

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
May 19, 2020

MODERATOR
The Rev. Trey Little

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Because of the current public health environment, the meeting was held virtually, via Zoom conference.

Attendance:

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

Elders Present: Dath Collins, Bert Crump, Judy Dewey, Francisco Garibay, Evan Ghazi, Debbie Kaplan, Debbie Lunn, Mike Mantel, Natalie McElroy, Dan McElyea, Hardie Morgan, Nnenna Okoro, Wayne Parchman, Tom Prisk, Tanner Spears, Jim Tomforde, Ethan Tritt, Gindi Vincent, Karen Welton, Woody Woodruff

Excused: n/a

Absent: n/a

Others in attendance: Traci Baudin, Beth Craig, Sharon High, Heather Kaejminck, Denise Phelps, Angela Wade-Simpson, Candy Clarke Aldridge

Prayer for Grace, our Church Family and our Leadership: Trey opened the meeting by reading a liturgy for the Elders, and then prayed.

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

- **COVID-19 Update** - Conversations have begun in earnest about re-gathering the Grace family on-site. Trey reported that much of the Grace staff works remotely, coming to the office as necessary. Meetings occur via Zoom, or in small groups observing recommended protocols for minimizing spread of the virus.
- **Session Survey Results** - Hardie Morgan presented a second draft of a survey designed to gauge the readiness of Grace members to assemble in worship on-site. A motion was made to authorize Grace leadership to survey the congregation, and it was seconded. After discussion, the vote motion called for a vote. There were 18 in favor of the motion and 4 opposed. The motion carried.
- **Statement of Guiding Values** - Elders discussed the Guiding Values proposed by the Grace Leadership Team. After discussion, Mike Mantel agreed to restructure the concepts into 3 phases for re-gathering. The updated version will be sent to the Elders within a couple of weeks. A motion was made to adopt the Guiding Values concepts to aid in making decisions about re-gathering during this period of uncertainty. It was seconded. A vote was taken and the motion was approved.

- Next Right Steps for Grace - Trey proposed that virtual worship at Grace continue through June, with drive-through Communion scheduled for June 7. Baptisms, weddings and funerals are on hold at Grace for now. Decisions on when and how to re-gather will be based on our confidence in the Lord, medical officials' guidance, the congregational survey results and fervent prayer. All agreed that communication to the congregation is crucial to any plan for re-gathering.

Old Business

- Finance/Updates - Hardie reported that unrestricted contributions for April 2020 were 16% lower than April 2019, and YTD 2020 was 10% lower than YTD 2019. Operating expenses for April 2020 were 12% lower than April 2019, and roughly flat compared to YTD 2019. The April 2020 operating deficit was 5% greater than in April 2019. For YTD comparison, the April 2020 operating deficit of \$397,730 is a 938% increase.

Tanner Spears closed the meeting in prayer.

Dates

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held Tuesday, June 16, 2020, 6:00 p.m. via Zoom conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Candy Clarke Aldridge

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Clerk of Session