

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
November 17, 2020

MODERATOR
The Rev. Chris French

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Because of the current public health environment, the meeting was held via Zoom conference.

Attendance:

Pastors Present: 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, Tom Prisk, Tanner Spears, Jim Tomforde, Ethan Tritt, Gindi Vincent, Karen Welton, Woody Woodruff

Excused: none

Absent: none

Others in attendance: Margaret Ellis, Tory Gunsolley, Sharon High, Heather Kaemingk, Denise Phelps, Lisa Schwarz, Taylor Tritt, Angela Wade Simpson, and Tory Gunsolley, Dorothy Hobbs, Abby Meade, Annie Golden, Jenny Mayo, Brittany Mondlak, Georgene Quirke, John Scott, Amy Wisniewski, and Candy Clarke Aldridge

Call Meeting to Order – Chris French, Acting Moderator

Open with Prayer – Chris French opened with prayer and scripture from Hebrews.

Moderator's Report – Chris reviewed the Transition Plan developed in August and updated the Elders on the progress of each initiative. He also reviewed the participation in the Kitchen Table Talks, which were not heavily attended.

Clerk's Report, Administrative Matters and Approval of Consent Agenda – Candy Aldridge presented the Consent Agenda for approval. The minutes of the previous Session meeting were included. A motion was made and seconded. The motion was approved.

At 6:50 p.m., the Elders moved to EXECUTIVE SESSION.

At 7:55 p.m., the Elders returned to the STATED SESSION meeting.

New Business – Discernment: Church Officer Examinations: As part of the examination process, incoming Elders and Deacons for the Class of 2023 were asked to prepare a faith statement. Elders also prepared written answers to several questions after their two training sessions ending on November 10. They were asked to attend the Session meeting to meet with current Elders to complete the examination process. They were divided into four groups, with current Elders examining their prepared answers. After all groups reconvened at the end of the process, a motion was made to sustain the Elders' and Deacons' completion of the examination and proceed to ordination and installation in January. The motion was

seconded and approved. Bert Crump, Debbie Lunn and Karen Welton agreed to examine those who did not attend tonight's Session meeting.

Strategy Team Updates

- Ministry Support Update - Elders were encouraged to read the monthly report and prepare questions for the December meeting. Though expenses have steadily decreased all year, the FY Proforma Income Statement projects a deficit of \$943,563 by fiscal year end.
- Planning Team Update - The team is monitoring the COVID-19 statistics as local officials anticipate growth in the number of cases during the fall and winter months.
- Other Team reports are in the Session packet.

Evan Ghazi closed the meeting in prayer.

DATES:

Session - Tuesday, December 8, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Session Retreat - Saturday, February 27, tentatively.

Respectfully submitted,



Candy Clarke Aldridge
Clerk of Session