

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
May 4, 2021

**MODERATOR**  
The Reverend Doctor Julia Leeth

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a CALLED MEETING on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Because of the current public health environment, the meeting was held via Zoom.

**Attendance:**

**Pastors Present:** Rev. Julia Leeth, Rev. Chris French

**Elders Present:** Deb Castillo, Dath Collins, Bert Crump, Judy Dewey, Tory Gunsolley, Dorothy Hobbs, Debbie Kaplan, Debbie Lunn, Abby Meade, Nnenna Okoro, Tom Prisk, Lisa Schwarz, Tanner Spears, Jim Tomforde, Ethan Tritt, and Karen Welton

**Excused:** Mike Mantel

**Absent:** Natalie McElroy

**Others in attendance:** Denise Phelps, Beth Craig, Sharon High, and Candy Clarke Aldridge

**Call Meeting to Order** – Rev. Julia Leeth called the meeting to order.

**Open with Prayer** – Jim Tomforde opened with prayer.

The Session meeting began with a scriptural praying of 1 John 4:7-12.

**Moderator's Report** – Julia invited Elders to participate in the National Day of Prayer on May 6. The day will be observed at Grace with a prayer walk at 10 a.m. She updated the Elders on her progress in aligning the organization with the mission, and will present her recommendations to Ministry Support in anticipation of a June 1 effective date. Session will be apprised of the details before June 1. Job descriptions are being updated.

**New Business**

**Financial Discussion** – This meeting was held before April financial reports were ready (10<sup>th</sup> of the month). The monthly report on May 18 will address the April finances, as usual. Debbie Kaplan, Chair, noted that worship attendance continues to increase, with fall attendance at 150 and recent attendance at 290. About 735 were in attendance on Easter Sunday.

**Initiatives Discussion** – the Six Initiatives approved by the Session in February 2020 have been consolidated into four primary ideas: Worship, Equip, and Serve Together.

- Equipping hour – Chris French made a presentation of the rollout strategy of the Equipping mission. Denise Phelps prayed for the success of the plan.
- COVID-19 Protocols

Beth Craig updated the Session on the progress of reconnecting. Attendance in Children's activities is growing. Middle School and Elementary children are meeting in person, new members are joining, and baptisms are scheduled. Beth thanked the Elders for reaching out to so many members recently.

After a motion to adjourn, a second and approval, Julia closed the meeting in prayer.

**DATES:**

Stated Session Meeting - Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Called Session Meeting - Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,

*Candy Clarke Aldridge*

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Clerk of Session