

Minutes from the Congregational Meeting held December 10, 2023, at 12:15 pm.

Attendance: Lunch was served after worship; approximately 110 people attended the meeting.

Opening Prayer: Moderator

Moderator, Rev. Dr. Jean Morris opened the meeting with prayer. She declared the meeting to be constituted and competent to deal with any business that comes before it.

Opening Scripture Reading: Moderator

Rev. Dr. Jean Morris read from 1 Corinthians 1:1-6.

Election of Recording Secretary: Moderator

Moved by Bob Ernter, seconded by Mary Rozsa de Coquet that Barbara Henson be elected Recording Secretary for this meeting of Grace's Congregation. Motion carried.

Adoption of the Meeting Agenda: Moderator

Moved by Mary Rozsa de Coquet, seconded by Janet Hyde that agenda for the meeting be adopted. Motion carried.

Elder Election Ad Hoc Committee: Mary Jardine

- Several Elder nominations have been received. The Committee will interview all nominees in January.

Lead Minister Search Update: Janet Hyde, Co-chairman, Search Committee

- The Lead Minister Search Committee was formed two years ago. To date 80 applications have been received. The position description has been updated.
- Dr. Graham Standish has provided support to the Committee.
- Janet thanked the Committee members for their commitment and the congregation for their patience, prayers, and support.

Stewardship Committee / Gratitude and Giving: Cindy Stephenson

- Cindy gave thanks to God for abundance and generosity. Stewardship is about God.
- The changing trends in giving at Grace are positive.
- The Grace Legacy Fund has been established with The Calgary Foundation. The initial donation of \$2,000,000 came from the estate of Mr. Harold Weir, uncle of Bill Stemp.
- The stained-glass window restoration project received generous donations and exceeded the target for this initiative.

Ad Hoc Land, Facilities and Assets Committee: Alan Facey

- At the September 2023 meeting of Session, the Ad Hoc Land, Facilities and Assets Committee was formed to review all of the capital assets, including lands and buildings, and the financial assets of Grace Church, and to review alignment with our Mission, Vision, and Values and the 2024 Refreshed Strategic Priorities, and to recommend a strategy for future capital activities on the assets reviewed, up to and including disposals, acquisitions, and development opportunities.
- Recommendations will be presented to Session at the January 2024 meeting.

2024 Budget: Ian Robertson

- The budget reflects an increase in internal and external events, activities, and outreach programs that Grace Church is able to support now and in the future.
- Givings are increasing.
- Deferred and defined funds will be accessed as appropriate.
- Moved by Ian Robertson, seconded by Rob McDonald, that the 2024 budget be approved. Motion carried.

Sale of Grace House: Shirley Philips

- Grace House was purchased in 2003 and has housed clients of RESET Society (formerly Servants Anonymous) since then.
- RESET Society has advised us that they wish to vacate Grace House by next summer.
- Moved by Shirley Philips, seconded by Mary Jardine, that Grace House be sold in the summer of 2024. Motion carried.
- Joni Ernter reported that Grace Church will continue to support RESET Society with graduation quilts and Christmas gift bags.
- Moved by Bob Ernter, seconded by Durk DeJong, that the proceeds from the sale of Grace House be added to the Grace Legacy Fund, and that interest from these funds be used to support mission projects. Motion defeated.
- Allocation of funds from the sale of Grace House will be determined at a later date.

Interim Moderator Report: The Rev. Dr. Jean Morris

- Interim Moderator, Rev. Dr. Jean Morris reported that her first responsibility is to moderate Session. Session is spending time at each meeting studying the book, *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season*, by Susan Beaumont. She thanked the diligent members of Session.
- Her second responsibility is to the Lead Minister Search Committee. She encouraged every member to be responsible, ready, and present for the introduction of a Lead Minister candidate.
- Jean Morris expressed thanks to Rev. Wendy Adam, Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins, Elders, Conveners, Deacons, Pastoral Care, and all staff members at Grace Church.

Adjournment and Benediction

Moved by Mary Rozsa de Coquet, seconded by Mary Jardine, that the meeting be adjourned. Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Rev. Dr. Jean Morris closed the meeting with a prayer and Benediction.

Minutes recorded and transcribed by,

Barbara Henson

Rev. Dr. Jean Morris
Interim Moderator

Barbara Henson
Secretary, Congressional Meeting
Grace Presbyterian Church