

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

**MODERATOR**

The Rev. Dr. Trey Little

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Rev. Chris French, Associate Pastor; Rev. Chad Erb, Assistant Pastor; Hardie Morgan, Executive Director of Ministry Support; Matt Davis, High School Ministries Associate

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 at 7 p.m.

**Attendance:**

**Elders Present:** Candy Aldridge, Ronnie Braden, Deb Castillo, Vic Condrey, Jenny Gottschalk, Stephanie Husmann, Jim Leeland, Terry Looper, Myrna Maldonado, John Meloy, Kerry Moore, Greg Morby, John Murphy, John Musgrove, Philip Parker, Tami Plummer, Keeke Russo, Lisa Schwartz, Jo Swank, Ted Teinert, Jim Weatherall, Greg Zuanich

**Excused:** Jerry Hanlon, Keith McElroy

**Absent:** Rev. Dr. Michael Fry, Associate Pastor; Okey Akwari, Kevin Kiniry, Scott Maham

The Rev. Trey Little called the meeting to order and opened in prayer.

**Clerk's Report & Administrative Matters:** Candy Aldridge presented the Consent Agenda, which included the August 19, 2017 Session Meeting minutes and the Clerk's Report for September 19, 2017. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes and the Clerk's Report.

**Conversations About Key Strategic Opportunities:**

- Financial report The Ministry Support Team reported that there is a significant decrease in contributions - \$215,000 below calendar YTD expectations, 90% of which occurred since July. That is projected to impact cash flow by about -\$250,000 by December. To address the situation, the Team requested approval of the following motion:

*That Hardie Morgan be authorized to draw on up to \$250,000 in funds from the proceeds of the sale of the shopping center as needed to fund operating costs between now and the end of the calendar year. The use of these funds shall be considered an internal loan and shall bear interest at the rate that earned on the proceeds that will remain invested for future use. Further,*

*Trey Little and the Grace senior staff shall, in conjunction with the Planning and Ministry Support teams, develop a plan to reduce the level of ongoing expenditure below the level of expected revenues and present such plan at the October Ministry Support team meeting.*

Grace recently received an undesignated contribution of \$100,000. After discussion, the Session approved the team's motion.

**New Business:**

- Church Officer Nominating Committee report: Deb Castillo reported that the committee has identified 9 elder nominees and 19 deacon nominees for the Class of 2020.

**Elder nominees for the Class of 2020**

1. Francisco Garibay
2. Evan Ghazi
3. Mike Mantel
4. Dan McElyea
5. Stephanie Mixon
6. Hardie Morgan
7. Jim Tomforde
8. Gindi Vincent
9. Woody Woodruff

**Deacon nominees for the Class of 2020 (and for various vacancies in 2018 and 2019)**

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Shirley Krieg (2018)    | 12. Jody Duffey (2020)      |
| 2. Kathie Mateer (2018)    | 13. Cameron Kreager (2020)  |
| 3. Nancy Condrey (2019)    | 14. Susan Kreager (2020)    |
| 4. Ann Gentle (2019)       | 15. Rick Routzon (2020)     |
| 5. Sheila Hutchings (2019) | 16. Mary Shelton (2020)     |
| 6. Pat Irwin (2019)        | 17. Janice Slater (2020)    |
| 7. Susan McSwain (2019)    | 18. Melinda Smith (2020)    |
| 8. Linda Bell (2020)       | 19. David Swearingin (2020) |
| 9. Carolyn Crawford (2020) | 20. Diane Swearingin (2020) |
| 10. Dan Crippen (2020)     | 21. Carrie Wall (2020)      |
| 11. Kathy Crippen (2020)   | 22. Bonnie Whitten (2020)   |

- Nominations of candidates to stand for election at-large members of the Church Officer Nominating Committee Class of 2020: The CONC also identified two at-large member nominees to replace two term-limited members.

1. Stephanie Parker
2. Tom Prisk

A proposal was made to recommend to the congregation that these nominees be appointed to the CONC. The Session approved this recommendation. The Session thanked Deb and the members of the CONC for a smooth and organized process.

- Hurricane Harvey relief efforts: The Session spent some time relating hurricane experiences and were updated on the state of Grace's hurricane relief efforts. About 140 families were affected among Grace members, Grace School and church staff. Moving from "recovery" to "restoration" is the current focus as covenant partners face long term consequences of flooding and displacement. Grace has received \$140,000 in donations and expects an additional \$20,000 soon. Funds have been used to buy gift cards and supplies. Trey asked for continuous prayer as displaced families progress through various stages of the trauma. He also asked that we keep the church informed of people's needs as we learn about them.
- Endorsement of Matt Davis to enter into the ECO ordination process: Matt Davis, High School Ministries Associate, is seeking endorsement from the Session as part of the ordination process for ECO. He is enrolled in Fuller Theological Seminary as he works at Grace full time. Motion was made and seconded to endorse him as a required part of the ordination process. The motion was approved. John Murphy will be his liaison.

Dates:

- ECO Presbytery of Texas Meeting, First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio: September 29-30; Sabrina Hergert will be examined here by the ECO Texas Presbytery for ordination.
- Congregational Meeting: October 1, 2017
- National ECO Meeting: January 24-26, 2018, Houston; information will come soon regarding the role Grace will play in hosting the National Gathering.

Closing Prayer was offered by Greg Morby.

The next Session Meeting will be held Tuesday, October 17, 2017, 7 p.m.

Items on the agenda may have been taken out of order during the Session meeting. The minutes reflect the agenda order.

Respectfully submitted,



Candy Clarke Aldridge  
Clerk of Session