

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
MARCH 20, 2024

MODERATOR

The Reverend Doctor Julia Leeth

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 6:30 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, Ron Collins, Vic Condrey, Lisa Descant, Sarah Easterling, Cathy Finck, Andy Frazelle, Morris Harper, Dorothy Hobbs, Jamie Horton, Martha Hunt, Tom Lee, Rick Sell and Karen Welton

Excused: Bert Crump, Judy Prisk

Absent: none

Others in attendance: Daniel Baudin, Traci Baudin, Sam Bradshaw, Ivy Castle Simpson, Campbell Craig, Kristy Elmore, Doug Gleditsch, Johnneice Haney, Sharon High, Thomas Horton, Hardie Morgan, a majority of deacons and Candy Aldridge

Call Meeting to Order – Rev. Julia Leeth

Open with Prayer – The meeting opened with communal responsive prayer using Jeremiah 31:31-34, led by Rev. Julia Leeth.

Moderator's Report – Julia explained the reason for the joint Elders and Deacons meeting: to educate and update the church leaders on the current financial position at Grace. A motion was made to give voice to the non-Session members. It was seconded and approved. Julia reminded them that only elders may vote.

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

New Business – Ministry Support Team presentation to Session

Chair Lisa Descant presented the work of the Ministry Support Team over the past many months to visually display the historical, current and future (envisioned) look at the financial situation Grace is facing. It included a multi-year cash-flow projection showing that current cash will likely be exhausted in 8 months. The current deficit is greater than projections.

To address this, they presented plans (Survive and Thrive) to eliminate the deficit and to operate in abundant black ink to achieve Grace's ministry. Discussion ensued with a focus on the plan entitled "Thrive." It is comprised of these goals:

- Current giving would increase 3% each year for 5 years.
- The number of givers would increase by 10% each year for 5 years, including Covenant Partners who have not made a contribution.
- In 5 years, Grace will operate with a safe cushion for accomplishing the good things God has in store for us.

Projections indicate that if the 3 and 10 are realized, along with 4% annual inflation for expense, Grace will be operating with a surplus by FY2027.

At the conclusion of the presentation, there was a motion to support the Thrive plan, but increase the 3% in the first bullet to 5%. It was seconded, then discussion ensued. The result of the discussion was that this solution needed deft communication. The vote was called and the motion carried unanimously. Lisa then asked the elders to review the Monthly Report in the Session package.

Julia asked those present to treat the information and presentation confidential until it is presented to the congregation.

Team Updates:

Leadership Development: Report attached - no action needed at this time.

Grace School: Report attached - no action needed at this time.

Worship Team: no report

Equip Strategy Team: Report attached - no action needed at this time.

Serve Strategy Team: no report

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

Rev. Julia Leeth closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Candy Clarke Aldridge

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Clerk of Session