

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
October 9, 2024

**MODERATOR**  
The Reverend Doctor Julia Leeth

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a CALLED MEETING on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 7 p.m. This meeting was held on this date to replace the September Session meeting.

**Attendance:**

Pastors Present: Rev. Dr. Julia Leeth, Rev. Chris French, Rev. Aaron Hanz, Rev. Denise Phelps

Elders Present: Nnenna Akwari, Earl Baudin, Russ Chase, Ron Collins, Vic Condrey, Lisa Descant, Sarah Easterling, Cathy Finck, Andy Frazelle, Morris Harper, Dorothy Hobbs, Jamie Horton, Debbie Kaplan, Tom Lee, Rick Sell and Karen Welton

Excused: Martha Hunt, Judy Prisk

Absent: none

Others in attendance: Traci Baudin, Sharon High, Hardie Morgan, Ivey Castle-Simpson, Candy Aldridge

**Call Meeting to Order** - Rev. Julia Leeth called the meeting to order.

**Moderator's Report** - Julia announced that Rev. Chris French has taken a call to become Senior Pastor at Palm Desert Community Church in Palm Desert, California. November 3 will be his final Sunday in the pulpit. The church will celebrate the French family's ministry on November 3. Also, she has asked elders to consider attending the National Gathering, January 27-29 at Highland Park Presbyterian Church.

**Open with Prayer** - The meeting opened with communal responsive prayer using Hebrews 4:12-14.

**Consent agenda and Clerk's Report** - A motion was made to approve the Consent agenda and Clerk's report. Another motion was made to remove the August 28 Executive Session minutes for later consideration. The motion was seconded and approved. The balance of the August 28 minutes was approved by motion, a second and the vote.

**Strategy Team Updates**

**Ministry Support - Team Chair**, Lisa Descant, reported that the new operating system at Grace is expected to be running by November. Revenue for August 2024 was \$97,000 ahead of budget. There has been an increase in the number of givers and an increase in giving. Giving is up 3.8% since the 5:10:5 plan was announced. Also, see the monthly report.

**Leadership Development** - Chair Cathy Finck reported that the incoming elder, deacon and CONC nominees will be voted on at the annual Congregational meeting on October 13, 2024. This team has team met with the Church Officer Nominating Committee to place the incoming elders on Strategy teams for 2025. Also, see the monthly report.

**Worship** has not met since the last Session meeting.

**Equip** has not met since the last Session meeting. See the monthly report.

**Serve** - Team chair, Tom Lee, reported that the team met by Zoom, and are looking for volunteers to staff a mission trip to North Carolina, Florida and other hurricane ravaged areas.

**Together** - Jamie Horton explained the Sunday morning guest experience, and the church's response to each new person of whom we are aware. Also, see the monthly report.

**Grace School** - See the monthly report.

A motion was made to move into Executive Session. The motion was seconded and approved at 8:27 p.m.

After the Executive Session was complete at 8:45 p.m. the elders returned to the Session meeting. There was a motion to adjourn, which was seconded and approved.

Rev. Julia Leeth closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted



Candy Clarke Aldridge  
Clerk of Session