



Grace Presbyterian Church

Transforming lives through God's grace

Minutes from the Fall Congregational Meeting held on November 21, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

Attendance: 58 people attended on Zoom.

- I. Opening Scripture Reading:** Moderator
Moderator, Rev. Mark Trembly, read from Psalm 63: 1-8.
- 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. 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.
- IV. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda:** Moderator
Moved by Richard Wilson, seconded by Mary Rozsa de Coquet that agenda for the meeting be adopted. Carried.
- V. Approval of Minutes from Congregational Meeting, Sunday, April 18, 2021:**
Moderator
Moved by Richard Wilson, seconded by Mary Rozsa de Coquet that the minutes from the Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, April 18, 2021 be approved. Carried.
- VI. Ministry Updates**

Grace's Vision, Mission, and Values were reviewed by our three ministers:

Vision: Rev. Christian Persaud

Mission: Rev. Jake Van Pernis

Values: Rev. Maren McLean Persaud

Updates from Rev. Jake Van Pernis, Associate Minister, Engagement and Service

Dwell: Sunday morning Dwell meetings were very successful during the pandemic. Meeting on a different day of the week is being considered to accommodate those who can no longer attend on Sunday morning due to other responsibilities.

Truth, Healing and Reconciliation: Grace's response to the red paint spattered on the front doors went viral with thousands of positive comments from near and far. Grace hosted a Service of Lament on the front steps of the church on September 26 which has fostered community conversations, missional theology, and building relationships with Indigenous and Community Leaders. Grace's Ad-Hoc Committee on Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation continues to work toward learning, understanding and growth.

Calgary Food Bank: Grace Church has been a satellite site for the Calgary Food Bank every week for a year. In 2022, Grace will add another day to the weekly schedule. We are grateful to the many volunteers from Grace and the community who work on this project.

New Sermon Series: The sermon series introduced by the three ministers on Discernment and Being Brave in Grace's Values has been very interesting. The theme for Advent sermons is *I wonder as I wonder*.

New Home: Jake and Kate moved to a new home this past summer. They are grateful to Richard Kim and the Kim family for all their help with this move.

Other Responsibilities: Besides his involvement in Sunday worship services, Jake sits on several committees including the *Ad Hoc Truth, Healing and Reconcili-action Committee*, and the *Governance and Planning Committee* at Grace Church. At the Presbytery level, Jake has recently been asked to co-convene the *New Worshiping Communities Team* with the Rev. Dr. Tim Archibald. In October, Jake began a one-year term serving as the *Moderator of the Synod of Alberta and the Northwest*. Jake is growing and learning through a year-long intensive course called *Seminary of the Wild* and has recognized that the wildness of the Spirit is alive in him and that Christ points to God as Divine Mystery.

Updates from Rev. Maren McLean Persaud, Associate Minister, Children and Youth

Pandemic: The lingering effects of the pandemic are most evident in our children and youth ministry at Grace. Maren asked the congregation to continue to be mindful of the way the pandemic has especially affected younger families and impacted their lives in serious ways.

Grace Kids and Youth was online every Sunday from fall 2020 to June 2021. The summer take-home program was coordinated by Heather-Rose Locken and Mariko Johnson. Grace hosted two in-person events in the parking during the summer. Maren thanked those who helped with leadership online, special deliveries, and parking lot programs.

Several outdoor events were scheduled for the fall including our second *Trunk and Treat* event which welcomed 200 children, *Blessing of the Animals*, a morning at the Calgary Zoo, and a *scavenger hunt and campfire at Bowness Park*. An *Outdoor Christmas Party* and an *interactive Zoom pageant on Christmas Eve* are planned for December.

Spiritual Growth Committee: Maren works with the *Spiritual Growth Committee*. She led and coordinated *Outdoor District Communion*s through the summer, helped to select *Brave Church*, the theme for worship and small group study based on the book by Elizabeth Hagan. Grace hosted its first *Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness* service of worship in October. During Advent we will embark on *The Wonder of Christmas*. The Spiritual Growth Committee has significant work ahead for this winter.

Other Responsibilities: Maren sits on the *Clergy and Congregational Care Committee of Presbytery* and chairs the *Presbytery Consult Team* and is in the process of developing a *Friendly Lenten Resource* for the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Representing the Presbyterian Church in Canada, Maren is part of *Then Let us Sing*, an online musical resource for congregations being spearheaded by the United Church in Canada to be released in 2025.

Updates from Rev. Christian Persaud, Interim Pastoral Care Leader

Responsibilities: Christian supports elders, the Company of Deacons and Homebound Visitors in delivering pastoral care. It was wonderful to be together over the summer and host communion services with elder's districts.

In-person Worship: The vacancy of the Lead Minister position has required Christian's involvement and leadership in worship. *There is something special about being together for worship and singing and praying together.*

Funerals and Memorial Services: Christian has officiated at five services this fall which have been very significant for the families of those whose lives we celebrate.

Advent: As Advent draws near, Christian will be participating in several study groups where individuals can share and connect with one another. Participation of Congregation is encouraged.

Interim Pastoral Care Leadership Position: Christian's initial contract was for four months from September 2019 and has now been extended through 2022.

Lead Minister Search Committee Update: Cindy Stephenson

A committee was formed to select members to serve on the Search Committee. The Search Committee has been formed. Con-conveners are Janet Hyde and Clark Hanna; other members are Elizabeth Cressman, Jan Dewar, Jen Lee, Greg Retzer and Flora Stevenson.

Session Strategic Plan: Mary Lil Rozsa de Coquet

Mary Lil introduced the three-part Strategic Plan for 2022-2024.

1. Provide congregational care and support and encourage engagement.
2. Grow community collaboration and connection.
3. Nurture the evolving culture at Grace.

Coordinator of Volunteers Update: Cindy Stephenson

Elders, Shirley Walker and Lyndon Nordean have retired; Harle Burnett has taken a leave of absence. Karen Kim has stepped down from her role as Convener, Governance and Planning, and Andy Burnett's passing has left a vacancy in the Convener, Finance Committee.

Support Services Director: Alan Facey

Balcony Railings: New railings have been installed in the choir loft and balcony that conform with building code regulations. Our thanks to David Lachapelle and Richard Wilson.

Livestreaming Equipment has been installed and will be up and running for the first Sunday of Advent. Our thanks to Rob Strothers-Stewart.

Repairs and Upgrades include replacing the Chapel roof, installation of ice dam cleats above the south door, main floor drywall repairs and painting, organizing the new maintenance shop area, deep cleaning of multiple areas in the building, and restacking of the operations and ministerial offices. Our thanks to Brad Kirby and Debbie Roorda.

Digital Communications Platform: Our digital communications platform continues to be improved. The new website has been launched and the internet service has been upgraded. We are pleased to welcome Amy Dunn Moscoso back in her role as Communications Specialist.

Re-opening: We are slowly opening our building to the community. Our focus is the health and safety of all who enter through our doors. Some special interest groups will be allowed to meet onsite.

Approval of the Ministry Updates: Moved by Mary Rozsa de Coquet, seconded by Janet Hyde, that the Ministry updates be approved. Carried.

VII. Meeting Business

Proposed 2022 Budget: Dave Caldwell, Interim Convener, Finance Committee
Dave reported a 30% shortfall in revenue for 2022 and encouraged members to consider increasing their givings.

Spiritual Growth Committee: Lorna McNeill, Convener
Spiritual Growth is developing new ways to support family worship services, and programs to for youth and children.

Facilities Committee: Janet Hyde, Convener
Janet reported that the newly installed livestreaming equipment will start next Sunday. The committee is identifying new uses for the church building to increase revenue.

Engagement and Service Committee: Mary Jardine reporting on behalf of Mike and Darlene Jones, Conveners

Engagement and Service supports over a dozen projects:

- Community Food Bank,
- KAIROS, an organization of 130 churches that supports affordable housing,
- RESET, a program that supports women and girls exiting sex trafficking,
- ELL, for English Language Learners,
- I Can for Kids, a food security program at Connaught School,
- Never too Late, a program that supports adult learners,
- Refugee Family: a new refugee family arriving in 2022,
- New Grace Cupboard and Grace Kitchen,
- Community Care Booth,
- Laundry soap production,
- Grace Steps, further speakers,
- Cake Bake, and
- Stampede Breakfast.

We are transforming lives through God's Grace.

Approval of the Budget: Moved by Dave Caldwell, seconded by Rob McDonald that the 2022 Budget be approved. Carried.

Session Elders: Mary Rozsa de Coquet

Moved by Mary Rozsa de Coquet, seconded by Cindy Stephenson, that the action of Session in appointing Bonnie Noyce Faust, Jim Campbell, and Len Wolstenholme as Interim Session Elders until elections are held in the spring of 2022. Carried.

Nominations for new elders must be signed by two nominators and submitted by January 1, 2022.

VIII. Adjournment and Benediction

Moved by Janet Hyde, seconded by Richard Wilson, that the meeting be adjourned. Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Rev. Mark Trembly closed the meeting with a prayer and the Aaronic Blessing.

Minutes recorded and transcribed by

Barbara Henson

Rev. Mark Trembly
Moderator

Barbara Henson
Convener, HR Committee
Grace Presbyterian Church