

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
JANUARY 24, 2024

MODERATOR
The Reverend Doctor Julia Leeth

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 during a regularly scheduled monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Massey-Tucker Hall.

Attendance:

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

Elders Present: Nnenna Akwari, Earl Baudin, Russ Chase, Vic Condrey, Bert Crump, Lisa Descant, Sarah Easterling, Cathy Finck, Andy Frazelle, Morris Harper, Dorothy Hobbs, Jamie Horton, Martha Hunt, Tom Lee, Judy Prisk, Rick Sell and Karen Welton

Excused: Ron Collins

Absent: none

Others in attendance: Traci Baudin, Ivy Castle Simpson, Jordan Goodie, Sharon High, Hardie Morgan, Stella Sekyere and Candy Clarke Aldridge

Call Meeting to Order - Rev. Dr. Julia Leeth

Open with Prayer - The meeting began by praying the scripture Jeremiah 1: 4-8.

Moderator's Report - Julia introduced and welcomed the incoming Elders and encouraged all Elders to commit to attending their Strategy Team meetings.

Consent agenda and Clerk's Report - A motion was made to amend the November 2023 minutes on page 5 to update the amount raised by the golf tournament from \$20,000 to \$27,000. The motion was seconded and approved. Elders were urged to complete the Conflict of Interest forms online.

New Business

Team Updates: most Strategy Teams meet quarterly in 2024

Ministry Support

Chair Lisa Descant introduced the team members. The team reviewed the FY 2023 audit report and approved it. Budgeting for next year will begin soon. The cash position analysis report will be revamped shortly for better display and more informed decisions.

Anne Humphries passed away and designated Grace as a beneficiary. More information coming.

We are still receiving pledges. Covenant partners have pledged \$1.6 million compared to \$1.7 million last year. These pledges comprise 55% of the annual operating budget.

Leadership Development:

Chair Cathy Finck presented a recommendation to approve the roster of 2024 Strategy Team assignments for the lay members. It was seconded and approved. The team is preparing an officer recruitment class on April 7 to explain leadership at Grace. It's a prelude to the Church Officer Nominating process. Additional information is found in the team report in the Session Package.

Grace School

The annual report is now on the Grace School website. Co-Chair Jim Tomforde urged the Elders to review the school's financial health. Construction is due to be completed around the end of March. This team's first meeting is in March.

Worship Team:

Staff is preparing a Lenten video. Youth Sunday is February 11, 2024. The VBS CD was completed by Ivy Castle Simpson, Traci Baudin, and Johniece Haney. Their first team meeting is in March.

Equip Strategy Team:

No report

Serve Strategy Team:

Tom Lee reported that the tally from the golf tournament increased to \$27,000. They are developing a strategy for the mentorship program.

There was a motion to go into **Executive Session**. It was seconded and approved.

After the Executive session, there was a motion to return to the regular Session meeting to continue the Ministry Support Team's discussion. The team reviewed and approved a request for salary adjustments for church staff to be implemented as soon as February 2024. A motion was made to amend the effective date to January 2024. It was seconded and approved. The team's amended recommendation was seconded and approved.

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

Rev. Julia Leeth closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Candy Aldridge
Clerk of Session