

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
September 22, 2021

MODERATOR

The Reverend Doctor Julia Leeth

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Tuesday, September 22, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. in Massey-Tucker Hall.

Attendance:

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

Elders Present: Nnenna Akwari, Bert Crump, Judy Dewey, Tory Gunsolley, Dorothy Hobbs, Debbie Lunn, Mike Mantel, Abby Meade, Tom Prisk Lisa Schwartz, Jim Tomforde, and Ethan Tritt

Excused: Deb Castillo, Dath Collins, Debbie Kaplan, Tanner Spears, Karen Welton

Absent: Natalie McElroy

Others in attendance: Traci Baudin, Daniel Baudin, Beth Craig, Kristi Elmore, Doug Gleditsch, Sharon High, Heather Kaemingk, Hardie Morgan, Amber Sheffield and Candy Clarke Aldridge

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

Open with Prayer – Julia opened with prayer. The Session meeting began with a scriptural praying of Romans 3:21-26.

Clerk's Report, Administrative Matters and Approval of Consent Agenda – Candy Aldridge, Clerk of Session, presented the Consent Agenda, which included minutes from three Session meetings and some administrative matters. A motion was made to approve the Agenda. It was seconded and approved.

Team Updates

- Ministry Support Update –
 - Financials - June revenue and expenses were favorable to projections. FY 2020/2021 net was still in the red. The annual audit to review these numbers began this week. July and August revenue is about 10% below plan. The budget summary for FY 2021/2022 was included in the Session packet.
 - Employee Retention Tax Credit – Ministry Support notified the Session that Grace is in receipt of \$800,000, based on a federal program promoting employee retention. Grace expects another check from this program before year end. On behalf of the committee, Hardie Morgan presented a proposal allocating the funds among ministry partners, a building maintenance reserve and to Grace Church / Grace School. Discussion followed, and it was agreed that the Serve team would make a recommendation to Ministry Support for distribution among ministry partners.
 - Betty Westbrook Estate – discussion and depositions continue among the parties. Hardie and Vic Condrey are on point for this matter.
 - There are two lay vacancies on the Ministry Support Team. Elders were asked to recommend replacements to team chair, Debbie Kaplan.

- Stewardship Campaign – The annual campaign will kick off on October 31. Dedication of pledges will occur on November 14.
- Worship Team – In addition to the monthly report included in the Session packet, the team announced that there will be a hymn-sing before worship at various times during the year. Guest Services will begin new procedures for Sunday morning, including electronic attendance registration and a service bulletin.
- Equip – please refer to the monthly report in the Session packet.
- Serve – Kristi Elmore, new Director of Mobilization and Partners, reminded Elders that additional participation is needed for Prayer Partners for Paul Revere Middle School teachers. Other items are included in the monthly report in the Session packet.
- Together – Grace celebrated the reception of new members last Sunday. Beth Craig reports that a “Together” button will be added to the Grace website that will share news of the Grace family: births, baptisms, new members, and deaths.

New Business – Discernment

- **Church Officer Nominating Committee presentation of proposed Elders, Deacons and CONC member-at-large** - Nnenna Akwari presented the committee’s report of candidates:
 - Elder Class of 2024

Russ Chase	Cathy Finck
Ron Collins	Andy Frazelle
Vic Condrey	Jamie Horton
 - Deacon Class of 2024

Grace Akwari	DJ Holick	Janet Roberts
Jim Allosso	Larry Husmann	Maricarmen Romero
Felicia Awazi	Susan Jernigan	Jo Swank
Mandy Barrow	Bonnie Lomasney	Debra True
Christian Bolano	Maribel Lopez	Bill Welton
Marsha Bourgeois	David Lugo	
John Duffey	Monica Lugo	
Rosmeli Gahona	Jane MacFarland	
Betty Hanlon	Suzanne Penn	
 - CONC Members-at-Large

	Martha Hunt	Michelle McGuirt
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An Elder requested discussion on the slate of nominees. It was moved to go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded and approved.

Executive Session

After the Executive Session was completed, Elders returned to the slated business. Session is required to approve the nominations for CONC Members-at-Large. A motion was made to approve the CONC’s recommendation. It was seconded and approved.

Grace needs four Elder commissioners to attend the annual Synod Business meeting in February 2022 in Dallas, as part of the ECO National Gathering. Bert Crump volunteered. Others are discerning.

Mike Mantel requested the floor to address his dual role as Elder, Ministry Support team member and CEO of Living Water International, assuring the Session that he has recused himself at appropriate times when discussions of LWI could be perceived as a conflict of interest.

A motion was made to adjourn. It was seconded and approved.

DATES:

Next Session meeting - Wednesday, October 27, 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candy Clarke Aldridge

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Clerk of Session