

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
August 28, 2024

MODERATOR
The Reverend Doctor Julia Leeth

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in Massey-Tucker Hall.

Attendance:

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

Elders Present: Earl Baudin, Ron Collins, Lisa Descant, Sarah Easterling, Cathy Finck, Andy Frazelle, Morris Harper, Dorothy Hobbs, Jamie Horton, Debbie Kaplan, Tom Lee, Judy Prisk, Rick Sell and Karen Welton

Excused: Nnenna Akwari, Russ Chase, Vic Condrey and Martha Hunt

Absent: none

Others in attendance: Rev. Edward Song, Ivy Castle Simpson, Hardie Morgan, Sharon High, Stella Sekyere, Candy Aldridge

Call Meeting to Order - Rev. Julia Leeth called the meeting to order.

Moderator's Report - Julia introduced Rev. Edward Song, Pastor of New Life Church which meets on the Grace campus at 11 am on Sundays. Julia asked the elders to pray for him and his congregation. Julia then introduced Stella Sekyere as co-Moderator for the meeting.

Open with Prayer - The meeting opened with communal responsive prayer using Matthew 28:16-20 led by Stella.

Consent agenda and Clerk's Report - A motion was made to approve the Consent agenda and Clerk's report. It was seconded and approved.

New Business -

Election of Elder Commissioners for the Texas Presbytery meeting in San Antonio September 20-21.

There was a motion to allow Julia and Hardie to appoint Commissioners in the coming weeks. The motion was seconded and approved.

Annual Report from the Grace Endowment Board of Trustees: Board Secretary, Debbie Kaplan, presented the 2023 annual report from the Grace Endowment Fund.

Team Updates

Ministry Support: June revenue was encouraging, leading to a 42% increase over June 2023. FYTD revenue was 3% less than 2023. Operating results showed a surplus for the month compared to 2023. The FYTD deficit is \$1.08 million, which is greater than budgeted for the month and the fiscal year. Also, see the attached monthly report.

Leadership Development: Chair, Cathy Finck, presented the roster of elder nominees for the Class of 2027, as well as nominees for the Lay members of the Church Officer Nominating Committee, Class of 2027. No Session action is required. Covenant Partners will vote on these nominees at the October 13 annual congregational meeting. See the attached monthly report.

Grace School: The school moved into its new facilities over the summer. Students began classes on August 15. There are 502 students from 347 families and 97 staff this semester. Also see the monthly report.

Worship Team: see monthly report

Equip Strategy Team: see monthly report

Serve Strategy Team: see monthly report

There was a motion to move into **Executive Session**. It was seconded and approved. Executive Session began at 8:00 p.m.

After returning from Executive Session at 8:13 p.m., there was no Session action.

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