

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

**MODERATOR**

The Reverend Dr. Julia Leeth

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Saturday, August 26, 2023 during the Church Officers Retreat at 2:00 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, Lisa Descant, Cathy Finck, Andy Frazelle, Tory Gunsolley, Dorothy Hobbs, Jamie Horton, Martha Hunt, Tom Lee

**Excused:** Bert Crump, Abby Meade, Keeke Russo, Lisa Schwartz, Jim Tomforde

**Absent:**

**Others in attendance:** Rev. Aaron Hansz, Rev. Denise Phelps, Daniel Baudin, Traci Baudin, Kristi Elmore, Doug Gleditsch, Johnice Haney, Liz Moran, Hardie Morgan, Ivy Castle-Simpson, Sharon High, Candy Clarke Aldridge

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

**Open with Prayer** – The meeting began with reflective prayer.

**Update and Overview** – Mission, Vision, Values and Key Concept work. Chris French introduced the new Covenant Partners orientation plan, Discover Grace. He will continue to refine it, including Elders in the course leadership. The first Discover Grace orientation will be September 17, 2023.

**Consent agenda and Clerk's report** – Candy Aldridge presented the Consent Agenda, which included the minutes of the June Session meeting. A motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda and the Clerk's Report. The motion was seconded and approved.

- **Ministry Support Team Recommendations to Session from Think Tank Recommendations** – The Team presented the recommendations from the Think Tank. There was a motion to give voice to the Ministry Support Team, and the Think-Tank members. It was seconded and approved.

*The Ministry Support Team analyzed the Think Tank recommendations and responded to each item. They then presented a report including several recommended actions to be taken by the session which were approved with amendments as follows:*

*That the proceeds from the Westbrook (and Benson) settlements be deposited into interest-bearing deposits, in accordance with the GPCCH Short Term Cash Investment Policy, to produce income to help offset future projected operating losses and potential ministry opportunities. The*

*principal should remain invested unless needed to offset future operating cash flow losses for the fiscal year 2023-2024.*

*That the proceeds received from the IRS, including interest (approximately \$165,000) from the ERTC be deposited into interest-bearing deposits, in accordance with the GPCH Short Term Cash Investment Policy, to produce income to help offset future projected operating losses. The principal should remain invested unless needed to offset future operating cash flow losses for the fiscal year 2023-2024.*

*That the accrued interest from the ERTC funds be split 40% to Grace School and 60% to the church. Further, that the cost of moving the chapel organ and replacing the organ blower, which was done to accommodate Grace School's construction project, be deducted from the school's 40% share of the interest.*

*That the two-acre parcel be evaluated by Ministry Support team to recommend to the Session its highest and best use by the Church.*

*That recommendations made by the Think Tank to the Ministry Support Team be assigned to a Strategy Team or task force, as follows:*

- 3. assigned to a new task force*
- 4. referred to Ministry Support*
- 5. referred to Ministry Support*
- 6. referred to Leadership Team and Ministry Support*
- 7. referred to Leadership Team (staff)*
- 8. Equip, Discipleship (Chris French presented Discover Grace earlier in the meeting).*
- 9. referred to Ministry Support*
- 10. referred to Ministry Support*
- 11. referred to Leadership Development, Connect Strategy Team, Jamie Horton, the Hanlons*
- 12. referred to Ministry Support and Friends of Westchase*
- 13. referred to Leadership Team (staff) and Ministry Support*
- 14. referred to Connect Strategy Team and Jamie Horton*
- 15. referred to Ministry Support*
- 16. referred to Ministry Support – not recommended*
- 17. referred to Leadership Team (staff), Generosity team, Communications*
- 18 – 22 – referred to Ministry Support; leadership does not support items 21 and 22.*

*Ministry Support Team Chair Dorothy Hobbs will send the notes highlighted in red to the Elders. Julia asked that Elders read and comment before mid-November.*

### **Strategy Team Updates**

- **Ministry Support Team** – see the monthly report. Discussion was deferred until next Session meeting.
- **Grace School** – no report
- **Leadership Development** – see the monthly report.
- **CONC Update** – Chair Cathy Finck reported that the team is still considering Elder candidates. All Deacon spots are filled.
- **Worship Team** – see the monthly report.
- **Equip** – no report.
- **Serve** – no report.
- **Together** – no report

**New Business**

- **Election of Presbytery Commissioners** – The Texas Presbytery meeting is September 16, 2023 at Highland Park Presbyterian Church. Grace is allotted 5 commissioners to the Presbytery. There was a motion to allow the Leadership Team to name and appoint the commissioners. There was a second and the motion was approved.

Elders were encouraged to read the Health Assessments and pages 16-20 of the Generosity Culture recommendations. Discussion of the Generosity Culture report was tabled until the next Session meeting.

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