

Minutes from the Congregational Annual General Meeting held April 24, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Attendance: 70 people attended on Zoom.

Opening Scripture Reading: Moderator

Moderator, Rev. Mark Trembley, read from Psalm 150.

Opening Prayer: Moderator

Rev. Mark Trembley opened the meeting with prayer. He declared the meeting to be constituted and competent to deal with any business that comes before it.

Land Acknowledgement: Moderator

Moderator, Rev. Mark Trembley, read the land acknowledgement.

Election of Recording Secretary: Moderator

Moved by Richard Wilson, seconded by Mary Rozsa de Coquet that Barbara Henson be elected Recording Secretary for this meeting of Grace's Congregation. Carried.

Adoption of the Meeting Agenda: Moderator

Moved by Richard Wilson, seconded by Mary Rozsa de Coquet that agenda for the meeting be adopted. Carried.

Approval of Minutes from the 2021 Annual General Meeting

Moved by Barbara Henson, seconded by Mary Rozsa de Coquet that the minutes from the last AGM held on June 13, 2021, be approved. Carried.

Approval of Minutes from the Congregational Meeting

Moved by Barbara Henson, seconded by Mary Rozsa de Coquet that the minutes from the Congregational meeting held on November 21, 2021, be approved as corrected, the correction being: from page 4: Repairs and Upgrades include replacing the Chapel roof (not room). Carried.

In Memoriam: Interim Clerk of Session

Shirley Phillips read the names of the Grace Church members who died in 2021: Andrew Burnett, Kenneth Burton, Jim Gibson, Dianne Jurchuk, Helen Hammond, Muriel Munro, Sakiko Nakagane, Peter Penner, Keith Rutherford, Kathleen Vanden Brink, Joyce Williams, and Marshall Williams.

Report on the Roll of Professing Members: Interim Clerk of Session

	<u>December 31, 2020</u>	<u>December 31, 2021</u>
Number of Members	416	404
Number of Adherents	<u>191</u>	<u>186</u>
Total Number of Adults	607	590
Children and Youth under 18	194	193

Ministry Updates:

Rev. Maren McLean Persaud: Grace Kids and Youth

Please note that the Rev. Maren McLean Persaud is on maternity leave for one year. Maren and Christian's daughter, Asha Audrey Persaud, was born on April 13, 2022.

Rev. Christian Persaud: Pastoral Care

The last year presented several changes, both in positive and challenging ways. Highlights include offering mental health training to pastoral care volunteers and resuming in person worship.

It has become increasingly clear over the past two years that **mental health** is a serious topic; and while many of us recognize its importance, we also feel under-equipped in knowing how to respond, or support someone experiencing mental illness. The Pastoral Care Committee provided **online training** for pastoral care volunteers, elders, homebound visitors, and deacons. This training better equipped individuals as they attended to the care of congregation members.

One of the joys last year was resuming **in-person worship** and adding greatly to a sense of community. This is especially true when Grace was able to resume having funeral and memorial services in the sanctuary. I am excited about reconnecting with each other, completing important work for future pastoral care, and coming out the other side of this transition period.

I have found joy in the mystery and promise of Isaiah 43:19 which reads, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Rev. Jake van Pernis, Associate Minister Engagement and Service

Spring is a good time to reflect on newness and new life emerging, identity, and being known by God. The past year of ministry has had several facets, including:

Collaboratively planning Grace's 3 in 1 worship, then moving to the "warm-up to worship" welcoming people back into Grace's building in ways that considered both the well-being of individuals and the well-being of the community by following our current COVID protocols at Grace.

Working with the Truth, Healing, and Reconcili-action Ad Hoc Committee in guiding Grace on taking the next steps on the journey of truth, healing, and reconciliation by recognizing our part in the legacy and effects residential schools have had on Indigenous peoples and cultures and showing a willingness to grow and learn through study, dialogue, and experience. I am incredibly appreciative for how the members of the Truth, Healing, and Reconcili-action Ad Hoc Committee have been companions and supports in this difficult work that has not always been met with kindness or care.

Working with the Engagement and Service Committee to support service projects like Grace being a satellite site for the Calgary Food during the pandemic, while also discussing new ideas about how Grace's involvement with our neighbours can help create a supportive and caring community.

Working with three other committees of Grace's session (**Finance, Facilities, and Governance and Planning**) to help support Grace's strategic plan.

Planning for **Dwell** on Sunday mornings and watching community and connections grow where support, prayer, knowledge, and encouragement was shared.

Being a part of a cohort of a program called **Seminary of The Wild**.

Work Emerging from Jake's Ministry: Working with the Engagement and Service Committee re-establishing programs that were suspended during the pandemic including English Language Learning (ELL), Brown Bagging for Calgary Kids (BB4CK), RESET Graduations, Never Too Late Graduations and Never Too Late possibly using space at Grace.

Supporting and leading truth, healing, and reconciliation / reconcili-action efforts at Grace including working with the Ad-Hoc Committee on Truth, Healing, and Reconcili-action on planned events and activities, continuing to build connections and relationship with Indigenous peoples, lead Grace's participation in Truth and Reconciliation events such as Indigenous History Month (June) and Orange Shirt Day (September), working with the Mural Project Team in working with an Indigenous artist to transform the red paint on Grace's door into a mural.

Stewardship Report: Mary Lil Rozsa de Coquet

There are three dimensions to Stewardship: Talent, Time, and Treasure.

2021 in Review: Stewardship presentation to Elders and Conveners, expanded online presence within Grace and to external audiences, capital improvements including balcony railing, live streaming strategy, and implementation.

Things to Look Forward to in 2022 and Beyond: Development of a Stewardship Committee and Stewardship strategy, increased participation in community activities and stakeholder engagement, reduction of the operating deficit, and increased congregational participation in all things Stewardship.

Operational Perspective

Building Opening (COVID): Alan Facey

Grace COVID Response April 2022

Grace is strongly committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of everyone attending events and worship services at Grace. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have met or exceeded all health requirements. We have safely hosted in-person worship services since August of 2021.

Worship Services

All vaccination requirements to attend in-person worship and events at Grace has been lifted. Physical distancing and masking will remain in effect for Grace's building, including the sanctuary and the chapel, pending review at the May meeting of Session. After-worship fellowship is now in the family room with snacks and beverages available.

Events

Committees are strongly encouraged to continue meeting on Zoom. All onsite group events must follow the worship protocols for physical distancing and masking pending Session review in May.

Congregational Survey: Amy Dunn Moscoso

49 people completed the February Congregational Survey. There was a wide range of responses. The trend: people who volunteer, attend online, and attend small groups were more positive; people who do not volunteer, attend online, or join small groups were more negative.

Volunteering Overview 2021: Cindy Stephenson

164 individuals volunteered in at least one role in 2021; 72 of the 164 individuals volunteered in multiple roles. 236 volunteer roles were filled with a total of 17,400 volunteer hours or 2,300 workdays.

Priorities for the Future: Rev. Dr. Jean Morris

Minister and Operations Priorities through September 2022

RE-open, RE-connect, RE-boot, RE-imagine.

Update from the Lead Minister Search Committee: Janet Hyde, Co-Chair

The Lead Minister Position has been posted and one application has been received. The Committee hopes to have the new Lead Minister in place by the fall of 2022.

PCC Harassment Policy: Len Wolstenholme

Policy and Procedures for Addressing Harassment in the Church

Harassment means physical or verbal behaviors against a member, volunteer or employee in the church that are unwelcome or should be known to be unwelcome. Harassment is like bullying because someone hurts another person through cruel, offensive, and insulting behaviors. This policy covers both bullying and harassment and uses the comprehensive term "harassment". Len reviewed the detailed procedure to be followed if there is a complaint at Grace Church.

Truth, Healing & Reconcili-action Committee: Mary Jardine

On July 8, 2021, Grace's Session formed the Ad Hoc Committee on Truth, Healing, and Reconcili-action. The mandate for this Committee is to implement a short-term plan and develop suggestions for longer term plans to engage Grace's congregation and broader community in relationship-building, education, and social justice towards Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours.

2021/22 The Pathway to Reconcili-action Report

Red Paint, Truth, Healing, and Reconcili-action; our journey thus far.

- July 1, 2021: Red Paint: an act of protest and expression of grief.
- Sandwich Boards with QR Code.
- Service of Lament.
- Kairos Blanket Exercise.
- Book Study: These Mountains are Our Sacred Spaces: The Story of the Stoney People.
- Doctrine of Discovery Lecture.
- Repatriation of the Manitou Stone to its Original Location.
- Mural Project, tentative Mural Project Consultations.
- Conversation with Congregation: Sunday, June 5.
- Conversation with Community: Sunday, June 12.

Approval of Information Reports

- It is moved by Mary Lil Rozsa de Coquet and seconded by Richard Wilson that the reports for information be approved as presented. Carried.

Meeting Business

Approval of 2021 Financial Statements

- It was moved by Rob McDonald, seconded by Dave Caldwell, that the 2021 Financial Statement be accepted. Carried.

Election of New Elders and Service Elders to a term on Session

- Mary Lil Rozsa de Coquet reviewed the Elder Election Process.
- It is moved by Mary Lil Rozsa de Coquet and seconded by Mark Durieux, that Jiebieni Nyajwok be elected elder. Carried. **Notice of Ordination** for Jiebieni Nyajwok will be Sunday, May 8, 2022.
- It is moved by Mary Lil Rozsa de Coquet and seconded by Mark Durieux, that Jim Campbell be elected as Interim Session Elder for a term up to two years. Carried.
- It is moved by Mark Durieux and seconded by Shirley Philips, that Anne Mohtadi be elected to a new term on Session. Carried.

- It is moved by Mark Durieux and seconded by Shirley Philips, that Mary Lil Rozsa de Coquet be elected to a new term on Session. Carried.
- It is moved by Mark Durieux and seconded by Shirley Philips, that Cindy Stephenson be elected to a new term on Session. Carried.
- It is moved by Mark Durieux and seconded by Shirley Philips, that Len Wolstenholme be elected to a new term on Session. Carried.

Other Business

Ridge Rentals: Alan Facey

Barb Todd asked for an update for Ridge Rentals. Alan Facey responded that Ridge Rentals is in sustaining mode for now. No action will be taken at this time.

Session Monthly Report

It was moved by Fran Cormack, seconded by Bob Ermter, that a Session member be available to meet with interested congregants following worship service on the Sunday when the Session Report appears in the Bulletin, to answer questions and provide more information about items in the Session Report as it appears in the Bulletin. Carried.

Adjournment and Benediction

Moved by Bob Ermter, seconded by Cindy Stephenson, that the meeting be adjourned. Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Moderator, Rev. Mark Trembley closed the meeting with a prayer and Benediction.

Minutes recorded and transcribed by,

Barbara Henson

Rev. Mark Trembley
Moderator

Barbara Henson
Convener, HR Committee
Grace Presbyterian Church