



the Grace Messenger

A monthly publication of Grace University Lutheran Church
FEBRUARY 2021 — VOLUME 118 — ISSUE 2

PASTOR'S PAGE

I find myself drawn with greater frequency to Howard Thurman's book, *Meditations of the Heart*. Born in 1899, he was considered one of the great preachers of the 20th century. He was a spiritual advisor to Martin Luther King, Jr. and many others, the first black dean of a white university, and a beloved pastor of the first interracial church in the United States.

It is his pastoral heart that draws my attention. His meditation "How Good to Center Down!" is a timeless call to all of us:

How good it is to center down!

To sit quietly and see one's self pass by!

The streets of our minds seethe with endless traffic;

Our spirits resound with clashings, with nosy silences,

While something deep within
hunger and thirsts for the
still moment and the resting
lull.

With full intensity we seek,
ere the quiet passes, a fresh
sense of order in our living;

A direction, a strong sure
purpose that will structure
our confusion and bring
meaning in our chaos.

We look at ourselves in this waiting moment – the kinds of
people we are.

The questions persist: what are we doing with our lives? –
what are the motives that order our days?

What is the end of our doings? Where are we trying to go?

Where do we put the emphasis and where are our values focused?

For want end do we make sacrifices? Where is my treasure
and what do I love most in life?

What do I hate most in life and to what am I true?

Over and over the questions beat in upon the waiting moment.



Pastor's Page continued on p. 2...

in FEBRUARY

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The deadline for
submissions to the
MARCH Grace Messenger is
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16.



Graceattheu.org

[Grace University Lutheran
Church Facebook Page](#)

[Grace University Families on
Facebook](#)

[Grace University YouTube
Channel](#)

WORSHIP *in* FEBRUARY

We worship apart, but together. Worship information is emailed on Saturdays at 5 pm and is also posted on our website. Worship videos are on our YouTube channel.

Sundays at 9:30 am join us for "Live: Stories & Songs" on our Facebook page – a worshipful and fun time for all ages.

Sunday, February 7

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Live Worship via Zoom (see p. 3) with Holy Communion

Isaiah 40:21-31 *The creator of all cares for the powerless*

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23 *A servant for the sake of the gospel*

Mark 1:29-39 *The healing of Peter's mother-in-law*

Sunday, February 14

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Table of Mercy Setting

11:30 am Meeting with Bishop Svernungsen via Zoom (see p. 3)

2 Kings 2:1-12 *Elijah taken up to heaven and succeeded by Elisha*

Psalms 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6 *God's light seen clearly in the face of Christ*

Mark 9:2-9 *Revelation of Christ as God's beloved Son*

Wednesday, February 17 – ASH WEDNESDAY

Pre-recorded worship available all day

7:00 pm Live Worship via Zoom (see p. 3 "Lent 2021")

Sunday, February 21

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17 *The rainbow, sign of God's covenant*

Psalms 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22 *Saved through water*

Mark 1:9-15 *The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days*

Sunday, February 28

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 *God blesses Abraham and Sarah*

Psalms 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25 *The promise to those who share Abraham's faith*

Mark 8:31-38 *The passion prediction*

Pastor's Page continued...

As we listen, floating up through all the jangling echoes of our turbulence, there is a sound of another kind –

A deeper note which only the stillness of the heart makes clear.

It moves directly to the core of our being. Our questions are answered,

Our spirits refreshed, and we move back into the traffic of

our daily round

With the peace of the Eternal in our step.

How good it is to center down!

With gratitude,

Pastor Mary

CALL CENTER

As we embark on the discernment process for calling pastoral leadership following Pastors Dan and Mary's retirement, we will be creating a space on Grace's website that will serve as a clearinghouse for all information related to the call process that can be shared publicly. This will include the list of those on the Call Committee, how to best get in touch with them, announcements regarding the community, and a place for submitting nominations for candidates to consider. Look for that in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, note two things:

- 1) A Ministry Site Profile meeting with Bishop Ann Svernungsen on February 14 at 11:30 am – all the information is on page 3.
- 2) Here's the list of Call Committee members:

Patty Lee, chair

David Grandall

Luke Jerviss

Barbara Lundblad

Brian Neurauter

Maren Olson

Tony Pham

Stan Olson, non-voting

Pastor Kate Reuer Welton, non-voting

LENT 2021

“...have you not read...the story about...?” (Mark 12:26)

STORIES OF GRACE TO TELL

Lenten devotionals told by members of the Grace community, along with a daily continuous reading of Mark's entire gospel, will be provided via email. Each household will also receive the devotional, *A Story to Tell*, in the mail. These devotionals are partially funded by a grant from Interfaith Health at Fairview Health Services, which supports Faith Based Community Nursing in congregations, including Grace.

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

A pre-recorded worship service will be available in the morning of Ash Wednesday. In following health guidelines during the pandemic, we will not have in-person Imposition of Ashes. These times require us to adapt and be resourceful. With that in mind we invite your participation:



- Have paper and pen/pencil on hand along with a bowl of water.
- Have a candle with a wick that has already been lit, but do not light for worship. The ash of the wick will be used to mark the sign of the cross on your forehead or the foreheads of those in your household.
- If you don't have access to a candle have a face mask on hand with a black marker or pen. You will be invited to make the sign of the cross on your mask and then wear it. This personal protective equipment acknowledges our mortality and is a powerful sign of our interdependence in community, and our dependence upon God.

At 7:00 pm a shorter worship will be held via Zoom. Please have the same items on hand as listed above.

Details for connecting at 7:00 pm on Ash Wednesday:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81562729247?pwd=akx6MjR4eFV0cW5tWjFoRC93RE5UUT09>

Meeting ID: 815 6272 9247
Passcode: 617160

MUSICAL OFFERINGS

During Lent, Steve Self will be providing musical offerings, organ and piano, that we'll make available each week on Wednesdays.

LIVE WORSHIP VIA ZOOM —SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Join us at 10:30 am

We'll gather live at 10:30 am via Zoom. This service will include Holy Communion – prepare at home by gathering bread and wine or grape juice.

Details for connecting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83174641746?pwd=YjdSZUhrUklZZHdqTHh3M1VHZ3hCZz09>

Meeting ID: 831 7464 1746
Passcode: 137794

To call in to a Zoom gathering using your touchtone phone, first dial by your area, then enter the Meeting ID and Passcode:

- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Wash, D.C)
- +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

MINISTRY SITE PROFILE MEETING WITH BISHOP

Sunday, February 14
@ 11:30 am via Zoom

Grace members are invited to attend this gathering with Bishop Ann Svennungsen. As Grace looks ahead toward pastoral transition, this meeting will be about looking at our Ministry Site Profile – who we are as a congregation. We may also learn a bit more about the call process.

Details for connecting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86067781568?pwd=dGFBZi90QlZPaTYzTTdEY1dCdCsyQT09>

Meeting ID: 860 6778 1568
Passcode: 046628

Please mark your calendars and plan to participate.



GRACE UNIVERSITY: 2ND SEMESTER

The class catalogue will be available soon! Look for an email in early February with the catalogue of classes offered to gather online – for tending to the spiritual, equity and justice, knitting and painting, classes for kids (led by a kid!), book discussions, and a variety of other topics. All classes are free (unless there are supplies to gather at home) and led by members of the Grace community via Zoom. We hope you'll participate!

COMMUNITY NOTES

Birth:

Gwyneth Michelle Wolf, daughter of Kara and Stefan Wolf, sister of Solveig, on January 21. Welcome, Gwyneth!

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITY

How are we called to respond to the distress in the world today? The problems seem so overwhelming, it can be hard to see what role we can possibly play. From **12:00-1:30pm on Friday, February 12**, Deepa Iyer will present a free workshop titled "What's My Role In Creating Social Change?" She brings a depth of experience and wisdom to the conversation. See [here](#) for more info (no cost).

(Opportunity brought to our attention by Grace member Connie Fourné)

"AHA" MOMENT

By Barbara Lundblad

When I was a pastor in New York City, a friend of mine who's also a pastor came into the city from New Jersey. She had agreed to take one of her parishioners to Sloan Kettering Hospital for cancer treatment. Since the appointment would last a while, she came uptown to spend some time with me in my apartment on the third floor of the church building. When I had to leave for a meeting, I said, "Just close the door – it will lock behind you." So I left for my meeting and later on, my friend left to pick up her parishioner. As she was walking downstairs, Erna, a long-time member of our congregation was walking up. "Oh," she said, "were you here to clean Pastor Lundblad's apartment?"

"No, just visiting," my friend said and kept walking. Erna had no idea that my friend went to the prestigious Girls High School in Philadelphia and graduated with honors from the Lutheran School of Theology in that same city. She's also a gifted musician with a wonderful voice and has written many songs. On Easter morning she often plays the trumpet for "Jesus Christ Is Ris'n Today." Almost every summer she spends a week or two with Niki and me in Maine. She has served several parishes in New Jersey and was Assistant to the Bishop of that synod. For a number of years she was Director of Diversity and Religious Life at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. At the end of January she will retire from fulltime ministry in the Lutheran church.

By now you can probably guess where this story is going. I'm sure my apartment needed cleaning. It's also true that house cleaning is a worthy profession and hard work. Why did Erna assume the woman on the stairs had come to clean? Why else would a Black woman be walking down from the pastor's apartment? I'm sure you know the answer: my friend Gladys is African American. Many of us white people have long assumed that Black people are suited only for certain jobs. Lots of white people are still angry because a Black man was in the White House for eight years. When Gladys told me about that encounter on the stairway, I realized how quickly we put people into boxes according to their race.

SEEKING "AHA" MOMENT STORIES

Do you have a story to share about when you became aware of race or perhaps an experience that helped you change your behavior in relation to people who don't share your skin color? If you are interested in writing your story (about 400 words or less) please contact Niki Johnson: nikijohnson29@yahoo.com or 917-617-1296.



2021 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION IS NOW AVAILABLE AND IS DUE MARCH 2nd

If you know of any undergraduate or graduate students doing great work in the area of peace and justice, please spread the word that the 2021 scholarship application is now available.

[2021 Scholarship Application](#)

Completed applications for the 2021 scholarships must be emailed to info@hawkinsonfoundation.org by March 2, 2021.

LEARN ABOUT OUR PAST SCHOLARS

The Hawkinson Fund has been awarding scholarships to student peace and justice leaders since 1989. Meet our impressive past scholarship recipients.

[Meet the Scholars](#)

DONATIONS

Please consider donating to the Hawkinson Fund to help us recognize more of these amazing students that are changing the world. Donate by sending a check made out to Hawkinson Fund for Peace and Justice to the address below or by donating online:

324 Harvard Street SE
Minneapolis MN 55414

[Online Donation to Hawkinson Fund](#)

(or find the link at <http://hawkinsonfoundation.org/>)

Our new garden **FREE LITTLE PANTRY** is being used... if you'd like to contribute by providing items for re-stocking, you can bring these to Grace and re-stock on your own, or if you'd like to add to the stores we keep on hand for re-stocking, you can bring these to Grace on Wednesdays (contact Heidi in advance at cyf@graceattheu.org if you plan to come in) — other times may be available. Items that seem to be in demand: granola bars, personal hygiene items, and ready-to-eat items.

To the right:

Jensen Joyce and his parents, Laura and Tim, re-stocks the pantry with items they collected as a "reverse Advent calendar".

ADDRESSING HUNGER

Hunger is on the rise in many households throughout the Twin Cities. You are invited to help by writing a check out to Grace in support of **Community Emergency Service**. CES provides high-quality direct service to people in need through direct aid relief, advocacy, referral, guidance and prayer support, if desired. CES seeks to strengthen families and individuals with the goal of moving them beyond crisis to financial stability, as well as emotional health, personal growth and spiritual depth. The Grace community has been a strong supporter of this ministry for many years.

You may send your check to Grace with "CES" in the memo line, and funds will be forwarded. Check out CES's website if you'd like to learn more about their mission: <https://cesmn.org>



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Erin Sutton	2
Ann Weigle	2
Siri Garnaas	2
Renee Sieving	3
Benjamin Schnobrich	4
Deb Hoffoss	5
Kim Medin	5
River Ostrow	7
Audrey Hawkinson	9
Tom Achartz	11
Dan Guenther	12
Jenna Bergquist	14
Elena Anderson	16
Keagan Beckstrom	16
Jennifer Franke	16
Cooper Parriott	16
Jeff Swiontkowski	16
Steph Evenson	17
Paul Evenson	18
Evalina Leos	19
Benjamin Reuer Welton	20
Jackie Rolfs	20
David Severtson	20
Freddie Swanson	20
Amy Anderson	21
Laura Lee	21
Grace Leos	24
Camden Schober	26
Caleb Hill	27
Annika Odden	27
Hannes Carlsen	28
Emily Foecke	28
Matthew Ostrow	28
Nora Young	28

NURSE'S NOTE



February is Heart Health Month!

Sources: CDC Heart Disease and Stroke (October 7, 2020)
Heart Attack FAQ

According to the CDC:

“More than 868,000 Americans die of heart disease, stroke, or other cardiovascular diseases every year—that’s one-third of all US deaths. These diseases also take an economic toll, costing \$214 billion a year to our health care system and causing \$138 billion in lost productivity from premature death alone.”

6 Strategies to live a Heart-Healthy Lifestyle (CDC)

1. *Be aware of your health history.* Know your risk factors and talk to your family and doctor about your health history. Be aware of your vital numbers: blood pressure, cholesterol (total and LDL), and blood glucose/A1C.
2. *Eat a healthy diet.* Eat more fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean meats and low-fat dairy products. Reduce the amount of salt, saturated fats and added sugar in your diet.
3. *Move more, sit less.* Get in at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity aerobic activities every week plus muscle strengthening exercises at least twice per week.
4. *Quit smoking.* Start your quit plan today! Take the first step and call 1-800-QUIT-NOW for FREE support.
5. *Take medications as directed.* If you take medicine to treat high cholesterol, high blood pressure, or diabetes, follow your doctor’s instructions carefully. Always ask questions if you don’t understand something. Never stop taking your medicine without talking to your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.
6. *Rethink your drink.* Substitute water for sugary drinks to reduce calories. If you drink alcohol, do so in moderation. (Ask me if you want more information about this – Cheryl)

Heart Attack FAQ

#StressReliefSunday (and maybe a few more times each week).

Sunday is a great day of the week to pause, rest, and reset to enter your week calm, cool, and collected. Simply by taking a moment to meditate, be present, and focus on yourself. According to the [American Heart Association \(AHA\)](#), evidence shows that meditation can help with stress, anxiety, and even high blood pressure.

One stress-relief activity is Walking Meditation. The AHA includes walking as a form of fitness meditation that can be done mindfully. Walking Meditation has four basic steps:

1. Find a quiet space where others will not distract you.

2. Begin to walk slowly with about 10 to 20 feet clear in front of you so that you can walk freely.
3. While walking, start to hone in on how you feel, your movements, and the sensations you are experiencing while moving and balancing.
4. At the end of your path, turn around and repeat as you walk back.

“Be still and know that I am God...” Psalm 46:10

Stay well and safe. Blessings to each of you and your families,

—Nurse Cheryl

THANK YOU

Thank you all so much for your generous donation of \$15,000 last year to help us get over the hump and meet our total fundraising goal of \$155,000 for Project JOBS, supporting construction of modernized facilities at Let Africa Live (LAV) for training in mechanics, carpentry, and welding.

We greatly appreciate your contribution to Project JOBS and to our goal of supporting the education, healing, and transformational work being done by Congolese professionals at the community level. Construction of the facilities is well underway thanks to your generosity! Because we are an all-volunteer organization, 97 cents of every dollar you contribute goes directly to work in the Congo.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks. To receive our occasional e-newsletter and action alerts, email us at info@mwendocongo.org.

Sincerely,

Luke Jerviss

Chair, Board of Directors

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<i>Adult Education</i>	Nancy Laskaris
<i>Archives & History</i>	Gordon Folke
<i>Children & Youth</i>	Jenny Odden
<i>Congregational Life</i>	Frieda von Qualen
<i>Hawkinson Fund</i>	Jared Oasheim & Stan Jacobson
<i>Outreach</i>	Susan Wooten
<i>Property</i>	Rolf Carlsen
<i>Sunday Service Coordinator</i>	Rose Carlsen
<i>Social Justice Coordinator</i>	Anita Hill
<i>Stewardship</i>	
<i>Worship and Music</i>	David Grandall
<i>Leadership Development</i>	Jean Stilwell, David Anderson, Sara Sneed Miller

WOMEN’S RETREAT

Lent—March 20

**Saturday morning 9:00am – 12noon
via Zoom**

Please sign up by emailing Pastor Mary at pastormary@graceattheu.org

You are invited to sign up for this final mini retreat. Pastor Mary will facilitate, which includes small group time, alone time and large group time. We will attempt to create a retreat-like tone, even as we gather via Zoom. If you want to join but need guidance on how to use Zoom, please let Pastor Mary know.

All you need is a quiet space, comfortable clothes, a journal, and the gift of your presence. We gather because we need the nourishment of shared experiences, wisdom, deep listening, and reflecting on matters of the heart.

There is no cost and no maximum limit for the group. In lieu of a retreat fee, you are invited to make a donation to support the ministry of the ARC Retreat Center:

<https://www.arcretreat.org/give-today>.

GRACE COUNCIL MEMBERS

<i>President</i>	Stan Olson
<i>Vice President</i>	Drew Schwab
<i>Vice President</i>	Nicole Johnson
<i>Treasurer</i>	John Edmundson
<i>Secretary</i>	Lisa Linnell
<i>Council-at-Large</i>	Kirsten Bansen Weigle
<i>Council-at-Large</i>	Becky Hunter
<i>Council-at-Large</i>	Joe Carlson

Grace University Lutheran Church

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Minneapolis, MN 55414
612-331-8125

www.graceattheu.org
info@graceattheu.org



Lutheran Campus
Ministry



Address service requested

STATEMENT of MISSION

The primary mission of Grace University Lutheran Church is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ as an instrument of God's reconciling love in the world. We do this so that reconciliation with God may become a reality for all. (2 Corinthians 5:18-21)

STATEMENT of AFFIRMATION

Grace University Lutheran Church is a spiritual community that celebrates the gifts of God that empower us to engage in the struggles of life, to care for each other, and to serve Christ where we work and live. Grace is a Reconciling-in-Christ congregation. We welcome the participation of people of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities, educational backgrounds, and economic conditions—all who want to join in community to honor God and be of service to people.

OFFICE/BUILDING HOURS

Temporarily suspended during the pandemic

THE PEOPLE of GRACE

Ministers The Grace Community

Grace Staff

- Mary Halvorson* Co-Pastor, pastormary@graceattheu.org
- Dan Garnaas* Co-Pastor, pastordan@graceattheu.org
- Heidi Johnson McAllister* Director of Faith Formation
and Member Engagement, cyf@gracattheu.org
- Jill Abenth* Office Manager, info@graceattheu.org
- Stephen Self* Organist and Choir Director, music@graceattheu.org
- Joan Christensen* Pianist, jerjoanchriste@hotmail.com
- David Anderson* Bookkeeper & Financial Secretary, akro davidmn@gmail.com
- Cheryl Lanigan* Faith Community Nurse, nurse@graceattheu.org
- Mechawit Simmons* Custodian
- Mike Lanigan* Sunday Attendant
- Jared Steven Coffin* Composer in Residence

Volunteer Staff

- Stefan Wolf* Second Sunday Singing Director, stefanjwolf@gmail.com
- Janelle Bussert* Keyboard Choir Director, jbussert2@aol.com
- Patti Regan* Handbell Choir Director, regan.patti@gmail.com
- Carolyn Winters Folke* Offering Counting Coordinator, cbwf40@gmail.com

Lutheran Campus Ministry Staff

- Kate Reuer Welton* Lutheran Campus Pastor, pastorkate@umnlutheran.org
- Michelle Greene* Administrative & Development Assistant, info@umnlutheran.org
- Dana Rademacher Hansen* Program Associate, dana@umnlutheran.org
- Ben Cox* St. Paul Outreach Intern, ben@umnlutheran.org
- Jenna Van Holtum* Student Admin & Development Intern, jenna@umnlutheran.org

Grace Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday December 9, 2020 – 7:00-8:30 PM
by Zoom technology

Attending: Pastor Mary Halvorson, Pastor Dan Garnaas, Stan Olson, Niki Johnson, Kirsten Bansen Weigle, Becky Hunter, Joe Carlson, Drew Schwab. John Edmundson, Lisa Linnell

Guests: Anna Flintoft, Rolf Carlsen, co-chairs, Grace Building Committee

Call to Order by Stan at 7:02pm

Opening Word – Kirsten

November Council Minutes – Lisa

Action: Motion to approve minutes as distributed. Motion by Lisa, second by Joe. Motion approved.

November Financial Reports – John

Few changes to the financial picture from the previous month. Contract for parking runs through December 2021, option to renew it for two years. Steve Solbrack (former Council President) recommends waiting until next year to discuss the option to renew.

Two large pledges came in November, along with some extra giving.

Action: Motion to receive financial reports as distributed. Motion by John, second by Drew. Motion approved.

2021 Budget - John

Drew is negotiating new insurance at a lower rate. (See separate notes below.)

Need to spend \$10,000 to update our website to make it more relevant. Staff has been discussing the inadequacy of the website. It's been about six years since it was updated; Jill and volunteers have been keeping it up as best they can. Recommend adding \$1,000 for website maintenance or licensing to the budget going forward. (Estimate is based on comparable work for LCM.)

Report from the Stewardship Committee: Second week of December has been designated as pledge week. Committee is encouraging people to increase if they can, monitoring how many pledges have come in and how many have increased (~160-170 pledges annually).

The 1.3% increase for staff is intended as a cost-of-living increase. Anything beyond that should be considered separately by the Council.

Any changes to the draft budget will need to be made before the January 24 congregational meeting.

Pastors' Reports – Dan and Mary

Mary - Last Saturday was the first Zoom online retreat; worked well even with limitations.

We're well into Advent, planning for Christmas, then moving into planning for Lent.

Dan – Uptick of people requesting pastoral counseling and care.

Will be sending a “thank you” tomorrow to Grace University faculty. People are enjoying the connections and the meaningful conversation. Will be soliciting classes for second semester.

Men's retreat in January, date TBD.

Stan - Recommends May 14 as Mary and Dan's last day; avoids having their last day falling on Pentecost Sunday or Memorial Day weekend.

Summer In-Reach Report – Pastor Dan

Distributed to the Council. Prepared by Kirsten Bansen Weigle, Krista Nelson, and Sue Engh (Racial Equity Team and Inreach Planning Team). Plan to distribute the two-page summary to the full congregation. Next step is an invitation for all that were heard to discuss next steps and integrating action. Mission board retreat planned for February-March.

Add two-page report as an appendix to the minutes.

Building Task Force Update – Anna Flintoft & Rolf Carlsen

The Building Task Force is looking for direction from the Council and the Congregation. Need to look at what we might do differently for the Building Project. The Task Force is frustrated with the numbers we have been given by Miller Dunwiddie, as well as the impasse in negotiations with the city and the University.

Discussion by the Council about options. Recommendation to pause the building project in light of budget concerns and a desire by both the Council and the Building Task Force to go back to the Congregation to discuss priorities and whether the pandemic has changed either of these.

Discussion of seeking approval at the January Congregational meeting to move forward with the necessary roof repairs, decoupling the conversation from the larger conversation of the future of the construction project. Task Force will rough out some proposals for the congregation to consider. Hoping to get that out before Christmas or early January.

Policies & practices during the pandemic – review as needed

No discussion

Designate clergy housing allowance for 2021

Action: Motion to designate the same percentage of compensation for clergy housing allowance for 2021 as for 2020 for Pastor Mary Halvorson and Pastor Dan Garnaas. Motion by Drew, second by John. Motion approved.

Continued on p.10...

Insurance for 2021 – proposal to change carriers – Drew

Some options and choices that could save us money (~\$6,000). Recommendation from Drew: Church Mutual quote is for more coverage at a lesser rate.

***Action:** Motion to move Property and Casualty insurance program from Bullis Agency/Cincinnati Insurance to Church Mutual Insurance effective 12/14/20 for the upcoming 12 month term in recognition of equal/better coverage at a significantly lower price. Estimated annual premium of \$9,448 with the \$2M umbrella option, with approval for 5% premium variance on final coverage. Motion by Drew, second by Niki. Motion approved.*

Other Business

None

Pastoral Transition Update

Stan has asked the pastors to stay for part of this discussion because they're our best source for a review of Grace's staffing history.

- a) The Ministry Profile Task force, chaired by Drew Schwab, has begun its work
- b) The Call Committee, chaired by Patty Lee, has begun its work
- c) The Council's role includes establishing position descriptions to guide the search. With our history of multiple staff and various configurations of staff, here are some questions we might discuss:
 - (1) Currently we have co-pastors who share broad pastoral duties and who partner with other staff who focus on management, communication, music, faith formation, congregational care and maintenance. Are we generally comfortable with the present configuration of our staff? Is this a time to consider any changes?
 - (2) If we plan to call two pastors, is it our preference to call two at the same time, while being open to calling one and then another?
 - (3) Do we prefer two full-time pastors while being open to other FTE arrangements?

Adjourn

Action: Motion to adjourn at 8:43. Motion by Drew, second by Joe, Motion approved.

A NOTE ABOUT SCAMS

Scams seem to be popping up everywhere: emails, text messages, phone calls...sometimes it can be difficult to tell if a request is legitimate and coming from the person it claims to be coming from.

*****Our pastors will NOT EVER text or email individuals to solicit money or other kinds of donations.*****

In addition, any requests for money coming directly from a congregation member to you personally should be checked out with one of our pastors.

If you receive an email or text message that appears to be coming from a pastor — perhaps asking you to “do a favor” or “help me out with something” and directing you to purchase gift cards or forward money — DO NOT REPLY or click on any links. You may let someone on staff know. You can "block the caller" and delete the text, or report the email as spam. You can also visit this to learn more about what to do: [How to recognize and report spam text messages](#)