

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
August 15, 2018

**MODERATOR**

The Rev. Dr. Trey Little

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Susan McElroy, Executive Assistant

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on August 15, 2018 at 7 pm.

**Attendance:**

**Elders Present:** Candy Aldridge, Deb Castillo, Vic Condrey, Evan Ghazi, Stephanie Husmann, Jim Leeland, Mike Mantel, Dan McElyea, Stephanie Mixon, Greg Morby, Philip Parker, Tami Plummer, Jo Swank, Ted Teinert, Jim Tomforde, Gindi Vincent, Woody Woodruff, Greg Zuanich

**Excused:** Francisco Garibay, Jenny Gottschalk, Terry Looper, Keith McElroy, Hardie Morgan, John Murphy, Keeke Russo

**Absent:** John Meloy

Trey Little opened the meeting with prayer.

**Clerk's Report & Administrative Matters:** Candy Aldridge presented the Consent Agenda for approval. A motion was made to approve the minutes and the attachments from the June 19, 2018 Stated Session meeting. It was seconded and approved.

**New Business**

- **Report from the Grace School Committee Chair:** Jim Tomforde reported that security for the Grace campus is now provided by uniformed HPD officers instead of security guards. This change was initiated by the School before the beginning of the current school year. After distributing a handout outlining the issue, Jim answered questions from elders, and Vic Condrey, Chair of the Ministry Support Team, discussed the increased cost (\$100,000/year) over the cost of the security guard contract, and that both entities shared the cost in the past. After thorough discussion, Jim asked that the Session formalize instructions to the parties authorizing the Grace School Committee and the Ministry Support Committee to work with Grace School and develop a joint proposal for how to address the increased cost. A motion was made and seconded, and the Session authorized the groups to work together to develop a propose solution. It passed unanimously. Jim and Vic agreed to present the proposal at the next Stated Session meeting.
- **Annual Plan for 2018/2019 Fiscal Year:** Vic Condrey reported that the 2018/2019 budget is ready to be presented to the Session for approval next month. The starting point includes the \$300k in cost reductions completed in Spring 2018. The level of income in 2019 is projected to the same as in 2018.

### **Conversations About Key Strategic Opportunities:**

- **Session Structure Proposal:** Leadership Team Chair, Deb Castillo, presented the proposal to alter the Session structure to the Session again to address questions that arose from the email vote taken after the June Session meeting. After discussion, the following recommendations were addressed:
  - Recommendation 1: Over 3 years, transition the Session size from 27 Elders to 18 Elders, beginning with the Class of 2021, soon to be named and installed in December. Elders-nominees have been identified, and will be notified pending Session approval of this change. A motion to approve was made and seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.
  - Recommendation 2: Beginning as soon as is practical, modify the structure of each Stated Session meeting to include more time for intentional or directed prayer and verbal reports from all or some of the Strategy Teams, based on highlights of the Team's work. A new uniform format will be used for Team Reports. The business topics will be reassessed to determine if items require Session action or whether the Session should consider delegating additional authority to the Senior Pastor. A motion to approve was made and seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.
  - Recommendation 3 was withdrawn.
  
- **Capital Campaign Update:** In the past two months, Trey has met with key influencers at Grace during the quiet phase, answering questions to ensure support for the campaign. To allow additional discernment, there are four meetings scheduled in the next few weeks, allowing additional leaders to ask questions and learn more about the campaign. Key dates for next steps are:
  - a. Sunday, September 9, 2018 is the formal introduction of the Ready Campaign to the entire congregation. During September, the 9 a.m. Chapel service will temporarily be suspended so that the entire congregation can worship at 9 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. to hear same message from one preaching voice.
  - b. Wednesday, September 12, 2018 is a gathering of Grace leaders in an intimate worship service to continue discernment and present advance pledges of support. Results will be presented at the September 18, 2018 Session meeting.
  - c. Sunday, October 7, 2018 will be a combined worship service for World Communion and Commitment Sunday, so the congregation can present their pledges of financial support for the campaign.

Mike Mantel closed the meeting in prayer.

The next Session Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 18, 2018, 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Candy Clarke Aldridge  
Clerk of Session