



4555 Old Grand Avenue
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Elder Board Meeting Minutes
GCC Community Room

January 13, 2026

Members Present: John Skillman, Carol Walton, Senior Pastor Ryan Miller, Hannah Goering, Nancy Westover, Mark Hager, Dan Brewer, Charlene Quint

Members Absent: none

Visitors: Gurnee Police officers Shawn Gaylor, Crime Prevention

Chad Smits, Public Educator, accompanied by Mira, Canine Comfort officer

Gary Elsbury, GCC Director of Building and Grounds

The meeting started at 6:30 PM with a presentation of a Safety Assessment of the GCC building and property previously conducted on December 15 by Gurnee Police Department representatives accompanied by Gary Elsbury, Mark Hager, and John Skillman. The written observations and recommendations were discussed with the Elders and Gary Elsbury for further review and action. The visitors left at 8:15. Nancy mentioned the need for a designated church Safety team to further evaluate and operationalize the recommendations. This was to be discussed at a future meeting.

Old Business

John Skillman moved and Carol seconded the motion to approve the minutes from December 9, 2025, as amended. The motion passed.

John reported an increase in tithes and offerings in December. The Endowment Fund has an excess above principle, which he expected to be moved into savings soon. He presented a motion to appoint Dave Ulrich as Chair of the Endowment Fund, along with two new members, Cindy Hooten and Josiah Goering. The Elders approved the motion.

Hannah reported on the January 11 Director's meeting. The Christmas Eve service was well-received with at least 325 people in attendance. Griefshare was scheduled to begin again soon. Directors were working on goals. With regards to Pastor and Elder goals, Nikki pointed out the need to more specifically define church membership. Both Pastor Brian and Nikki Behler expressed their gratitude for their anniversary celebrations held during both services.

Pastor Ryan announced the resignation of the BiG Director who was also a licensed Food Handler. Nikki volunteered to take the classes leading to the certification to cover the needs of both BiG and GCC in this capacity.

Hannah introduced the list of all candidates supplied by the Elders to respond to the Questionnaires for the Senior Pastor Annual Review. Hannah was to consolidate the lists and forward it to the Elders. The Elders reviewed the surveys and approved the content. Each Elder was to immediately send a Questionnaire and cover letter to each candidate nominated by that Elder so that Hannah could compile the results by the end of February.

Ryan requested two regularly scheduled communion servers with a third for back-up if needed, for each communion service. The volunteers for January 4 are as follows:

- 9:45 Carol and Nancy, Hannah backup
- 10:45 Mark and Hannah, Dan backup

There was also a discussion about the use of Church Planning Center to enable the scheduling of Communion Servers. Pastor Ryan was to follow-up with Mike Rancharan.

Ryan also requested additional time to increase familiarity with our congregation and pray before engaging in a specific "vision" for GCC, particularly with regards to the development of the north wing. The Elders prayed together and agreed to postpone the goal of a congregational meeting to discuss this until later in the year. There was also agreement to pray further at the upcoming retreat in February. Steve Saunders was to be the teacher/facilitator at the retreat.

Discussion of Contingency planning was postponed but Hannah reminded the Elders that the final plans were to be completed by the end of April.

The next meeting was scheduled for January 27, 2026, at 6:30 PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Westover
GCC Church Secretary