

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
June 26, 2024

MODERATOR
The Reverend Doctor Julia Leeth

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in Massey-Tucker Hall.

Attendance:

Pastors Present: Rev. Julia Leeth, Rev. Chris French, and Rev. Denise Phelps

Elders Present: Nnenna Akwari, Earl Baudin, Russ Chase, Ron Collins, Vic Condrey, Sarah Easterling, Andy Frazelle, Dorothy Hobbs, Tom Lee, Judy Prisk, Rick Sell and Karen Welton

Excused: Cathy Finck, Morris Harper, Jamie Horton, Martha Hunt

Absent: none

Others in attendance: Ivy Castle Simpson, Johniece Haney, Stella Sekyere, Candy Aldridge

Call Meeting to Order – Rev. Julia Leeth

Open with Prayer – The meeting opened with communal responsive prayer using Acts 11:21-26 led by Rev. Julia Leeth.

Moderator's Report – Julia called on Rev Chris French, who announced an upcoming event. Chris announced that the Margaret Jarboe Lectureship Series Committee has approved funding for a guest lecturer on September 11 to kick off the Fall season of Equip. The Fall Equipping class will focus on making sense of your Bible: Cultivating a Cover to Cover Faith. Currently, Andrew serves as Senior Pastor of Mandarin Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, Florida.

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:

Ministry Support: Elder Lisa Descant reported that financials for May will close at an increased deficit – actual is \$1.2 million against a projection of \$720,000, mainly attributable to lower than projected revenue. The monthly report is attached.

5:10:5 Plan – Elder Andy Frazelle emphasized that it is important for elders to make the actual 5:10:5 pledge online or by pledge card, not to merely increase the annual giving. There has been some confusion around this. Elders had done it both ways. Julia asked that elders complete a 5:10:5 pledge card before the next Session meeting – August 28.

FY2024-2025 annual budget: Lisa presented and explained the proposed annual budget for FY2024-2025. The budget shows an annual projected deficit of \$1.12 million, and \$2.5 million on hand. After discussion, there was a motion to approve next year's budget for \$3,796,983. It was seconded and approved unanimously before the beginning of the fiscal year.

Leadership Development: Elder Nnenna Akwari strongly encouraged the elders to prayerfully consider who they would nominate for elder and deacon roles.

Worship Team: no report

Equip Strategy Team: no report

Serve Strategy Team: no report

Grace School: no report

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

After returning from Executive Session, there was a motion to authorize a task force to develop a plan for Grace Church to more equitably share the capital cost of the School with Grace School. A vote was called, and the motion was approved unanimously.

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