

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
May 24, 2023

MODERATOR
The Reverend Dr. Julia Leeth

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Wednesday, May 24, 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, Ron Collins, Vic Condrey, Bert Crump, Lisa Descant, Cathy Finck, Tory Gunsolley, Dorothy Hobbs, Jamie Horton, Martha Hunt, Tom Lee

Excused: Russ Chase, Andy Frazelle, Abby Meade, Keeke Russo, Lisa Schwartz, Jim Tomforde

Absent: n/a

Others in attendance: Traci Baudin, Kristi Elmore, Rev. Aaron Hansz, Sharon High, 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 Psalm 8:1-4.

Moderator's Report – The report is included in the Mission Statement update at the end of the meeting.

Consent agenda and Clerk's report – Candy Aldridge presented the Consent Agenda. A motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda, which contains the April minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

Strategy Team Updates

- **Ministry Support** – In addition to the monthly report, Chair Dorothy Hobbs reported that there are 150 pledges to Grace's budget, for a total of \$1.6 mil. The current annual budget is \$3 mil.
- **Grace School** – Chair Jim Tomforde reports that the school now has a digital library for the students. Construction at the school has slowed due to permitting for a water retention/mediation issue.
- **CONC Update** – Chair Deb Castillo reported that the team has met once and is still accepting nominations.
- **Worship Team** – See the monthly report.
- **Equip** – In addition to the monthly report, there was a call for 10 additional crew leaders for VBS, which begins June 12.
- **Serve** – Tom Lee asked for prayers for Emerson Elementary as the state takes over HISD. This is grant season for our mission partners. The written Serve report will be sent to the Elders in the next week.
- **Together** – no report

New Business

- **Report from the Think Tank** – A group of covenant partners has been working on strategy for developing a culture of generosity. They have several recommendations to present to Ministry Support. After Ministry Support considers the recommendations, they will send the best ideas to the Elders to read them and develop questions in advance of the June Session meeting. After discussing them, Elders will percolate on them and saturate themselves in the concept of a culture of generosity. The Session will consider the best ideas again in August.
- **Mission statement** – Julia presented a new draft of the mission statement. After discussion, there was a motion to adopt the following language:

We will make disciples by equipping every generation to share God’s Good News in their everyday lives, so all can be transformed by Jesus.

There was a motion to adopt this statement and allow the Leadership Team to phrase it and polish it. It was seconded and approved.

Next, The Elders considered a new draft of values for Grace. The Elders discussed it and were asked to provide feedback to Jamie Horton. A new draft will be presented at the June meeting.

Date change – the June strategy team meetings will be moved to Wednesday, June 21.

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

Julia closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Candy Clarke Aldridge

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Clerk of Session