the Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, January 31, 2021 be approved. Carried.
- VIII. Updates of Happenings at Grace**
Volunteer Recognition – Cindy Stephenson
Today marks the start of National Volunteer Week and so we take a moment to recognize the service of 130 individuals who have volunteered their time and talents in a tremendous number of ways over the last year. Postings will appear on Grace's website and Facebook each day and you may add your personal thanks as well.

Next Steps: Re-Opening – Alan Facey

Grace Church has a full plan to reopen as soon as AHS restrictions permit. Our main focus is the safety of our Congregation members and neighbors. With the arrival of spring, more outdoor events are being planned.

Brief Updates from Ministers – Rev. Maren McLean Persaud, Rev. Christian Persaud, Rev. Jake Van Pernis

Members of the ministry team reviewed the challenges and the creative changes that have happened over the past pandemic year. Many new ways of connecting people have been successfully developed and implemented.

Jake introduced the new Communications Coordinator, Brad Lavenne.

Dr. Graham Standish Leadership Training – Rev. Jake Van Pernis

Over the past three months, a group of leaders from Grace Presbyterian Church have been working with the Rev. Dr. Graham Standish, as a part of the recommendations from the Presbytery's exit interview reports. This work with the Rev. Dr. Standish is continuing through a small group of leaders in April, May, and June to create a guide for Grace Presbyterian Church that focuses on become more spiritually open and missionally engaged, and to understand how to operate in a way that accomplishes Grace's vision of *"Transforming lives through God's grace."*

Lead Minister Update – Rev. Christian Persaud

There are two vacancies: Lead Minister, **as well as** Associate Minister, Pastoral Care. Session is focusing on the Lead Minister position at this time. Feedback from survey: 60% are in favor of starting a search now, 40% would prefer to wait.

Please note that while serving as Interim Associate Minister, Pastoral Care, the Rev. Christian Persaud, is not eligible to be called for this position.

There are many steps to the call process: appoint a search committee; approve a congregational profile (recently completed); create a profile for the Lead Minister role (what are we looking for, what did we learn from the last process, what we want to change); begin receiving applications, narrow the search; invite a candidate to preach for the call. Some survey respondents have indicated a preference to wait until the last step can be done in person.

Updates of Happenings at Grace – Moderator

The Rev. Mark Tremblay thanked Cindy, Alan, Rev. Maren, Rev. Christian and Rev. Jake for the updates. He commented that it is amazing that in a year when we are supposed to be closed, in a time when we are not able to meet, that so many new ways of connecting have been found. It is a testament to the resilience of Grace and our firm belief that God is indeed present among us, that we have continued to find new things, ways, means, and activities that still unite us spiritually, even though we are physically distanced.

IX. Meeting Business

2020 Financial Statements – Rob McDonald, Andy Burnett

Moved by Rob McDonald seconded by Andy Burnett that the 2020 Financial Statements be accepted. Carried.

Change of Call: Rev. Maren McLean Persaud – Len Wolstenholme

Moved by Len Wolstenholme seconded by Mary Rozsa de Coquet that the congregation of Grace Presbyterian Church recommends to the Presbytery of Calgary McLeod the Rev. Maren McLean Persaud's call be changed to reflect an increase in part-time ministry from .5 to .75 time. Carried.

Changes to Bylaws – Mary Rosza de Coquet

Moved by Mary Rosza de Coquet seconded by Richard Wilson that the Bylaws of Grace Presbyterian Church be adopted as amended. Carried.

Amendment: All references to charitable objects have been removed from the Grace Presbyterian Church Bylaws, so that they are in compliance with the Religious Societies Act and may be registered provincially and federally.

X. Adjournment and Benediction

Moved by Shirley Philips, seconded by Richard Wilson, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Rev. Mark Trembly closed the meeting with the Aaronic Blessing.

Minutes recorded and transcribed by

Barbara Henson

Barbara Henson
Convener, HR Committee