



Grace Presbyterian Church

Transforming lives through God's grace

Minutes from the Congregational Meeting held June 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Attendance: 54 people attended on Zoom.

I. Opening Scripture Reading: Moderator

Moderator, Rev. Mark Trembly, read from Psalm 95: 1-7

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. Jake Van Pernis

Mission: Rev. Christian Persaud

Values: Rev. Maren McLean Persaud

IV. Agreement to hold the meeting by Zoom: Moderator

Moved by Iain Robertson, 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. Updates about the Ministries and work of Grace Presbyterian Church

a. Updates / Summer Plans from Ministers

Rev. Maren McLean Persaud: Grace Kids and Youth

Planning an end of school celebration for kids and youth. Summer plans include a balloon drop, Grace Kids in the Park, Grace Youth around the Campfire, two summer Sundays – Compassion Camp. Maren expressed gratitude for all the leaders over the year and is looking for more leaders for the Summer Sundays program. Contact Cindy or Maren to volunteer. Planning a Back-to-School Celebration.

Rev. Christian Persaud: Pastoral Care

Pastor Care has responded to all needs, and is proactive in making phone calls, sending flowers, etc. Over the past year a total of 11 home visitors have been recruited and trained. The Company of Deacons was established, and those ministries have been carried out as pandemic

restrictions allow. Some new volunteers have received training and are supporting the Community Deacon Booth. The Deacon meets with many community members in the parking lot on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Rev. Jake Van Pernis:

Jake is taking a course, *Seminary of the Wild*, and is exploring a pilot project for Grace called Earth Care Congregations. Work with Engagement and Service addresses food security for people in the Beltline community, and includes Grace's satellite Food Bank, and I can for Kids. Exploring the idea of holding events, such as singing, on the front steps of Grace Church to make the church entrance appear more inviting. Exploring ways that Grace can take part in Truth and Reconciliation.

b. Brad Lavenne: Communications Coordinator

Brad is new to Grace and looks forward to meeting people in person. He presented an overview of *Still Standing, But Not Standing Still*, the Report to the Congregation and Community for the year ending June 2021.

c. Gathering Together – Looking Ahead: Alan Facey

Session has approved September 12, 2021, as the official opening and *Homecoming Worship Service* at Grace Church. Guest ministers have been engaged for August as our ministers take some time off. An outdoor worship service is being planned for August. More updates to come.

d. Live Streaming – Looking Ahead: Alan Facey

Working with Spiritual Growth, Finance, and Facilities Committees to develop a strategy so the worship services and other programs can be live streamed to our ever-growing audience. Future plans would allow for other events, such as CPO concerts, to be live streamed and broadcast throughout the building if required. All live streamed worship services and programs will be recorded and archived. The live streaming equipment will be ordered soon, and care will be taken to ensure that the live streaming process does not disrupt any in-person events.

e. Stewardship Update: Len Wolstenholme

Work of the Congregation has continued through the pandemic. Accessing reserve funds has helped us through this year. The Stewardship and Finance Committees, with the expertise of Alan Facey, are analyzing our property to ensure that we are making the best use of these assets. During the past year, the number of people making offerings has diminished from 200 people to fewer than 100. Note: This does not include those using pre-authorized debit. Question: Elizabeth Cressman asked about the reduction in giving and how is this being addressed. All members of Grace Church received a letter from Session and Stewardship outlining the situation and asking members to recommit spiritually, emotionally, and financially. The situation is being monitored and no other action is being taken at this time.

f. Rev. Dr. Graham Standish Work Update: Rev. Jake Van Pernis

A Guidebook has been created by the Ad Hoc Committee. It includes background on the transitional work, volunteers, stewardship, decisions formed in faith, need to grow as disciples and serve our neighbors, and ways of moving forward in the midst of conflict.

g. Lead Minister Search Update: Rev. Mark Tremblay

Session voted to proceed with the search for a lead minister. Question from Carol Evans: How will members of the search committee be selected. Session will form the search committee with broad representation from Congregation and its programs.

h. Welcoming new members: Rev. Maren McLean Persaud

Four new members were welcomed to Grace during the Zoom worship service on June 6, 2021. New member classes were held online in May and will be held again in the future.

Moved by Richard Wilson, seconded by Iain Robertson, to approve and accept the updates given at this meeting. Carried.

VIII. Meeting Business

2021 Budget: July to December 2021: Rob McDonald, Andy Burnett

The Finance Committee has worked to access deferred restricted funds which has allowed for a year-to-date surplus of \$8,000. Note: There is a defined process in place governing access to deferred restricted funds. At yearend, the budget will be balanced using restricted deferred funds to cover the deficit. Note: Money withdrawn from deferred restricted funds over the past three years has not exceeded the contributions to restricted funds in any of those years.

Question from Richard Wilson about Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) grants received by Grace. A total of \$184,000 has been received to date.

Question from Bill Cruickshank: Why does Grace Church pay levies that are among the highest in Canada? Grace Church pays levies to Presbytery, Synod, and the National Church. The amount of the levy is based on the size of the congregation and the annual budget revenues. Payment is voluntary. Presbyterian Sharing: Grace Church chooses to support in this manner. Historically Grace has always paid the suggested amount. Each year the Congregation votes on this.

Ridge Rentals: Alan Facey

Ridge Rentals is a separate stand-alone investment. Grace Church owns the three-story (12 apartment) building west of the south parking lot valued at \$3.7 million. The original plan was to acquire this property to expand the south parking lot by 75 feet. There is no plan to proceed with the parking lot expansion currently. Ridge Rentals Board President is Les Wilson. Newly appointed to the Board are David Lachapelle, Len Wolstenholme and Bill Stemp.

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

IX. Other Business

X. Adjournment and Benediction

Moved by Shirley Philips, seconded by Iain Robertson, that the meeting be adjourned. Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Rev. Mark Trembly thank everyone for their comments and participation and closed the meeting with the Aaronic Blessing.

Minutes recorded and transcribed by

Barbara Henson

Rev. Mark Trembly
Moderator

Barbara Henson
Convener, HR Committee
Grace Presbyterian Church