

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
JANUARY 22, 2025

MODERATOR
The Reverend Doctor Julia Leeth

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED SESSION MEETING on Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 6:30 P.M. via Zoom.

Opening Prayer

Attendance:

Pastors Present: Rev. Dr. Julia Leeth

Elders Present: Nnenna Akwari, Earl Baudin, Kendall Compton, Lisa Descant, Sarah Easterling, Morris Harper, Dorothy Hobbs, Tom Hodge, Thomas Horton, Martha Hunt, Debbie Kaplan, Tom Lee, Doug Lunn, Sue McGown, Steve Murphy, Judy Prisk, Rick Sell and Karen Welton

Excused: none

Absent: none

Others in attendance: Rev. Denise Phelps, Traci Baudin, Ivy Castle-Simpson , Jamie Horton, Hardie Morgan, Sharon High, Candy Aldridge

Call Meeting to Order – Rev. Julia Leeth called the meeting to order and led the Elders in communal reading of Luke 4:38-43.

Moderator's Report: Elder Karen Welton will serve as an Elder Commissioner at the ECO National Gathering in Dallas next week.

Clerk's Report and Administrative Matters: Refer to the report included in the Session packet. Candy Aldridge reminded Elders of the annual conflict of interest forms that are due before the next session meeting. A link will be emailed to Elders.

Approval of Consent Agenda: There was a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. It was seconded and approved.

New Business

Approve Board Member on Grace Endowment Board

There was a motion to approve Jenny Gottschalk to fill Jim Leeland's expired term. It was seconded and approved.

Strategy Team Updates

Ministry Support – Chair Lisa Descant reported that Grace School is now paying the increased subsidy that was instituted last fall, \$250 thousand over 8 months. We received 147 pledges totaling \$1.7 million. There are 10 more likely pledges that should get total pledges up to \$1.8 million. Thomas Horton reported on the 5-10-5 plan. Core givers increased their pledges by 4%. The 10 component (10% increase in contributions from new givers) is slower to meet the goal.

Worship – The first meeting will be in early February. See the monthly report.

Equip – The first meeting will be in February.

Serve – Chair Tom Lee reported that the team met January 21. Karen Roden is the new representative from the Deacons. Though his Deacon term expired in December, Bill Welton has agreed to serve another year in an advisory capacity. Opportunities to serve include:

- Fe Maya trip to Guatemala, Mar. 6-12
- Living Water trip to the Dominican Republic, Mar. 30-April 12
- Easter Baskets for Presbyterian Children's Home
- Hurricane Helene relief to Asheville, NC late April or early May
- Friends of Samburu trip to Kenya in June

Leadership Development – Chair Nnenna Akwari, announced that the Assistant Pastor search team, requested by Julia, has been appointed: Nnenna Akwari, Matt Cobb, Vic Condrey, Rebecca Daniel, Kathryn Ludwig, and Steve Murphy, led by Julia and supported by Narda Weirbach. Nnenna referred to the job description and the cover sheet that will accompany the posting. Then she explained the team's role: it will be advisory to Julia after candidates have been vetted. There was a motion to approve the Assistant Pastor - Equipping job description.

Grace School - See monthly report.

Executive Session - There was a motion to move to Executive Session at 7:31 P.M. It was seconded and approved.

After returning to the Stated Session meeting at 7:55 P.M., the previous motion was seconded and approved.

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

Rev. Leeth closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Candy Clarke Aldridge

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Clerk of Session