

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
April 26, 2023

**MODERATOR**  
The Reverend Dr. Julia Leeth

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 7:00 pm. in Massey-Tucker Hall.

**Attendance:**

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

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

**Excused:** Russ Chase, Bert Crump

**Absent:** n/a

**Others in attendance:** Daniel Baudin, Traci Baudin, Rev. Francisco Garibay, Rev. Aaron Hansz, Sharon High, Jenny Mayo, Liz Moran, Hardie Morgan, Bill Welton, Karen Welton, Emily Schulz. Confirmands: Piper Barrow, Maya Garibay, Mackenzie Kaplan, Aubrey Peoples, Jonah Tritt, Evelyn Villanueva. Confirmands absent: Alan Nava and Sophia Schulz.

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

**Open with Prayer** – Elders prayed the Scripture Jonah 2:7-9.

Elders then broke into groups and heard the confirmands' statements of faith. Session reconvened. Earl Baudin made the motion to accept the confirmands into covenant partnership at Grace Presbyterian Church. Jim Tomforde seconded. The vote was unanimous. The Reverend Francisco Garibay prayed for the new covenant partners.

**Moderator's Report** – The Rev. Dr. Julia Leeth gave the Moderator's Report and an update on the Mission and Key Concepts. Jamie Horton gave a report. Working draft: "Our disciple-making mission is to equip every generation to share God's good news and our very lives so all can be transformed by Jesus." The Rev. Dr. Leeth said that this would be emailed out to the Session and asked for feedback. The Leadership Team will refine it over the next few weeks. We want to make sure we have this crafted as well as possible and have this ready to go by our next Session meeting in June. Have a soft roll out over the summer and have a hard roll out over the fall. Key concepts: sharing life together. (Worship/Together) Loving like Jesus. (Serve) Being transformed. (Worship/Equip)

The Rev. Dr. Leeth passed around a Worship Assistant Sign Up Sheet. Stewardship Generosity Consultant Shawn Riley will be at church this Sunday with Hardy Morgan.

**Consent agenda and Clerk's report** – given by Acting Clerk of Session Lisa Schwartz

- Approve minutes
- Approve Clerk's Report

**Strategy Team Updates**

- **Ministry Support** – Dorothy Hobbs, Elder: Westbrook Estate has been settled – about \$2.25 million. The use of the money is to be determined. Session will make the decision. Jim Tomforde, Russ Chase, and Hardy Morgan spent 11 hours in mediation settling the suit. The Think Tank put together in the fall, chaired by Vic Condrey, will bring their proposals to Session this summer.

- **Grace School** – Jim Tomforde, Elder: enrollment is at the highest level it has been in recent history for next school year – 490 enrolled even with an increase of 5% in tuition. Demolition has started for the new structure, and we are waiting on permits from the City of Houston.
- **Leadership Team Development Update** – Deb Castillo, Elder. Refer to report in packet.
- **CONC** – Cathy Finck, Elder: have not received any nominations for Deacons or Elders at this point.
- **Equip** – Tory Gunsolley, Elder: Report is in the packet. Sign up to volunteer for VBS.
- **Serve** – Abby Meade, Elder: May 13 – 3 different volunteer opportunities on Mother’s Day weekend.

**DATES**

**Generosity Culture:** next meeting will be May 1.

Eco Senate Executive Council will meet here May 1.

Eco Presbytery leaders will meet here May 2-3.

Eco Ordination Retreat Intensive #1 is May 5-7 for people starting the Ordination process.

Eco Ordination Retreat Intensive #2 is May 8-10 for people completing the Ordination process chaired by The Rev. Chris French

Dinner & Strategy meetings on May 10

Next Session meeting on May 24

Strategy Team meetings have been moved to June 7

**New Business** - none

**Prayer Concerns**

Jim Tomforde’s daughter’s impending pregnancy

Daniel Baudin’s wedding

Praise for Ron Collins’ mentee Colton and Colton’s family

Pray for Elders

Pray for church staff

Pray for God’s leading and pray for no distractions

Praise for Student Ministries Sunday

There was a motion to adjourn the Session meeting. Motion passed.

The Rev. Dr. Leeth closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa Schwartz*

Lisa L. Schwartz

Acting Clerk of Session