

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
March 22, 2023

**MODERATOR**  
The Reverend Dr. Julia Leeth

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in Massey-Tucker Hall.

**Attendance:**

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

**Elders Present:** Earl Baudin, Deb Castillo, Russ Chase, Ron Collins, Vic Condrey, Bert Crump, Lisa Descant, Cathy Finck, Andy Frazelle, Tory Gunsolley, Dorothy Hobbs, Jamie Horton, Martha Hunt, Tom Lee, Lisa Schwartz

**Excused:** Abby Meade, Keeke Russo, Jim Tomforde

**Absent:** n/a

**Others in attendance:** Traci Baudin, Daniel Baudin, Ivy Castle-Simpson, Rev. Aaron Hansz, Sharon High, Misha Mihaylova, Hardie Morgan, and Candy Clarke Aldridge

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

**Open with Prayer** - Julia opened with prayer, then Elders prayed the scripture Acts 1:7-8.

**Moderator's Report** - Julia introduced Misha Mihaylova, Grace's missionary partner for 20 years to YWAM in Budapest, Hungary. We prayed for Misha's requests.

**Consent Agenda and Clerk's report** - Candy presented the Consent Agenda. There was a motion to amend the February 2023 Congregational Meeting minutes to add that the motion was approved after the vote was called. The motion to approve the Consent Agenda was seconded and approved. There was an additional motion to approve the communion that was served at the Grace812 service, and to authorize communion to be served to the Presbytery leaders' meeting on May 2. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Strategy Team Updates**

- **Ministry Support** -In addition to the monthly report, Chair Dorothy Hobbs reported that the FYTD contributions are \$1.8 million, which is 5% below budget, but 12% higher than the same FYTD period in 2022. Expenses are 5% less than 2022. Operating results are 1% below budget, but 12% better than 2022. The deficit has decreased to \$543 thousand, 38% better than 2022. The financial report is included in the Session packet. The Westbrook mediation is scheduled for April 4.
- **Grace School** - Chair Jim Tomforde reports that admissions are up, with 40-50 on the waiting list. Construction has begun on the new entrance. The school is doing well financially.
- **Leadership Development Team** - Chair Deb Castillo announced the beginning of Church Office Nominating season. Elders were encouraged to think and pray about names for Elder, Deacon and lay members of the Strategy Teams.

- **Worship Team** – Chair Lisa Schwartz reminded Elders that the second Easter service begins at 9:00 a.m. instead of 9:30 a.m., as listed in the monthly report.

#### **New Business**

- **Mission statement** – Julia led the group through a discussion to update the mission statement. We are working towards a new statement that is more directional for leadership and less attractional. The group developed a few key concepts at the retreat last month that will shape the new statement. Julia asked that we send to Jamie Horton two responses to the three questions she posed by March 29. A staff team will refine it and present a sample by the next Strategy Teams meeting, then it will go to the Session for review. Her goal is for Session to discuss and discern it over the next two months.

There was a motion to adjourn the Session. It was seconded and approved.

Julia closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Candy Clarke Aldridge  
Clerk of Session