

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
February 22, 2020

**MODERATOR**  
The Rev. Trey Little

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Saturday, February 22, 2020 at 2:30 p.m.

**Attendance:**

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

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

**Excused:** Dan McElyea

**Absent:** N/A

**Others in attendance:** Daniel Allen, Traci Baudin, Beth Craig, Heather Kaemingk, Denise Phelps, Angela Simpson, Phil Warman

**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**

- **ECO National Gathering** - Wayne Parchman reported some highlights of the National Gathering in Grapevine earlier this month. He also invited the Elders to attend the ECO Presbytery Texas meeting in Houston. It will be held at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church on September 20-21, 2020.
- **Action Resulting from Today's Retreat** - The Session Retreat centered on the Visioning Team's work with consultant Auxano over the past year to envision a new future for Grace, and develop a strategy to transform and align the Church to an obedient purpose. They helped the team formulate a Visionary Plan that focuses on disciple-making. Daniel Allen, leadership consultant and coach, led the Elders in a discussion of Nehemiah 1 and in the ensuing discussions. Incorporating and refreshing Grace's strategy of Gather - Connect - Bless, and Grace's five values, Auxano and the team developed a **Vision Frame** that is designed to propel Grace forward. The PowerPoint presentation is attached.

The **Vision Frame** is comprised of four components:

1. Disciple-Defining measures
  - a. Learn who Jesus is.
  - b. Follow where Jesus leads.
  - c. Show how Jesus loves.
  - d. Tell who Jesus is.

2. Disciple-Making mission – equipping people to make Jesus visible in their daily lives.
3. Disciple-Shaping values – Grace’s five core values
4. Disciple-Moving Strategy – Gather, Connect and Bless

Next, the Elders considered and discussed what would be necessary to achieve the Vision. Six **Strategy Initiatives** were offered for discussion, primarily focusing on equipping the Covenant Partners to make disciples. They include expanding the education hour, creating various types of groups for discipleship, and auditing and simplifying Grace’s program offerings that are not directly focused on the discipleship pathway.

As follow-up to recent Session Meeting discussions, the Ministry Support Team presented a **recommendation** to address the \$600K operation expense deficit. They recommended a three-year solution with these three components:

1. Accessing \$1.0M from the \$2.0M reserve fund,
2. Developing a plan to increase revenue by 30%, and
3. Developing a plan to further reduce operational expense by 20%

#### **Actions taken:**

- A motion was made to adopt the **Vision Frame and Strategy Initiatives**. After discussion, a motion was made to defer the Strategy Initiative component until the March Session Meeting. Grace Leadership Team will refine the approach and reintroduce it at the March Session meeting. It was seconded and approved. The original motion was modified to adopt just the **Vision Frame**. It was seconded and approved.
- A motion was made to adopt the **Ministry Support Team’s recommendation** to address the expense deficit. It was seconded and approved.

#### **Old Business**

- Pastor of Discipleship and Formation Search Team Report –Trey shared that the Search Team has additional interviews scheduled. Slingshot continues to vet potential candidates.

Trey encouraged the Elders to remain faithful and prayerful to the Lord to continue His provision for Grace.

#### **Dates**

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 24, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Candy Clarke Aldridge  
Clerk of Session