

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

MODERATOR

The Reverend Doctor Julia Leeth

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Saturday, February 24, 2024, during the church officer retreat at 1:30 p.m. in Massey-Tucker Hall.

Attendance:

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

Elders Present: Nnenna Akwari, Earl Baudin, Ron Collins, Vic Condrey, Bert Crump, Lisa Descant, Sarah Easterling, Cathy Finck, Andy Frazelle, Jamie Horton, Tom Lee, Rick Sell and Karen Welton

Excused: Russ Chase, Morris Harper, Dorothy Hobbs, Martha Hunt, and Judy Prisk

Absent: none

Others in attendance: Sharon High

Call Meeting to Order – Rev. Julia Leeth

Open with Prayer – Rev. Julia Leeth

Moderator's Report – Strategy team leaders went through respective updates.

Consent agenda and Clerk's Report – A motion was made to approve the Consent agenda. The motion was seconded and then approved.

New Business

Team Updates: most Strategy Teams meet quarterly in 2024

Ministry Support

Chair Lisa Descant had planned to provide all Elders with a detailed cash position analysis report for the FY 2024 fiscal year. Provision of said detailed report has been pushed to the upcoming March 20, 2024, Session meeting, given that many elders were absent. All elders are encouraged to be present at the March meeting.

Chair Lisa Descant announced that the Westbrook Estate lawsuit has been settled and Grace received \$2.6 million, there are additional funds still pending. A recommendation was made by Karen Welton to educate the congregation about Mrs. Westbrook and how she came to bequeath Grace with a portion of her estate. The intent will be to promote this as an opportunity for other members of the congregation to learn about or consider adding Grace to their will.

Leadership Development

Chair Cathy Fink reported that the Ministry Support team asked for guidance regarding the four members who will be rolling off Ministry Support in 2024. She has asked Bert Crump (Strategy Team Lead for Equip) to release Rick Sell to transition into supporting Ministry Support. Cathy presented the list of 2024 Strategy Team assignment of Elders and lay participants for Session approval. There was a motion to approve. 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 can be found on the team report in the Session Package.

Grace School

No report

Worship Team:

Grace is further along in its multigenerational worship style. The team is doing work around wrapping worship around our mission, vision, and values.

Equip Strategy Team:

Report attached - no action needed at this time.

Serve Strategy Team:

The team is excited about Beds and Bears event. They encouraged us to donate and participate.

Julia thanked the Session for the salary adjustment budget that was approved for the staff. She said the impact was overwhelming especially for the staff that had not seen a salary increase in a long time. This salary adjustment budget also gave her the opportunity to adjust some salaries of long-time employees to achieve equity.

There was a motion to adjourn, which was seconded and approved.

Rev. Julia Leeth closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Nnenna Akwari
Acting Clerk of Session