

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
January 26, 2022

**MODERATOR**  
The Reverend Dr. Julia Leeth

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in Massey-Tucker Hall.

**Attendance:**

**Pastors Present:** Rev. Chris French

**Elders Present:** Deb Castillo, Russ Chase, Ron Collins, Vic Condrey, Judy Dewey, Cathy Fink, Andy Frazelle, Tory Gunsolley, Dorothy Hobbs, Jamie Horton, Debbie Kaplan, Debbie Lunn, Abby Meade, Tom Prisk, Lisa Schwartz, Jim Tomforde, Ethan Tritt and Karen Welton

**Excused:** n/a

**Absent:** n/a

**Others in attendance:** Daniel Baudin, Traci Baudin, Kristi Elmore, Doug Gleditsch, Sharon High, Hardie Morgan, Candy Clarke Aldridge

**Call Meeting to Order** – The Rev. Chris French

**Open with Prayer** – Julia opened the meeting with scriptural praying from Matthew 5:13-16.

**Moderator's Report** – Julia announced that there are 13 confirmands (8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades) in the 2022 Confirmation Class. Daniel Baudin requested three additional Elder mentors for the class. Then Julia referred to the reading she sent to Elders from *Direct Hit* by Paul Borden. It challenges us to ask each other how we are demonstrating the Great Commission. She urged Elders and all Covenant Partners to create a margin in life that would allow each of us to participate fully in worship each week and discipleship during this Lenten season.

**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.

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

**Strategy Team Updates**

- Ministry Support Update – Debbie Kaplan reported that unrestricted contributions for December 2021 were 41% less than budgeted and 40% less than December 2020. FYTD results are 15% below budget. December operating expenses were 4.7% less than in December 2020. YTD expenses were 2% greater than budgeted, primarily due to timing. This is still 9% lower than the prior year. For the year ending 2021, the operating deficit is \$639,547. From the recent stewardship campaign, Grace received \$1.8 million in pledges so far, compared to \$1.65 from the previous year. The Westbrook estate is still undetermined, and discussions and depositions continue. Grace's portion is estimated to be \$2-3 million.

- Worship Team – the monthly report is in the Session packet.
- Equip –In addition to the monthly report in the Session packet, Debbie Lunn asked Elders to engage in the Confirmation process. They need mentors.
- Serve – In addition to the monthly report in the Session packet, Ethan Tritt announced that Grace missionary Jazzy Mukha, serving in France, will visit Grace next month. He encouraged everyone to welcome her.
- Grace School –the monthly report is in the Session packet.
- Leadership Development – Deb Castillo reported on the status of the Pastor Nominating Committee.

**New Business – Discernment**

- Pastor Nominating Committee – Deb reported that the PNC will have met twice by the end of January. They will select their officers, build the committee structure, plan communications, and update the timeline. The LDT submitted the name of a search firm to utilize in the process and sought Session approval. After discussion, Elders were invited to view the firm’s presentation on February 10. The next step will be tabled until the February Session meeting.

**DATES:**

**Next Session meeting** – Wednesday, March 23, 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Candy Clarke Aldridge*

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Clerk of Session