

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
December 8, 2020

MODERATOR
Elder Hardie Morgan

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Because of the current public health environment, the meeting was held via Zoom conference.

Attendance:

Pastors Present: none

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

Excused: The Rev. Chris French, Natalie McElroy, and Woody Woodruff

Absent: none

Others in attendance: Traci Baudin, Deb Castillo, Sharon High, Heather Kaemingk, Abby Meade, Lisa Schwarz, Angela Wade Simpson, and Candy Clarke Aldridge

Call Meeting to Order – Hardie Morgan, Acting Moderator

Open with Prayer – Debbie Kaplan opened with prayer.

Moderator's Report – Hardie 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, including the minutes of the previous Session meeting. A motion was made and seconded. The motion was approved.

New Business - Discernment – The Leadership Development Team presented a recommendation to assign Class of 2023 Elders to Strategy Teams. See Attachment A for the roster. The recommendation was approved.

Strategy Team Updates

- **Gather Team** reminded everyone to make a reservation for Christmas Eve worship. The team has revisited and tightened up the entry and exit protocols for in-person worship to keep everyone safe.
- **Connect Team** had no major news to report.
- **Serve Team** reviewed and made budget adjustments for our mission partners, led by Evan Ghazi and Ethan Tritt.
- **Grace School** reports that students are healthy. The Grace School Committee approved the tuition and teacher salary increases for 2021.
- **Leadership Development Team** requested suggestions of names to replace lay members whose terms expire at the end of the year.

- Ministry Support Update - This early December Session meeting occurs before the team's monthly meeting. To date, in round numbers, Grace has collected about \$3 million (including the federal PPP loan) towards a \$4 million target. Hardie recently sent annual statements of giving to each member, with a request to consider additional giving before December 31.
- Planning Team Update - At the team's meeting last week, they discussed the 2021 stewardship campaign that is scheduled for late January. Grace has engaged Paul Cozby to prepare materials for communicating the Case for Support for stewardship for prayerful dedication and participation in supporting Grace.
- Team chairs (incoming and outgoing) were asked to confer and prepare an annual report of the teams' highlights and goals for 2020, leading into 2021. Sharon High sent a template for use. Annual reports are due the second week of January to Sharon.

At this point, the Elders entered into Executive Session.

Karen Welton closed the meeting in prayer.

DATES:

Session - Tuesday, January 19, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Session Retreat - Saturday, February 27, tentatively.

Respectfully submitted,



Candy Clarke Aldridge
Clerk of Session