

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
September 28, 2022

**MODERATOR**

The Reverend Dr. Julia Leeth

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Wednesday, September 28, 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, Tom Prisk, Jim Tomforde, Ethan Tritt and Karen Welton

**Excused:** Andy Frazelle, Dorothy Hobbs, Lisa Schwartz

**Absent:**

**Others in attendance:** Pastor Gedeon Lumumba, Felix Mwuengeri, Richard \_\_\_\_\_, Traci Baudin, Beth Craig, Sharon High, Liz Moran, Hardie Morgan, Candy Clarke Aldridge

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

**Open with Prayer** – Julia opened the meeting with scripture from Philippians 1:27-30.

**Moderator's Report and Leadership Conversation** – The church has ordered multiple copies of Randy Alcorn's book The Treasure Principle for the Session to read. Instructions will follow regarding discussing it at the next Session meeting.

**Introduction of the Church of Congo** – Chris French introduced Pastor Gideon, his son Richard, and Assistant Pastor Felix of the Holy Nations Church to the Session. Pastor Gideon has approached Grace to explore the feasibility of Holy Nations Church becoming affiliated with Grace. They are a church of refugees, and the children are actively participating in Grace activities. Chris and Pastor Gideon will continue exploring affiliation.

**Clerk's Report, Administrative Matters and Approval of Consent Agenda** – A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda. It was seconded and approved.

**New Business** – Julia announced that two new staff members are ready to come aboard on October 3. Aaron Hansz will join as part-time Assistant Pastor of Discipleship Formation, Recovery, Outreach and Men's Ministry. Jordan Goodie will be the Director of Discipleship Formation and Young Adults.

**Updates**

- **Ministry Support** – Chair Debbie Kaplan reported that July and August trended as expected, a bit ahead of 2021. The team will meet with the generosity consultant in October to develop the plan for increasing generosity among the congregation. Stewardship Campaign will occur in the first 3 weeks of November. This year's stewardship letter will add a prayer approach, focusing on the bigger vision of how God is forming us. There will be daily prayer prompts.

- **Grace School** – Enrollment has returned to pre-COVID levels - 484 students out of 500 capacity. The school and the church have upgraded campus security during school hours.
- **Leadership Development** – Chair Deb Castillo presented an updated version of the Session Operating Manual for the Elders’ review. She asked Elders to comment before the next Session meeting, in anticipation of adopting it then. Elders were encouraged to review their roles on the Strategy Teams.
- **Pastor Nominating Committee update** – Co-chair Cathy Finck reported that they continue to meet weekly and are ready to schedule interviews with candidates.
- **Strategy Team Updates** – in addition to the information in their reports, teams reported:
  - **Worship** – communion will be served by intinction next week.
  - **Equip** – there are 38 enrolled in Marriage Boot Camp this weekend. Grace is hosting a Disciple Groups Dinner on October 23, 2022.
  - **Serve** - Abby rejoiced that there are 13 mentors for the schools this year.

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

**DATES:**

**Next Session meeting** – Wednesday, October 26, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Candy Clarke Aldridge  
Clerk of Session