

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
December 15, 2021

MODERATOR

The Reverend Doctor Julia Leeth

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a CALLED MEETING on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 5:45 p.m. in Massey-Tucker Hall.

Attendance:

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

Elders Present: Nnenna Akwari, Deb Castillo, Bert Crump, Judy Dewey, Tory Gunsolley, Dorothy Hobbs, Debbie Kaplan, Tom Prisk, Jim Tomforde, Ethan Tritt, Karen Welton

Excused: Dath Collins, Debbie Lunn, Abby Meade, Mike Mantel, Lisa Schwartz

Absent: Natalie McElroy

Others in attendance: Hardie Morgan and Candy Clarke Aldridge

Call Meeting to Order – The Rev. Dr. Leeth

Open with Prayer – Julia opened with prayer.

Pastor's Report – Julia encouraged Elders to arrive early and stay late for the Christmas Eve worship services to welcome and engage any newcomers to Grace.

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.

New Business – Discernment

- Financial update – Chair Debbie Kaplan reported that November was an unremarkable month financially. Revenue was \$34,000 over budget and expenses were \$50,000 over budget, primarily due to timing of some expenses. The three-year Ready Campaign closed in November, and we assume all collections are complete. We budgeted 90.5% completion, and 95% was collected from the pledged amounts. Preliminary pledge update: 162 family units pledged \$1.7 million, compared to 196 pledging last year. The median pledge increased from \$5000 to \$6000. The new budget is expected to be \$3 million. Financial variables in play are the Q3 Employee Retention Tax credit payment, the Westbrook estate, and the current cash position.
- Strategy Team Placement for Incoming Elders, Class of 2024 – Nnenna Akwari presented the Leadership Development Team's recommendation for strategy team assignments. Elders voted to approve the recommendation, attached.
- Pastor Nominating Committee – the discussion began with a recommendation to revise the Session Manual language regarding calling a pastor. The Elders voted to approve the recommendation. Deb Castillo, Leadership Development Team, presented a recommended slate of PNC members. During the discussion, Tory Gunsolley and Hardie Morgan recused themselves. Elders voted to approve the recommendation.
- An additional matter was considered. In light of the recent local surge in COVID-19 cases, a

motion was made to relocate the 3 p.m. Christmas Eve service from the Chapel to the Sanctuary. Discussion was opened. The motion was seconded and approved.

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

DATES:

Next Session meeting – Wednesday, January 26, 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Candy Clarke Aldridge
Clerk of Session