

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
AUGUST 15, 2017

MODERATOR

The Rev. Chris French

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Hardie Morgan, Executive Director of Ministry Support; Susan McElroy, Pastor's Executive Assistant; Beth Craig, Coordinator Special Projects

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on AUGUST 15, 2017 at 7 pm.

Attendance:

Elders Present: Okey Akwari, Candy Aldridge, Ronnie Braden, Deb Castillo, Vic Condrey, Jenny Gottschalk, Jerry Hanlon, Stephanie Husmann, Jim Leeland, Myrna Maldonado, Keith McElroy, Greg Morby, Tami Plummer, Lisa Schwartz, Jo Swank, Ted Teinert,

Excused: Kevin Kiniry, Terry Looper, Scott Maham, John Meloy, Kerry Moore, John Murphy, John Musgrove, Philip Parker, Keeke Russo, Jim Weatherall, Greg Zuanich

Absent: Rev. Dr. Michael Fry, Associate Pastor

The Rev. Chris French called the meeting to order opened in prayer.

Clerk's Report & Administrative Matters: Candy Aldridge presented the Consent Agenda, which included the May 16, 2017 Session and June 25, 2017 Called Session meeting minutes and the Clerk's Report for August 15, 2017. A motion was made and seconded to:

- Approve the minutes and the Clerk's Report.
- Call an Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 1, 2017 at 11:05 a.m.
- Approve Deacons serving communion to homebound following World Communion Sunday.

Conversations About Key Strategic Opportunities:

- Christ Community Church – Bryan/College Station ECO Church Plant: Christ Community Church would like to affiliate with Grace as a sponsoring church in ECO. Trey Little, Chris French and Hardie Morgan have met with 3 members of this church at their request regarding ECO affiliation. The Christ Church team prepared a description of their purpose and goals (included in the Session packet), as well as a description of their current needs. Discussion ensued regarding the nature of sponsorship, accountability, length of sponsorship, and their current needs. A motion was made that the Grace formally sponsor Christ Community Church in Bryan/College Station as they seek to become an ECO church. The motion was seconded, and then approved.
- Mission Affinity Group: Members of the Mission Affinity Group will meet in San Antonio at the ECO Presbytery of Texas meeting on September 29, 2017. Grace staff pastoral staff and Session

members Candy Aldridge and John Musgrove will have dinner with peers from Memorial Drive and First Presbyterian Churches, and attend the Presbytery meeting. All elders are invited, and a request was made for at least one additional elder to attend, as we can have three commissioners representing Grace at the business meetings.

- Report from Church Officer Nominating Committee: Deb Castillo reported on the team's progress on nominations. Seventeen covenant partners have committed to becoming deacons out of twenty-six desired. Three have committed to becoming Elders, out of nine needed. The team continues to hear from candidates and consider additional names. Nominees' names will be presented to the congregation at the Congregational Meeting on October 1.

New Business:

- New Member Process: Beth Craig briefed the Session on changes to the new member integration process, beginning September 10, 1 pm. After researching peer organizations' new member activities, Grace will begin Starting Point, a class for new/prospective covenant partners. After the class, attendees will be invited to join Grace. Benefits include formal and consistent description of Grace and ECO, immediate connection to a mentor, their deacon and the volunteer program, as well as an inventory of interests. The class will meet every other month for now. New covenant partners (since June) will be included in the first Starting Point.

Other:

- There is a called Presbytery of Texas meeting via teleconference Wednesday, August 16, 2017 at 3:30 pm regarding the overture to establish the ECO confessional standards. In advance of the January 2018 National Gathering, the local Presbytery is creating an overture regarding the adoption of various confessions. Session members participating on the call will be Candy Aldridge, Ronnie Braden and Jenny Gottschalk. Participants will be asked to vote on the overture to be presented to the National Gathering in January. Grace's confession report is incorporated in the discussion.
- Grace is hosting an event with Jenn Hatmaker and Nichole Nordeman on Thursday, November 2, 2017. Presale tickets will be available through the Grace website. Grace is the exclusive location for seeing this well-known author and Christian musician.
- The Bob Goff event on September 12 is sold out at 1100 tickets, with 55-60 on a waiting list. Beth asked for volunteers to host, usher and set up.

Closing Prayer was offered by Beth Craig.

The next Session Meeting will be held Tuesday, September 19, 2017, 7 p.m.

A Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, October 1, 2017 at 11:05 a.m. following worship.

Respectfully submitted,



Candy Clarke Aldridge
Clerk of Session