

Grace E Free Congregational Meeting

April 26th, 2026

Opening/Prayer: After Dave Brummitt made sure we had a quorum Pastor Matt opened the meeting in prayer at 12:03 pm.

Approve Minutes of January 25th, 2026 Meeting: Todd Woods moved to approve; Nanelle Lane seconded. All were in favor.

Reports:

Senior Pastor/Elder: Pastor Matt shared both Senior Pastor and Elder report:

Hannah McCoy is our new communications director and has been a huge help and blessing to our staff – helping both Deb as well as the Pastoral Staff. She is fulfilling the role of her job description with excellence and taking on tasks “un-asked” in moving the church forward.

Pastor Matt & Megan along with Cameren & Christina will all be leaving later today to attend an EFCA conference on “Gospel Humility” which will run through Tuesday. Pray for fruit as they mingle and interact with others in pastoral ministry.

Pastor Matt, John Graves and Todd Woods are all going through Alex Strauch’s book on leadership, “Biblical Eldership: An Urgent Call to Restore Biblical Church Leadership”. They are (always) looking for new strategies and rhythms to best implement the mission and purpose here at Grace.

Pastor Matt has joined the, “Coalition of the Willing” – a group of Q-C area pastors who want God to redeem the Q-C area for Christ. (The Q-C area is in the top 100 of “lost” areas in the US – we would need a revival of 60,000 – 70,000 souls saved by the blood of Christ in order to get off this list.)

Things to celebrate:

- The large attendance at our Easter Service.
- The number who have continued attending Grace after Easter.
- He is seeing fruit of his vision, “**Making Disciples who Make Disciples**”

Practical ways to continue to live out the church vision:

- Take welcome to the next level:
 - Ask new members out to lunch.
 - Invite new members into your grace community.

This fall will mark Pastor Matt’s 5 year anniversary as our Senior Pastor!!

Worship Pastor: Cameren shared that this year has been an exciting year – he was especially blessed by the Good Friday and Easter Sunday services.

His rhythms continue to include one new song per month.

The Worship/Tech team – what a huge blessing – he cannot express fully how blessed and thankful he is for their faithfulness – what an asset these people are!

The Men’s Bible Study is going well – Jason Flenker along with Pastor Matt, Randy Vogel and Chuck McCoy continue to serve faithfully with Cameren in building up the men of our congregation.

Cameren has updated the Grace website and is now transitioning to build an app which will facilitate communication both amongst staff and also within the church family – Hannah has been integral in helping with this.

Youth Pastor: Markus shared that the Youth Group continues to build and grow. Small groups have fruitful conversations wherein the kids are asking “good” questions – probing deeper into biblical issues.

The equip lab (led by Nate Stenholtz) was a blessing – we had planned a service project which has been re-scheduled for later in May. One of the kids went to 17 different houses in the neighborhood in order to invite youth to youth group and invite families to our Easter Sunday services!

Darlene Link asked, “who are our youth group workers?” Markus shared that Jessy Ketchum, Jason & Tina Ferrel and Sarah Carter are faithful weekly with others stepping in (Rob & Marisa Kuhl/Paul & Stephanie Campbell) on occasion.

Anyone interested (and CAP trained) in helping with youth – please communicate with Markus (309-269-1008/Markusmurphy.grace@gmail.com) – leaders in the youth group are always needed and wanted.

Missions: Nate shared that the Missions Team started with a significant balance (primarily due to ministry partners retiring) which allowed us to take on the Aubrey’s and also to give one-time bonuses to our existing ministry partners.

Missions financial status is as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| • Jan 2026 Beginning Balance | \$23,005 |
| • 2026 Pledged Amount | \$13,080 |
| • 2026 Planned Distribution | \$21,600* |
| • YTD Amount Received | \$ 6,129 |
| • YTD Distributed to Missionaries | \$16,400** |
| • Balance On Hand | \$12,734 |

*Planned Distribution does not include one-time bonus of \$5,600.

****YTD Distributed includes bonus, Q1 & Q2 distributions.**

The missions team has been partnering with other churches to learn how to be a “good” sending church – Paul & Gabby desire to be “sent” and we want to do it right. The missions team of Nate, Jimmy Bollinger, Drew Ketchum and Robyn Ludeking also now includes Paul & Gabby.

Upcoming events include:

- The Aubrey’s coming this summer with an update.
- The West’s coming this summer with an update.
- A “Missions Event” tentatively scheduled for this fall.

Deacon Reports: With the exception of Deacon of Administration showing slides, the other reports were compiled into a written report passed out to the congregation prior to the meeting. The reports are as follows:

Deacon of Body Life: Jason Flenker reported that the Men’s bible study is going strong. We are meeting every 2nd Wed. of the month and averaging 25 men. This study is on, “Biblical Masculinity” and is led by Randy Vogel. The next study is May 13th at 6:30 pm.

The Women’s bible study will conclude in May and will return in the fall.

Both Divorce Care and GriefShare are going well with regular attendees.

Both the Men’s and Women’s ministries are planning future events and will be announcing them soon.

Deacon of Building Services: Kirk Hakanson shared that the invasive callery pear trees that were growing on the north border of our property have been removed by the City; thankfully at no cost to the church. We have started stump removal and will alter our mowing habits this summer. ***“Thank You” to Dave Link for leading this project and seeing it through to completion.***

Sealing the seams in our sidewalks is now completed and looks good.

We now have a TV in the nursery enabling those serving to stream the services.

We received a significant price increase from Gottschalk (cleaning service provider) which Kirk was able to re-negotiate for a \$1550. yearly savings. This amount may not seem significant, but Kirk also negotiated a 3-year guarantee on this rate!

We are no longer contracted to Cintas Services as our needs have changed.

A water leak issue was discovered on the west side of our building (occurs during wind-driven rain) and repair work will likely be done soon.

The re-sealing of our parking lot is set to be done this summer with announcements forthcoming regarding possible lot closure.

The AC system serving our classrooms and the welcome center is under repair now and will hopefully be fully operational soon.

Thank you to the amazing group of people who generously give of their time to help with all of the physical needs of our church building and facilities. I am very thankful for you.

Deacon of Children's Education: Joe Urmy shared that 8 kids are set to attend "Hidden Acres" camp this summer.

In February the SS department hosted a seminar on learning differences; the teachers and helpers are continuing to implement diversified educational techniques and best practices to accommodate those students with special needs.

I would like to thank all of our SS teachers and helpers for your continued dedication to our students. I would also like to thank Rob Kuhl and all of those serving in Awana for your commitment to being on-mission for the children and supporting their spiritual growth.

Deacon of Sunday Ministries: Todd Woods shared on the following areas:

Communion: We've returned to the more traditional form of sharing Communion during the regular Sunday service. We are working to refine the service to make it as seamless as possible – we appreciate your patience with the process.

Welcome Center: Although shorthanded, the welcome center staff are serving ably as greeters/ushers/front-line help for visitors. This ministry needs 8 additional members to ease the rotation and provide superior coverage weekly.

Nursery: Services provided by this ministry are highly valued. We've had recent recruits but also resignations, resulting in continued gaps in coverage monthly.

Children's Church: This ministry has continued to provide specialized teaching of the Bible to our children every Sunday. The staff rotation is very tight – volunteers are welcome and needed. Children's Church will take the summer off.

If you are interested in volunteering in any of these ministries, please see Todd Woods ([563-343-8133](tel:563-343-8133)/todd.woods@mchsi.com) or contact the church office. CAP training is required working with minor children and will be provided as needed.

Deacon Chair: Dave Brummitt reported that the Easter services went very well with over 290 in attendance on Sunday. ***"Thank You" to all who served that weekend.***

Both home school groups have requested use of our building for next school year. The deacons have approved this and are looking at extending the agreement(s) up to 5 years.

The closet under the stairs in the welcome center is now used only by the security team. The tablecloths & round folding tables have been moved to the sound room closet in the community center. Locks will be changed on each door. The security closet will have a unique key from the rest of the church.

There has recently been mischief in the library again; it appears to not be connected with the home school groups who meet here. Please remind your children that the library needs to be kept orderly.

Volunteers are needed in various ministries – nursery and chair set-up are current needs. Please consider serving, just once a month, in these areas. Contact Dave Brummitt (563-650-3301/Davebrummitt51@gmail.com) or Chuck McCoy (563-529-2452/cjhcmccoy@gmail.com) if you can help.

Congregational questions following written deacon reports:

- Rob Kuhl “Define Mischief?” (Nanelle Lane said things moved/misplaced – nothing dire – just inconsiderate mischief)
- Esther VanPelt – “Will Sunday School take the Summer off as well as Children’s Church?” (No)
- Penny Soucie – “What specifically is the \$5,600 in missions report?” (Nate – this is the one-time bonus given to all of our ministry partners)

Deacon of Administration: Charles Smith passed out P&L and Designated Accounts current as of March 31, 2026.

Thank You to Deb Anderson (daily banking), Melanie Garrett (attendance) and Penny Soucie (accounting) for their faithfulness.

One trend that has been repeating for several years – our offerings are below projected budget yet continue to exceed our expenses. We are also increasing attendance at a steady consistent rate. (Estimate 2022/23 attendance at 120 and currently at 150 trending toward 160).

Operating Income/Expense:

- Budget \$320,000
- Income \$ 69,087
- Expense \$ 65,198
- Gain \$ 3,889
- Average Attendance – 154

Old Business:

New Business:

Vote on building the Bump-Out: Should the Bump-Out be our next project?

A little History:

- 2022 – Formed a “What-If” team to look at what we should do when we grow. Where to meet, should we build, etc.
- 2023 – Formed “Next-Steps” team who narrowed & added recommendations and determined approximate costs.

Building possibilities:

- New Structure for Gym Use (est. \$1.2 mil 2023 – now 1.4) – Simple metal frame building with basic finishes and restrooms.
- New Structure for Sanctuary Use (est. \$3 mil 2023 – now 3.5) – Simple metal frame building with refined finishes and large, nice restrooms – seating 300+.
- Bump-Out front of existing Gym (est. 550k 2023 – now \$750k) – Add stage, storage, baptismal, full gym use – seating to 300.
- Also looked at “Mega-Sanctuary” in 2016 (est. \$2.7 mil 2016) – 372 seats, large narthex, more bathrooms.

Pastor Matt shared reasons to build the Bump-Out:

- Gain a stage
- More visible (easier to follow)
- Better lighting for online viewers
- Baptismal
- Storage for chairs
- Creates more space throughout the week
- Cleaner environment for worship
- Full-length Gym (we have been without a full gym for 6 years)
 - Helps facilitate current ministries (Awana, Youth Group, 70 kids in SS, 2 co-op groups that use our building)
 - Helps create future ministry opportunities (Outreach, sports, grace community gatherings, college ministry, etc.)
- Aesthetically more pleasing
 - Resolves HVAC issues
 - People may linger longer after service
- Creates space for growth (New Believers!)

The bottom line is that we get 2 for 1 at half the cost.

Estimated Cost(s) of the Bump-Out: Dave Brummitt shared costs estimates:

- Architect's Estimate (2023) \$405,000
- Sprinkler System Estimate (2023) \$100,000
- Estimated Increase in Cost (15%) \$ 75,750
- City Sewer Hook-Up (2026) \$ 52,500
- HVAC (speculative) \$100,000

Total Costs \$733,250

Funds Needed: \$750,000 (rounded up)

Funds Available: \$155,600

- Building Expansion Account \$ 87,700
- Building Upgrade Account \$ 24,500
- Capital Carryover Available \$ 43,400*

Funds to Raise: \$600,000 (rounded up)

*Capital Carryover will retain \$100,000 for unexpected expenses.

Following Pastor Matt and Dave's presentations the congregation had a time of discussion and Q&A:

- Penny Soucie – “How many seats can we accommodate now and what will be the accommodation following the Bump-Out?” (we now seat 247 – the bump-out will increase capacity up to 300+)
- “What if we grow beyond 300+?” (Pastor Matt shared – this is not something we anticipate in the next years – if growth remains steady his goal will be leadership development/church planting – going to 2 services only if absolutely necessary but not our 1st choice)
- “How did we determine cost increase from 2023 to 2026?” “Did we use construction CPI?” (We communicated with those in the construction industry from our church to determine the 15% increase – when the updated sewer hook-up came in at a 16% increase we thought 15% was on the right track)
- Deb Anderson – “Do the cost estimates include a new floor?” (no)
- Rob Kuhl – “If we agree that this is our next project, what happens next and when?” (the next thing would be to re-assemble the “next-steps” team (several are willing to continue serving, we will need additional people) in order for them to get specific finalized plans and costs – along with financing/fund-raising)

- Judy McCoy had questions regarding the sewer which were deferred as that is already on the meeting agenda.
- Charles Smith went back to the “bump-out costs” slide and gave some clarification on the possible order of tasks/the logical sequence of tasks.
- Drew Ketchum – “Are there any market predictions as to the benefit of moving now as opposed to later?” (Nothing specific – Chuck McCoy said construction costs are “normal” and construction is currently booming)
- Karen Adams – “How does this all work – the financing/fund-raising?” (Dave read the intent of this vote: “We are voting to decide if the bump-out is our next project. The building team will be finalizing plans, determining ways of finance, and gathering other necessary information. The congregation will then give final approval before we move forward with the actual building.”)
- Ryan VanPelt – For clarification, are we deciding now on going ahead with the bump-out or are we deciding that we want to move forward with specifics to approve the bump-out when all costs are in?” (We are deciding the latter – we are moving forward in faith desiring this to be our next project which will be voted on definitively again AFTER all specifics are researched and communicated)
- Esther VanPelt – “Would there be an advantage to just building a stage in the event we choose not to move forward with the bump-out?” (this is what we will pursue if the congregational consensus is No)
- Robert Garms – “My biggest concern with the bump-out is the need to continue moving chairs weekly in perpetuity.” (Chris Schilb has spoken with churches and this is a common weekly practice for many congregations)
- Tom Nock – “Moving chairs is an investment we can all be involved in. We are already moving chairs so the bump-out would just be a continuation of an already existing area of service.” (As mentioned earlier in the meeting – this ministry is only once a month and only requires approximately an hour) ***Tom also expressed appreciation to all those who have already invested time and effort in presenting these ideas and recommendations to the church family.***
- Todd Woods encouraged the grace family not to forget that stepping forward in faith and trusting in God’s provision is what His people are purposed to do.
- Dave Brummitt shared that the EFCA has connections to organizations that can provide low-interest loans to churches (with only paying interest during construction) as well as organizations that give monetary grants to churches.

Following Pastor Matt's & Dave Brummitt's presentations, and congregational discussion and Q&A a ballot was distributed – "Should we proceed with developing plans for the bump-out? Yes/No"

While the votes were being tallied we moved on to the next agenda item.

Election – Deacon of Sunday Ministries

The nominating committee has presented Chuck McCoy as a candidate for Deacon of Sunday Ministries (Todd Woods is now an elder). A ballot was passed to the congregation.

At this point the ballot for the bump-out was tallied with congregational approval. The vote desiring it to be our next project was 43 Yes/6 No.

We moved on to the next agenda item while the election votes were being tallied.

Vote on Connecting to City Sewer: Dave explained that bathrooms have backed up three times since the bathroom project was completed. It was determined that existing lines to the septic tanks don't have the drop needed. An updated quote to connect to city sewer is \$52,500. Building the bump-out will require us to connect to the city sewer because the septic tanks are in that space. Connecting will require us to start paying the city for sewer fees at that time. Should we approve funds now so work can be completed when needed?

- Kirk (deacon on building services) suggests connecting now (prior to cold weather) as it is a fixed cost which will not change regardless of timing.
- Chris Schilb agreed with doing it now and avoiding any further costs associated with our septic issues.
- Sarah Carter asked, "Can we put rough plumbing in now for a baptismal in order to save \$?" (No – the cost will be minimal to run a line to the baptismal)
- Tom Nock asked, "From the engineering side, is there a low-cost "temporary" fix to get us by?" (Possibly, but it's not prudent to spend money when city connection will soon be required.)
- Robert Garms said, "If we hook up to city sewer we need to make sure to route it properly."
- Penny Soucie asked, "Will it be any less expensive to do it as a stand-alone project or in conjunction with the bump-out?" (No – it is a fixed cost)

Robyn Ludeking, “I make a motion to allocate \$52,500 from Capital Carryover account in order to hook up to city sewer now.” Chuck McCoy seconded.

A hand vote was taken and overwhelmingly approved.

Dave said the deacons will work with the building team to determine when the project should be completed.

At this point the ballots for Chuck McCoy as Deacon of Sunday Ministries were tallied with overwhelming congregational approval.

Since congregational approval on the bump-out is our next project, Dave shared a slide, “Funds for Team Expenses”:

To complete planning for the bump-out, the team will need funds for expenses:

- Architect Drawings
- Structural Engineer – moving HVAC to crosswalk roof
- Other expenses – unknown at this time.

The deacons bring this motion to the congregation, “To move \$20,000. from Capital Carryover to a designated account for the bump-out, to be used for team expenses”.

The congregation voted by raised hand and the motion received overwhelming approval.

Heartfelt thanks to Todd Woods both for his faithfulness as Deacon of Sunday Ministries and for his new role as a member of our elder team.

Chris Schilb made a motion to adjourn and Todd Woods closed the meeting in prayer at 1:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Carter