

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

MODERATOR
The Reverend Chris French

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in Massey-Tucker Hall.

Attendance:

Pastors Present: Rev. Chris French and Rev. Aaron Hanz

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

Excused: Rev. Julia Leeth, Lisa Descant, Martha Hunt

Absent: none

Others in attendance: Traci Baudin, Ivy Castle Simpson, Kristy Elmore, Sharon High, Hardie Morgan, Stella Sekyere, Candy Aldridge

Call Meeting to Order - Rev. Chris French

Open with Prayer - The meeting opened with communal responsive prayer using Galatians 3:23-29, led by Rev. Chris French.

Moderator's Report - Chris thanked the Session for the gift of his Sabbatical. He returned with a restored personal passion for the vision and purpose in the second half of life.

Consent agenda and Clerk's Report - A motion was made to approve the Consent agenda. The motion was seconded and then approved. Bert Crump notified the Session of that he has resigned and is moving to Tennessee. This was his last Session meeting, and the Elders prayed around him.

New Business -

Partnership Plan presentation - Serve Team chair Andy Frazelle presented a plan for funding current and potential ministry partners, beginning in the 2024-2025 fiscal year. It was the result of a 10-month review of each partner's purpose, alignment with Grace's new strategic direction of focus on children, families and education, and historical funding. Team members evaluated the partnership applications, interviewed each of the 17 legacy ministry partners and one new applicant, and evaluated the financials of each partner. Their work is detailed in the Partnership Plan report. They have identified and recommended funding levels for the next three years, including changes in funding for some partners.

5-10-5 Update - Elder Jamie Horton reported that the roll-out of the plan begins May 5, with Elders speaking to each of the classes meeting during the Equipping Hour.

Elder Commissioners for ECO Texas Presbytery meeting April 26, 2024 - Hardie Morgan asked Elders to serve as Commissioners at the Presbytery meeting via Zoom on Friday. Volunteers were Karen Welton, Hardie Morgan and Candy Aldridge. There was a motion to give Chris French authority to appoint additional commissioners if more Elders wish to Participate. The motion was seconded and approved.

Team Updates:

Ministry Support: Elder Ron Collins reported that expenses still outpace income, leading to a FYTD \$910,529 deficit. Budgeting for FY 2024-2025 is in progress. Staff prepared a budget of \$3.8 million. Ministry Support recommended a budget of \$3.7 million, which staff is analyzing. Hardie reported that attendance is up 9% over last year. Elders are requested to host dinner parties with top 100 donors to discuss the 5-10-5 Plan. In May, the team will bring to Session a report on the 2-acre property Grace owns. Additional information is included in their monthly report, attached.

Leadership Development: Chair Cathy Finck reminded everyone that the due date is May 15. She strongly encouraged the Elders to prayerfully consider who they would nominate as Elder and Deacon.

Grace School: Chair Dorothy Hobbs announced that there are 408 students, which is 97% capacity. There are 92 enrolled in pre-school and kindergarten, 229 in lower school and 119 in upper grades. Construction is almost complete, aiming for summer completion.

Worship Team: no report

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

Serve Strategy Team: Report attached.

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

Elder Bert Crump closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Candy Clarke Aldridge
Clerk of Session