

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
November 16, 2022

MODERATOR

The Reverend Dr. Julia Leeth

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Wednesday, November 16, 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, Andy Frazelle, Tory Gunsolley, Jamie Horton, Debbie Kaplan, Debbie Lunn, Abby Meade, Lisa Schwartz, Jim Tomforde, Ethan Tritt, and Karen Welton

Excused: Dorothy Hobbs

Absent: Tom Prisk

Others in attendance: Daniel Baudin, Traci Baudin, Sharon High, Jordan Goodie, Liz Moran, Hardie Morgan

Class of 2025 Elders to be examined: Earl Baudin, Bert Crump, Lisa Descant, Martha Hunt, Tom Lee, Keeke Russo

Class of 2025 Deacons to be examined: Sharon Collins, Marcia DeHaven, Susan Dozier, Jaclyn Luke (zoom), Leslie Nollsch, Bill Peoples, Merce Ransom, Rick Routzon, Emily Schultz

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

Open with Prayer - Julia opened the meeting with scripture from 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

New Business

Class of 2025 Church Officer Examinations - in accordance with ECO procedures for selecting and examining church officers, the Elders conducted examinations of the incoming officers. Leadership Development Chair, Deb Castillo, created four groups of Elders to hear the faith statements that incoming officers had prepared. Each group's leader reported on the discussion and recommended that each of the officers-elect examined be accepted as church officers. There was a motion to accept the recommendation of the Leadership Development Team to elect these church officers. The Session approved the motion. A make-up session will be scheduled for those Deacons not able to attend the examination.

Session Endorsement for Entering the ECO Ordination Process - Hardie Morgan explained that ECO requires Session approval and sponsorship for members who enter seminary. Daniel Baudin and Jordan Goodie are entering the ordination process. Each testified about their calling to pursue ordination in ECO. There was a motion to endorse these candidates. It was seconded and approved. Liz Moran is also pursuing her calling to ministry and will address Session at a later time. Ethan Tritt prayed for them.

Consent agenda and Clerk's report -Candy Aldridge presented the Consent agenda and Clerk's report. There was a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded and approved.

Strategy Team Updates in addition to the monthly reports

- **Ministry Support** – Chair Debbie Kaplan reported that unrestricted income for October 2022 was 24% greater than October 2021. Fiscal year-to-date unrestricted income was 4% greater than prior year. Fiscal year ending June 2022 showed reduced expenses of 11% from prior, but also a decrease in revenue of 18% for the same period. Since 2016, Grace has reduced expenses by about \$1.2 million.
- **Grace School** – Chair Jim Tomforde reported that the 500 students attending the school represent 300 families, and that more of them are coming to church.
- **Leadership Development** – Chair Deb Castillo asked Elders to let her know if they would like to explore a different Strategy Team.
- **Pastor Nominating Committee update** – the committee is still interviewing candidates.
- **Worship** – see the monthly report.
- **Equip** – see the monthly report.
- **Serve** – see the monthly report.

There was a motion to adjourn.

Julia thanked the Class of 2022 Elders and closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Candy Clarke Aldridge
Clerk of Session