

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
June 21, 2016

MODERATOR

The Rev. Dr. Trey Little

ASSOCIATE PASTORS

The Rev. Chris French

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 June 21, 2016 at 7 p.m.

ELDERS PRESENT: Okey Akwari, Ronnie Braden, Deb Castillo, Russ Chase, Jenny Gottschalk, Jerry Hanlon, Stephanie Husmann, Debbie Kaplan, Doug Lunn, Scott Maham, Dan Malaguilla, Myrna Maldonado, Keith McElroy, John Meloy, Kerry Moore, John Murphy, John Musgrove, Keeke Russo, Lisa Schwartz, Ted Teinert, Jim Weatherall, Mandy Weber

ELDERS EXCUSED: Paul Craig, Morris Harper, Kevin Kiniry

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. The Rev. French opened the meeting with prayer.

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

- o Approval of the minutes of the May 17, 2016 stated Session Meeting.
- o Approval of the minutes of the June 12, 2016 called Session meetings for the purpose of receiving new members.
- o Approval of Clerk's Report for June 21, 2016.

There was a second and the motion passed.

NARRATIVE ON THE HEALTH OF MISSION AND MINISTRY:

The Rev. Dr. Little opened up discussion regarding the ways Grace is seeking the welfare of the community to which we have been called – devoting itself to the poor, seeking justice, and living out the whole of the Great Commission. Keeke Russo gave an example of the young moms' Bible study. This group has historically had 15 to 18 members. Keeke advertised it on social media, and we had 51 non-Grace women join the summer Bible study. These women connected with each other both spiritually and emotionally as they discussed issues with their children.

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT KEY STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES:

- The Rev. Dr. Little presented a Facilities Improvement Team ("FIT") Report to Session. Jim Sheppard, consultant regarding capital campaign, advised the FIT that a Fall capital campaign is not feasible. A more realistic plan would be to start the campaign January 22, 2017. The FIT is hoping to have an artistic rendering of both the church and school plans by the end of June.

- The Rev. Dr. Little discussed with Session the need for a Mission Affinity Partner. He suggested a few other churches, First Presbyterian San Antonio, Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Houston. A team was established consisting of Scott Maham, Dan Malaguilla, Lisa Schwartz, The Rev. Dr. Little and The Rev. French. This team will determine who would be a best fit for Grace and make a recommendation at the August Session meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was a motion to approve the serving of Communion at the Mo Ranch Retreat on July 31, 2016. The motion was seconded and approved.

Ministry support discussed the end of the approaching fiscal year. It is anticipated that Grace may have a shortfall of approximately \$150,000 to \$250,000. The Rev. Dr. Little will address this issue with the congregation on Sunday.

Hardie Morgan also indicated that Grace can expect an increase in expenses for the next fiscal year of approximately 8%. Each team will be challenged to evaluate programs within their teams and suggest programs to sunset.

CLOSING:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie Kaplan
Clerk