

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
September 1-4, 2020

MODERATOR
The Rev. Chris French

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met electronically in a CALLED MEETING on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 for an electronic vote on a single matter.

Attendance:

Pastors Present: The Rev. Chris French

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

Elders Not Voting: Francisco Garibay, Natalie McElroy, Ethan Tritt

New Business:

The Church Officer Nominating Committee submitted a recommendation to the Session for electing church officers and revising the number of Elders called. The notice is presented in its entirety below:

NOTICE OF MEETING TO BE HELD BY ELECTRONIC MEANS.

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church of Houston will hold a meeting using Basecamp to consider a recommendation from the Church Officer Nominating Committee to temporarily increase the number of elders that serve on session from 18 to 19. This electronic meeting will begin with the distribution of this email and will end 72 hours later or until all session members have voted, whichever is earlier.

BACKGROUND

The bylaws of Grace provide that the session of Grace sets the number of elders that serve, along with any called pastors, on session. In 2018, the session voted to reduce the number of elders on session from 27 to 18 by electing only six elders to each class beginning with the class of elders that would serve from 2019 to 2021. Pursuant to the Grace bylaws, elders are elected to a three year term and may serve one additional subsequent three year term. Typically, Grace has chosen to not reelect elders to additional terms.

Because of the challenges associated with COVID 19 and the transition in pastoral leadership, the Church Officer Nominating Committee feels that increased continuity in leadership is important and has asked several elders in team leadership positions to consider serving for an additional term. Jim Tomforde, chair of the Grace School team, and Mike Mantel, chair of the Ministry Support team, have agreed to stand for election to an additional term. Mike Mantel has indicated that he would like to limit his additional service to one year. Because the bylaws provide only for a three year term, Mike Mantel would be elected to a three year term but would plan to resign at the end of 2021.

Given this, the Church Officer Nominating Committee is recommending that we increase the number of elders from 18 to 19 through the end of 2023. This will return the number of elders on session back to 18

upon Mike's resignation and will allow for a full six member complement of Class of 2023 elders to serve three full year terms.

Assuming the session approves the temporary increase in the number of elders on session, the Church Officer Nominating Committee is planning on nominating the following Grace covenant partners to server in the Elder Class of 2023. **These people have agreed to be considered for elder but have not been told that they will be nominated so please keep these names confidential.**

- Deb Castillo
- Tory Gunsolley
- Dorothy Hobbs
- Mike Mantel
- Abby Meade
- Lisa Schwartz
- Jim Tomforde

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, that the number of elders on the Session of Grace Presbyterian Church of Houston be increased from 18 to 19 for the period from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023.

FURTHER RESOLVED, to effectuate this increase that the Church Officer Nominating Committee be directed to nominate seven Covenant Partners to stand of election for the Elder Class of 2023.

ACTION REQUIRED

The comes as a recommendation from a committee that contains two or more members of the Session of Grace Presbyterian Church of Houston and therefore requires no second.

Session members, please reply to this email (or post directly in Basecamp) with any comments you may have. Once you are ready to vote please vote FOR, AGAINST or ABSTAIN by reply email (or post directly in Basecamp).

Candy Aldridge
Clerk of Session

The electronic voting period ended on September 4, 2020 at 8:54 pm. All votes were recorded in Basecamp. Seventeen Elders voted for the resolution, and the resolution was approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Candy Clarke Aldridge
Clerk of Session