

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
October 31, 2021

**MODERATOR**  
The Reverend Doctor Julia Leeth

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Sunday, October 31, 2021, at 12:15 p.m. in Massey-Tucker Hall, rescheduled from October 27.

**Attendance:**

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

**Elders Present:** Nnenna Akwari, Deb Castillo, Bert Crump, Judy Dewey, Tory Gunsolley, Dorothy Hobbs, Debbie Kaplan, Debbie Lunn, Mike Mantel, Abby Meade, Tom Prisk, Lisa Schwartz, Ethan Tritt and Karen Welton

**Excused:** Jim Tomforde

**Absent:** Dath Collins, Natalie McElroy, Tanner Spears

**Others in attendance:** Sharon High, Hardie Morgan 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 12.

**Moderator's Report** – Stewardship season began today, with pledges turned in on November 14. Julia will host an open house at her home that afternoon. She and other staff will attend a Discipleship conference in the coming week. In January, she will launch a sermon series on the book of Matthew.

**Clerk's Report, Administrative Matters and Approval of Consent Agenda** – Candy Aldridge, Clerk of Session, presented the Consent Agenda. A motion was made to approve the agenda. It was seconded and approved.

**Team Updates**

- Ministry Support Update –
  - Grace financials are found in the Ministry Support monthly report.
  - Employee Retention Tax Credit – Following up from the previous Session meeting, Debbie Kaplan presented a proposal allocating the expected \$1.8 million funds among ministry partners, Grace Church and Grace School. Discussion followed, and a motion was made to allocate the funds as follows:

▪ Grace Presbyterian Church	\$1,280,000
▪ Grace School	\$1,280,000
▪ Grace Mission Partners	\$ 640,000

The motion was approved.

- Betty Westbrook Estate – discussion continues among the parties.

- Worship Team – the team recommended a Christmas Eve worship schedule for the Session’s consideration. A motion was made to approve the schedule. The motion was approved.
- Equip – please refer to the monthly report in the Session packet.
- Serve – a Congo church has been meeting at Grace and has asked to explore how to come under Grace Church. Chris French is in conversation with them.
- Grace School – Julia read the report from Jim Tomforde, noting increased enrollment since September.
- Together – 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.

A motion was made to go into **Executive Session**. It was seconded and approved. During Executive Session, no matters arose that required Session approval. Shortly, the Elders returned to the regular Session meeting.

**New Business – Discernment**

- Conflict of Interest disclosure – Hardie presented the annual form to the Session. There was a motion to accept the disclosure into the minutes. Interested parties recused themselves from the vote. The motioned was seconded and approved.

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

**DATES:**

**Next Session meeting** – Wednesday, November 17, 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Candy Clarke Aldridge  
Clerk of Session