

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
June 28, 2023

MODERATOR
The Reverend Dr. Julia Leeth

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in Massey-Tucker Hall.

Attendance:

Pastors Present: Rev. Julia Leeth

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, Abby Meade, Keeke Russo, Lisa Schwartz

Excused: Rev. Chris French, Jim Tomforde

Absent: n/a

Others in attendance: Rev. Denise Phelps, Sharon High, Candy Clarke Aldridge

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

Open with Prayer – Elders prayed Psalm 23 to open the meeting.

Moderator's Report – Julia encouraged each Strategy Team to include a Deacon representative at their monthly meeting.

Consent Agenda and Clerk's report – Candy Aldridge presented the Consent Agenda, which included the minutes of the May Session meeting. A motion was made to table approving the Strategy Team members. It was seconded and approved. A motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda without that item. The motion was seconded and approved.

Strategy Team Updates

- **Ministry Support** – In addition to the monthly report, Chair Dorothy Hobbs reported that pledges remain the same: \$1.6 mil. The current annual budget is \$3 million. Update of the Westbrook estate disposition: Grace expects to receive the funds late this year. The Think Tank will propose ideas on how to use the funds. The \$1.2 million payroll tax refund was received at the end of May. It was directed into the Operating Budget. Revenue for May was 10% less than May 2022, but 7% greater than YTD 2022. Currently, there is \$600,000 in cash and \$650,000 in receivables.
- **Grace School** – See the monthly report.
- **Leadership Development** – See the monthly report.
- **CONC Update** – Chair Cathy Finck reported that the team is meeting to discuss the nominations.
- **Worship Team** – See the monthly report.
- **Equip** – see the monthly report.
- **Serve** – Chair Abby Meade reminded the Elders that August 13 is the next Serve Day, where we will Stuff the Bus with school supplies. The team is working on the grant application process for the mission partners. She will provide the monthly report under separate cover.

- **Together** – no report

New Business

- **Report from the Think Tank** – A group of covenant partners has been working on strategies to address the budget shortfall. Their report will be presented in August.
- **Mission / Vision / Values statements** – Julia continued the discussion from previous Session meetings about updating the Mission, Vision and Value statements and a new tagline. She clarified what each of the statements should describe about Grace. Mission is what we're doing. Vision is our preferred future. Values are what we believe.

In May, the Session approved the new mission statement:

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

Julia presented proposed new vision and values statements and proposed tagline for discussion.

Vision: *Our vision is for all to be transformed by the Gospel where we live, work and play.*

After discussion, there was a motion to direct the Vision Statement to the Leadership Team for finalizing. It was seconded and approved.

Values: *Biblical Integrity, Covenant Community, Wholehearted Worship, Generous Living and Boldly Sent,* with brief descriptions and scripture references for each.

After discussion, there was a motion to direct the Values Statements to the Leadership Team for finalizing. It was seconded and approved.

Tagline: *All in for Jesus*

After discussion, the Elders requested modifications. Jamie Horton will send a new draft to Elders, who will comment then vote by email.

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