

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
September 17, 2019

**MODERATOR**  
The Rev. Dr. Trey Little

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. Chris French opened the meeting with prayer.

**Attendance:**

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

**Elders Present:** Candy Aldridge, Dath Collins, Vic Condrey, Bert Crump, Francisco Garibay, Jim Leeland, Terry Looper, Mike Mantel, Natalie McElroy, Dan McElyea, Greg Morby, Hardie Morgan, Nnenna Okoro, Wayne Parchman, Tami Plummer, Tanner Spears, Jo Swank, Jim Tomforde, Gindi Vincent, Woody Woodruff, Greg Zuanich

**Excused:** Evan Ghazi, Philip Parker                      **Absent:** None

**Others in attendance:** Brian Rose, Auxano Consulting

**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.

**New Business:**

- **Results of Congregational Survey** -Trey introduced Brian Rose, Auxano Consulting, who presented the results of the Congregational Survey conducted in May. Brian described the methodology, summarized 20 different measurable areas and gave the elders some parameters around which to use the results. The analysis covered areas of growth, health, strategy, assimilations, and evangelism. Five hundred fifty seven surveys were completed and returned on May 19, the sample Sunday. All data was cross-tabulated, providing multiple dimensions of analysis. The 20 measurables were summarized in a handout and will be addressed in Grace's various ministry teams. Brian encouraged the Session to use the results as a starting point for conversations, to be patient with the discussion, and to pray for courage and clarity to pursue improvement.
- **Chapel Organ Replacement** - Hardie presented a proposal for repairing and rebuilding the Founders' Chapel organ, which has been out of service for a few weeks. It was emailed in advance to the Session on Monday. The proposed work on the organ would cost around \$346,000, which would be offset by an existing gift of \$120,000. Options include using some unallocated funds from the Ready Campaign Phase I to fund the balance of \$226,000, waiting for the Ready Campaign Phase II (which includes funding for the organ work), or exploring alternatives to the proposed work. After discussion, a motion was made to table the discussion and gather additional options for reproducing the organ sound. The motion was seconded and approved.
- **Cultivating Our Culture of Generosity** - Mike Mantel described an initiative of the Ministry Support Team and extended an invitation. He elaborated on the efforts to cultivate a culture of generosity, and invited elders to a dinner at his home to learn how to embrace and inspire the new culture.
- **Church Officer Nominating Committee Report** - Candy Aldridge presented the slate of nominated church officers who will be presented at the October 6 Annual Congregational Meeting:

**Elders:** Judy Dewey Tom Prisk  
Debbie Lunn Ethan Tritt  
Karen Welton  
Pending nomination – to be announced  
(Subsequent to this Session meeting, Debbie Kaplan was confirmed as an elder candidate.)

**Deacons:** Farah Armstrong Gina Lee  
Chris Berry Dawn Murphy  
Terri Berry Steve Murphy  
Sarah Davidson DeLisa Strege  
Becky Ghazi Jeff Strege  
Tom Lee Myra Whitten  
Nelda Womack

In addition, the CONC has also selected Mandy Barrow and Jason Tantillo as At Large Members of the Class of 2022.

- Spiritual Formation Cohorts – Traci Baudin provided an update with specific dates for the next Cohort gatherings. In partnership with First Presbyterian Church, Kingwood, the kick-off retreat will begin January 9, 2020. Grace will have 12 openings and Kingwood will have 8. Traci encouraged Elders to enroll as participants and to volunteer for Cohort leadership.

### Old Business

- Financial Update – July and August were uneventful months financially. Unrestricted income is 5% less than August 2018. Operational expenses are below FY and CY comparisons to 2018. Overall Operating Results were \$4360 unfavorable to prior year, primarily due to revenue. The Ministry Support Team is identifying a few areas in which maintenance expenses will be reduced.
- Pastor of Discipleship and Formation Search Team Report – Trey reported that the team has met several times together and with the Slingshot consultant to hone the job description for national posting. He asked for prayer for the search.
- Director of Student Ministries Search Team – Natalie McElroy, chair of the Team, reported that the Team has identified a candidate who will meet with the students soon. She reports that there were about 75 in attendance at Crowded House on the first week, meeting in different homes hosted by 15 families, and that Sunday School is vibrant this fall.
- Construction Update – Hardie Morgan described progress to-date. Construction will soon reach the Sanctuary spaces. We will not worship in the Sanctuary while it is under construction for 4 Sundays. Beginning November 3, Traditional worship will be moved to the Chapel at 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Contemporary worship will be moved to the gym at 9 a.m. Grace En Espanol will be held at 11:15 a.m. in the gym. We expect to return to worshipping in the updated Sanctuary by December 8.

### Dates

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Trey Little closed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Candy Clarke Aldridge  
Clerk of Session