

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
August 20, 2019

MODERATOR
The Rev. Chris French

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Pastors Present: The Rev. Dr. Trey Little, The Rev. Chris French

Elders Present: Candy Aldridge, Dath Collins, Vic Condrey, Bert Crump, Evan Ghazi, Jim Leeland, Mike Mantel, Natalie McElroy, Dan McElyea, Hardie Morgan, Nnenna Okoro, Wayne Parchman, Tanner Spears, Jo Swank, Gindi Vincent, Woody Woodruff, Greg Zuanich

Excused: Terry Looper, Greg Morby, Philip Parker, Tami Plummer

Absent: Francisco Garibay, Stephanie Mixon, Jim Tomforde

Others in attendance: Susan McElroy

Chris French moderated the meeting, at the request of Trey Little. Chris opened the meeting with prayer and shared a couple of Stories of Grace from this week that demonstrated an example of how the Body of Christ works in real time. He read from Romans 12 and Colossians 3 and encouraged the elders to pray in small groups about the Body of Christ at work among us.

Clerk's Report & Administrative Matters

Candy Aldridge presented the Consent Agenda for approval. A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda. It was seconded and approved.

Strategy Team Opportunities: Strategy Teams submitted written updates of their activities. Gindi Vincent announced that the Bless Team has implemented an accountability form for Grace's Mission Partners to use in reporting annual progress.

Old Business

- **Congregational Survey** - Results from the May 19 congregational survey will be presented to the Session at the September meeting.
- **Construction Update** - Hardie Morgan described progress to-date with a detailed handout. Weekly updates are provided on the Grace website and in weekly emails to the congregation. The goal is to complete construction before the 50th anniversary celebration on December 8, 2019. The handout detailed the financial position of the project, including pledges, actual contribution, unanticipated expenses, unallocated funds and the contingency balance.
- **Financial Update** - June 2019 was a tough month financially. Unrestricted contributions for the month were 31% less than plan, and 6.9% lower the FY plan. June operating expenses were 3% greater than budget for the month and 2% less for the FY. July results were favorable, and August is on pace,

so far. Current expenses are below budget. The Leadership Team is analyzing how to increase revenue and have identified a few areas to further reduce expenses.

- Director of Student Ministries Search Team -Natalie McElroy, chair of the Team, reported progress in reenergizing the student ministries program. A Town Hall meeting with parents and youth was held on August 11. Grace has formed a Youth Commission to design what the youth experience will be on a Sunday and provide structure for that to happen. Interim Director, Dorothy Hobbs, and Amy French have organized the group. They are also seeking additional parent volunteers to support youth programs throughout the year. The Search Team will meet again on August 21. Dr. Stephen Argue, Fuller Theological Seminary Associate Professor of Youth, Family, and Culture, will speak with parents and other interested members on August 25.

New Business

Pastoral Search Team - Grace is seeking to fill the role of Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation and Discipleship, to equip adults and prepare youth. Trey presented the following names for the Associate Pastor Search Team for the Session's review and approval:

Candy Aldridge	Trey Little
Jenny Gottschalk	Terry Looper
Matt Kiker	Jo Swank

Terry Looper will serve primarily in a consulting role. A motion was made to approve this team and was seconded. Ensuing discussion arose about whether an additional person with younger children should be included. A second motion was made to allow Trey to consider the request, and possibly name another team member. That motion was seconded and approved. Returning to the original motion, it was approved, as amended. This team will begin work immediately.

Elder Commissioners to ECO Presbytery of Texas Meeting, September 20-21, 2019 - Grace must elect two elders to serve as commissioners to the upcoming Presbytery meeting. A motion was made and seconded to give Trey the authority to name the two commissioners. It was approved.

Dates

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held Tuesday, September 17, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Bert Crump closed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Candy Clarke Aldridge

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Clerk of Session