

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
March 23, 2022

MODERATOR
The Reverend Dr. Julia Leeth

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in Massey-Tucker Hall.

Attendance:

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

Elders Present: Deb Castillo, Russ Chase, Ron Collins, Vic Condrey, Judy Dewey, Cathy Finck, Tory Gunsolley, Jamie Horton, Debbie Kaplan, Debbie Lunn, Abby Meade, Jim Tomforde, Ethan Tritt and Karen Welton

Excused: Andy Frazelle, Dorothy Hobbs, Tom Prisk, Lisa Schwartz

Absent: n/a

Others in attendance: Daniel Baudin, Traci Baudin, Beth Craig, Kristi Elmore, Sharon High, Hardie Morgan, Stella Seykere, Candy Clarke Aldridge

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

Open with Prayer – Julia opened the meeting with scriptural praying from Matthew 16:13-19.

Moderator's Report – Julia announced that Liz Moran would be starting as Student Ministry Associate on June 1. A Discipleship Pastor candidate is in discernment, considering the open position at 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 – Endorsement of Stella Seykere for the ECO Ordination Process. Hardie Morgan introduced Stella to the Session to share her faith story and her calling to pursue ordination. After Stella related her story, Chris French moved to fully and joyfully endorse bringing Stella under the pastoral care of the Session while she pursues ordination. The Session approved the motion.

Team Updates

- Ministry Support – the monthly report is included in the Session packet. The team asks for prayers for the Generosity Council.
- Financial Update – Giving still lags projections. Unrestricted contributions were 6% less than plan for the month of February, and 5% less than February 2021. YTD operating expenses were slightly higher than plan but 11% higher than February 2021. YTD operating results yielded an \$869,352 deficit, which was \$5979 unfavorable to prior year.
- Pastor Nominating Committee Update - Andy Frazelle, Co-Chair, addressed questions from the January Session meeting, then requested approval for the contract with SIMA, the search firm identified by the Leadership Development Team. A motion was made to approve the contract.

After a second, Elders voted to approve the contract.

- Church Officer Nominating Committee Update – Chair Karen Welton announced that April 1 is the beginning of the church officer nominating process. She presented the 2022 schedule and noted that there is a vacancy on the committee for a one-year term. She asked Elders for replacement suggestions.

- Strategy Team Updates
 - Worship – feedback has been positive for the online Lenten daily devotional. See the monthly report prepared by Chair Lisa Schwartz.
 - Equip – Chair Debbie Lunn’s monthly report highlighted ministries for children, students, adults, and women.
 - Serve – Chair Ethan Tritt’s monthly report highlighted deacons, Care Team, Grace en Español and Friends of Westchase ministries.
 - Grace School – In addition to the monthly report, Chair Jim Tomforde reported that enrollment has increased from a low of 411 during COVID-19 to 463. Grace School 8th graders have a 100% acceptance rate to upper-grade private schools.

The next strategy team meetings will occur on a Thursday, April 7 instead of Wednesday.

There was a motion to adjourn. Julia closed with prayer.

DATES:

Next Session meeting – Wednesday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Candy Clarke Aldridge
Clerk of Session