

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
June 22, 2022

MODERATOR
The Reverend Dr. Julia Leeth

Call Meeting to Order - The Reverend Dr. Julia Leeth

Opening Prayer - Rev. Julia Leeth, Moderator opened with scriptural prayer of 1 Samuel 3:7-10.

Pastors Present: Rev. Julia Leeth

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

Excused: The Rev. Chris French, Lisa Schwartz, Ethan Tritt

Absent: - Dorothy Hobbs

Others in attendance: Sharon High, Candy Aldridge

Moderator's Report and Leadership Conversation – Rev. Julia Leeth, Moderator

Julia reminded the Elders that their participation in worship is part of being an Elder, and they should be attentive to the sign-up list that was circulated recently.

Clerk's Report and Administrative Matters – Candy Aldridge, Clerk of Session

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda, which included the Minutes, the Clerk's Report, and expenditure of \$225,000 by Grace School for replacing Education Building roof. It was seconded and approved.

New Business

- **How to Engage New Members** – Elder Andy Frazelle inquired about how new members are welcomed into the Grace family. Julia responded that Chris French and Beth Craig welcome new members with an onboarding conversation with a pastor, an information packet, and a welcome letter. Members who leave Grace through the dismissal process are also contacted. **Beth will provide more detail at the next Session meeting.**

Team Updates

- **Ministry Support** – May 2022 financial report shows operating results were favorable compared to the budget, while still carrying a deficit due to lower revenue. The YTD deficit is 46% over budget. The team is preparing talking points about our financial health to be used in the Pastor Nominating Committee. A group met in June about Generosity Building and will present a plan at the August Session meeting. Abby Meade requested an updated giving profile. Julia sent a letter to the congregation encouraging them to remember that sustained giving is important, especially in the summer.

- Grace School – Chair Jim Tomforde reported that enrollment for the school is at 480 for the fall. Even after raising the tuition, enrollment increased over this school year. They are building a new entrance façade and STEM lab and are reviewing campus security in light of the Uvalde tragedy. The Elders supported the replacement of the school roof, approved in the consent Agenda.
- Leadership Development – In addition to the monthly report, Chair Deb Castillo invited the Elders to participate in a study of *The Reappearing Church* by Mark Sayers. It could shape how to create the church we want to be. Deb will create a framework for the study and ask Elders to commit in a couple of weeks.
- Pastor Nominating Committee - Leadership Development Team – Cathy Finck, co-Chair, reported that the candidate profile is complete, and that the consultant SIMA is contacting candidates and is forming an interviewing process.
- Church Officer Nominating Committee – Karen Welton, Elder, plans to present a slate of Church Officer nominees at the August Session retreat.
- Strategy Team Updates
Worship, Equip, Serve, Leadership Development, Ministry Support and Grace School team reports are included in the Session packet.

There was a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded. Julia closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Candy Clarke Aldridge

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Clerk of Session