

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
August 14, 2021

MODERATOR
The Reverend Doctor Julia Leeth

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Saturday, August 14, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in Massey-Tucker Hall.

Attendance:

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

Elders Present: Dath Collins, Bert Crump, Judy Dewey, Tory Gunsolley, Dorothy Hobbs, Debbie Kaplan, Debbie Lunn, Mike Mantel, Abby Meade, Nnenna Okoro, Lisa Schwartz, and Karen Welton

Excused: Deb Castillo, Tanner Spears, Ethan Tritt, Jim Tomforde

Absent: Natalie McElroy, Tom Prisk

Others in attendance: Traci Baudin, Beth Craig, Doug Gleditsch, Sharon High, Heather Kaemingk, Denise Phelps and Candy Clarke Aldridge

Call Meeting to Order – The Rev. Dr. Julia Leeth

Open with Prayer –Chris French opened with prayer. The Session meeting began with a scriptural praying of Colossians 3:12-17.

Moderator’s Report During this retreat, we focused on Worship strategy. The February 2022 retreat will focus on Equipping strategy, and the August 2022 retreat will focus on the Serve strategy. Julia announced two upcoming ordination ceremonies at Grace: Denise Phelps on August 22 and Francisco Garibay on September 12.

Clerk’s Report, Administrative Matters and Approval of Consent Agenda – These were deferred until the September Session meeting.

Team Updates

- Ministry Support Update –
 - Most of the Ready Campaign contributions have been received.
 - April-July contributions are trending upward. Projecting forward, we’re on track for a ~\$60,000 shortfall.
- Worship Team – Worship was the focus of this retreat. Julia presented some of the recent churchwide survey results regarding worship. Elders then were assigned to four groups with 1-2 staff members. Groups met throughout the day on various values and aspects of worship, coming together to share thoughts and gain consensus. The top two values Elders identified for worship at Grace moving forward are “making disciples” and “intergenerational worship.” Including recent worship attendance statistics, Elders were asked to consider what form of worship would be the best expression of glorifying God. The motion was made to continue worshipping together in a single worship service at 9:30 a.m. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

New Business - Discernment

- Session meetings / Strategy team meetings / Deacon meetings - beginning September 8, Session meetings, Strategy Team meetings and Deacon meetings will move to Wednesday nights. Strategy Team meetings will occur on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and Session meetings will occur on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Deacon meetings will follow the same schedule. Wednesday meetings will begin with Elders and Deacons enjoying a meal together at 6:00 p.m., then separate meetings will begin at 6:50 p.m. We hope to have a dial-in option, also.
- COVID-19 Protocols - Signs on one section of the sanctuary pews now indicate "masks optional" instead of the message encouraging social distancing.

A motion was made to adjourn, seconded and approved.

DATES:

Next Session meeting - Wednesday, September 22, 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Candy Clarke Aldridge
Clerk of Session