

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
MAY 16, 2017

MODERATOR

The Rev. Dr. Trey Little

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Rev. Chad Erb, Assistant Pastor; Hardie Morgan, Executive Director of Ministry Support; Denise Phelps, Director, Care Ministries; Susan McElroy, Pastor's Executive Assistant; Traci Baudin, Director, Children's Ministries

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on MAY 16, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

Attendance:

Elders Present: Okey Akwari, Candy Aldridge, Ronnie Braden, Deb Castillo, Vic Condrey, Jerry Hanlon, Kevin Kiniry, Jim Leeland, Terry Looper, Scott Maham, Myrna Maldonado, Keith McElroy, Kerry Moore, Greg Morby, John Murphy, John Musgrove, Tami Plummer, Keeke Russo, Lisa Schwartz, Jo Swank, Ted Teinert, Jim Weatherall

Excused: Jenny Gottschalk, Stephanie Husmann, John Meloy, Philip Parker, Greg Zuanich

Absent: The Rev. Chris French, Associate Pastor, Rev. Dr. Michael Fry, Parish Associate

The Rev. Dr. Trey Little called the meeting to order. John Murphy offered the opening prayer.

Clerk's Report & Administrative Matters: Candy Aldridge presented the Consent Agenda, which included the April 18, 2017 and May 14, 2017 Session meeting minutes and the Clerk's Report for May 2017. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes and the Clerk's Report.

Trey opened the meeting with this challenge: what one word describes where you are in your faith journey? What stirred in you to say this word and what does God want you to do with it? Attendees each responded and a brief discussion ensued.

Conversations About Key Strategic Opportunities:

- **Financial Update:** Income is 4% below budget through April 30. Strategy teams will be identifying budget cuts of 5% and 10% in case they are needed. An additional \$889,000 in contributions is needed to balance the budget by June 30, compared to \$700,000 collected in June 2016.
- **Facilities Improvement Team update:** Architect Scott Hollingsworth will meet again with Grace School and is expected to present plans and costs by the September Session meeting.
- **Fuller Spiritual Formation Cohort:** Six leaders from Grace currently participate in this cohort led by Bryan Wallace to reinforce spiritual practices and to create discipleship at Grace. This unique opportunity will be expanded to include elders in 2018, and will become a requirement for future

elders. Initially, there will be 2 cohorts of 18 people each. More details and dates will be forthcoming at the June Session meeting.

- Mission Affinity Group: They met with pastor peers from Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church to identify opportunities for our churches to impact the City of Houston. Initially, our 3 churches will coordinate the hosting of the National Gathering of ECO in Houston, January 23-25, 2018. Speakers will include Ed Stetzer and Condoleezza Rice. In addition, representatives from these 3 churches will participate in the Presbytery meeting at San Antonio's First Presbyterian Church, September 29-30, 2017.

New Business:

- Site Improvements on Two-Acre Plot: Discussion centered on a handout enumerating proposed site improvements to the shopping center property at Seagler and Westheimer. Preliminary work will begin on replatting the two Grace properties into a single campus, which may take six months to accomplish. Other items on the list will be addressed after that.
- Church Officer Nominating Committee: Nominations for elders and deacons were due May 15. The nominating committee will review the submissions over the next 4-6 weeks to prepare the final slate of nominees later in the summer.
- Connect Team: The Connect Team monthly report included a motion to establish **Family Ministries** by uniting Children's and Student Ministries. Greg Morby referred the Session to the Family Ministries Proposal included in the Session Packet. A brief discussion ensued, and the Session approved the motion. Further action related to Family Ministries was addressed in Executive Session, following this meeting.

The Session dismissed the non-elder attendees and went into Executive Session.

Executive Session

1. The establishment of Family Ministries opens the opportunity to establish a Family Ministries Pastor and to change Rev. Chad Erb's role from Assistant Pastor to Associate Pastor. To that end, the Session unanimously approved 2 resolutions:

- a. That an additional Associate Pastor's position be created and that the Session shall constitute the Nominating Committee for this position, and
- b. To request from the ECO Presbytery and the Covenant Partners of Grace Presbyterian Church of Houston for the call of Chad Erb to the position of Associate Pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church of Houston.

The vote to approve the call of Chad Erb to the position of Associate Pastor will occur at the September 2017 annual congregation meeting. After that, Presbytery will install him as Associate Pastor. The Session will send a letter to the congregation and all youth contacts to announce the change. Chad will assume the role of leader of Family Ministries immediately.

2. The Session considered a recommendation from the Personnel Committee to extend paid leave time for Trey after his medical leave which is scheduled for June 27 through July 31. The Session approved a month of paid respite leave beginning August 1, 2017 through September 4, 2017.

3. During Trey's absence, Chris French will serve as Interim Moderator when he returns from sabbatical leave in August. The Session approved appointing Deb Castillo as an alternate Interim Moderator if such is needed while Trey and Chris are absent.

Closing Prayer was offered by Deb Castillo.

The next Session Meeting will be held Tuesday, June 20, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,



Candy Clarke Aldridge
Clerk of Session