

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
April 26, 2016

MODERATOR

The Rev. Dr. Trey Little

ASSOCIATE PASTORS

The Rev. Chris French

The Rev. Dr. Michael Fry

STAFF

Hardie Morgan, Executive Director of Ministry Support

Sabrina Hergert, Director Mission Partners

Susan McElroy, Pastor's Executive Assistant

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING in the Library on April 26, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

ELDERS PRESENT: Okey Akwari, Ronnie Braden, Deb Castillo, Russ Chase, Paul Craig, Monika Frazelle, Jerry Hanlon, Morris Harper, Stephanie Husmann, Debbie Kaplan, Kevin Kiniry, Doug Lunn, Myrna Maldonado, Keith McElroy, John Meloy, John Murphy, John Musgrove, Keeke Russo, Lisa Schwartz, Ted Teinert, Jim Weatherall, Mandy Weber

ELDERS EXCUSED: Jenny Gottschalk, Matt Kiker, Scott Maham, Dan Malaguilla, Kerry Moore

CALL TO ORDER, OPENING PRAYER AND DEVOTION: The Session Packet was provided to the Session with an agenda for this meeting, the minutes of the prior Session meeting, committee reports, and other data for the Session's review and analysis.

The clerk took roll and declared a quorum.

The Rev. Dr. Little called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer.

CLERK'S REPORT: Motion was made for approval of the Consent Agenda as stated below:

- Approval of the minutes of the January, 2016 stated Session Meeting
- Approval of the minutes of the February 28, 2016 and April 10, 2016 called Session meetings for the purpose of receiving new members.

- Approval of the minutes of the April 24, 2016 Congregational meeting for the purpose of electing the Church Officer Nominating Committee.
- Approval of Clerk's Report for March 2016 and April 2016

There was a second and the motion passed.

NARRATIVE ON THE HEALTH OF MISSION AND MINISTRY:

The Rev. Dr. Little explored how the Holy Spirit has been evident at Grace this past month through conversions, growth in the fruit of the Spirit, or other transformational experiences that make disciples of Jesus Christ. Each member of Session shared one point where they had experienced the Holy Spirit at work at Grace in the past month.

Session watched a short video on the growth of Grace School and how the Holy Spirit was working within that ministry to shape the lives of the students and parents of Grace School.

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT KEY STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES:

The Rev. Dr. Little presented a Facilities Improvement Team ("FIT") Report to Session. He discussed the FIT plans for updating the church and school facilities. He welcomed questions. Over the next month both the Rev. Dr. Little and members of the FIT group will attend meetings with the Gather, Bless, and Connect strategy teams to answer additional questions. He then requested that Session consider the plans and be prepared to vote on going forward with the plans at the May Session meeting. The goal would be to finalize plans during the summer so that a Capital Campaign could start in the Fall 2016.

The Rev. Dr. Little presented to Session the Fuller Theological Seminary Formation Opportunity. Fuller Seminary is starting a discipleship program and has requested that Grace participate. Members of the staff will be taking part in the program starting in the Fall. The cost is being fully underwritten.

The Rev. Dr. Little presented a letter from First Presbyterian San Antonio requesting Grace to be a Mission Affinity partner with them. We worked with them last year and had a good working relationship with them. The Rev. Dr. Little felt that a group of elders should review the goals of the Mission Affinity Program and determine which ECO churches would partner best with Grace. The Clerk of Session will respond to the request.

The Rev. Dr. Little then briefly discussed the new Team Report process. He asked if there were any issues. There did not appear to be any at this time

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BYLAWS:

Hardie Morgan brought to the Session's attention that Grace's corporate governing documents have been largely unchanged since their original drafting many years ago. Due to all the recent changes at Grace, it was determined that these bylaws should be reviewed and updated. Two meetings have been scheduled for any member of the Church who would like to ask questions and provide comments – lunch on Sunday, May 15 and dinner on Wednesday, May 25.

Once the drafting and review is complete, the proposed documents will be presented at a congregational meeting for approval by the members of Grace.

CLOSING

There was a motion to close, a second and the motion passed. Ted Teinert closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie Kaplan".

Debbie Kaplan
Clerk