

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
August 20, 2022

MODERATOR

The Reverend Dr. Julia Leeth

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Saturday, August 20, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in Massey-Tucker Hall, as part of the Church Officers Retreat.

Attendance:

Pastors Present: Rev. Julia Leeth, Rev. Chris French, Rev. Francisco Garibay, Rev. Denise Phelps

Elders Present: Deb Castillo, Ron Collins, Vic Condrey, Judy Dewey, Cathy Finck, Andy Frazelle, Tory Gunsolley, Dorothy Hobbs, Jamie Horton, Debbie Kaplan, Debbie Lunn, Abby Meade, Ethan Tritt and Karen Welton

Excused: Tom Prisk, Lisa Schwartz

Absent: Russ Chase, Jim Tomforde

Others in attendance: Daniel Baudin, Traci Baudin, Beth Craig, Kristi Elmore, Doug Gleditsch, Sharon High, Candy Clarke Aldridge

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

Open with Prayer – Julia opened the meeting with scripture from Isaiah 43:18-19.

Clerk’s Report, Administrative Matters and Approval of Consent Agenda – These items were deferred to the next Stated Session meeting.

Updates

- **Election of Commissioners for Texas Presbytery meeting, September 17-18, 2022** – an invitation was extended for Elders to fill 4 Commissioner positions from Grace. Karen Welton was elected as Commissioner from the Session.
- **Pastor Nominating Committee update** – SIMA, the search consultant, has broadcast the Senior Pastor position profile and has received several interested candidates’ profiles. They expect to send vetted candidates’ profiles to the PNC for review next week. PNC members will review and listen to sermons over the next few weeks.
- **Church Officer Nominating Committee update** – Chair Karen Welton presented the names of 4 Elders and 13 Deacons to the Session for approval for the annual Congregational Meeting on Oct. 2. Additional Elders and Deacons are discerning the call and will be sent to Session via email in the next week or so, for a total of 6 Elders and 13 Deacons. In addition, she presented names of candidates for the CONC for Class of 2025, to replace 2 members who have completed their term.

Elders – Class of 2025

Bert Crump

Lisa Descant

Martha Hunt

Keeke Russo

(plus 2 additional candidates who are in discernment)

Deacons - Class of 2025

1. Chris Berry
2. Terry Berry
3. Sharon Collins
4. Marsha DeHaven
5. Susan Dozier
6. Gina Lee
7. Tom Lee
8. Jaclyn Luke
9. Leslie Nollsch
10. Bill Peoples
11. Merce Ransom
12. Rick Routzon
13. Cynthia Walston

CONC representatives - Class of 2025

Matt Meade
Brian Mees

- Financial Update - Church departments have done an excellent job of reducing expenses in the past few years, beating projections and 2021 actual annual. Unrestricted income for July is less than budget, and 18% under 2021. Compared to FY2021, operating results show the shortfall is 11% greater in 2022. There is about \$2 million in cash and receivables in the balance sheet, and negotiations have resumed on the bequest from the Westbrook estate. Results are expected to be \$1.5 - 2 million. The IRS has forgiven the PPP loan of about \$498,000.
- Culture of Generosity - Julia opened the discussion of ways to address the budget shortfall for the upcoming stewardship season. Gregg Gibbs, author of Creating a Culture of Generosity, provides 10 ideas as a framework to shift the culture. Elders divided into small groups to brainstorm around these ideas to develop a culture of generosity among members and people around us. Beth Craig recorded the ideas.

There was a motion to adjourn. Julia closed with prayer, and Elders and Deacons resumed the retreat..

DATES:

Next Session meeting - Wednesday, September 28, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candy Clarke Aldridge

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Clerk of Session