

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
MARCH 21, 2017

MODERATOR

The Rev. Dr. Trey Little

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

The Rev. Chris French, Pastor of Missional Living; The Rev. Chad Erb, Pastor, Student Ministries; Hardie Morgan, Executive Director of Ministry Support; Susan McElroy, Pastor's Executive Assistant; Dan Fenn, Director, Traditional Worship Ministries; Sabrina Hergert, Director Missions Partners; Denise Phelps, Director Care Ministries; Traci Baudin, Director Children's Ministries; Matt Davis, High School Ministries Associate

Also in attendance: Margaret Ellis, Covenant Partner

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on MARCH 21, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

Attendance:

Elders Present: Okey Akwari, Candy Aldridge, Ronnie Braden, Vic Condrey, Jerry Hanlon, Jenny Gottschalk, Stephanie Husmann, Kevin Kiniry, Jim Leeland, Scott Maham, Myrna Maldonado, Keith McElroy, John Meloy, Greg Morby, John Murphy, John Musgrove, Philip Parker, Tami Plummer, Keeke Russo, Lisa Schwartz, Jo Swank, Ted Teinert, Jim Weatherall, Greg Zuanich

Excused: Deb Castillo, Terry Looper, Kerry Moore

Absent: Rev. Dr. Michael Fry

The Rev. Dr. Trey Little opened the meeting with prayer.

Clerk's Report & Administrative Matters: Candy Aldridge presented the Consent Agenda, which included the February 11, 2017 minutes and the Clerk's Report for March 2017. A motion was made and seconded to amend one sentence on page 17 in the Clerk's Report, *Bless Strategy Team Report* in the Mission Partners section to read:

1. *Team unanimously agreed Joy To The World Market should **not** continue on an annual basis.*

The Session then approved the minutes and the Clerk's Report.

Narrative on the Health of Mission and Ministry: Discussed illustrations of Grace's commitment to global evangelism and discipleship – where Grace is engaging and with whom.

Conversations About Key Strategic Opportunities:

- Gather Team Report: Lisa Schwartz updated the Session on the team's work over the past 15 months, as described on page 11 of this month's Session Report. An open discussion ensued, primarily regarding Sunday schedule options. Lisa solicited additional feedback from Elders via email to her. She thanked the team for their hard work.
- Facilities Improvement Team Update: The team met today to incorporate input from multiple constituencies. Architect Scott Hollingsworth will develop a new cost estimate. The next team meeting will be April 18.
- Mission Affinity Group Update: They reported on the progress of establishing an ECO Mission Affinity Group with Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church. Their Sessions approved their affiliation, and the first meeting among the three pastors is May 1. The group will explore how our three churches can combine our interest and resources in making Houston a better place.
- Church Officer Retreat Follow-up: Trey has engaged Tod Bolsinger (to assist the Session in following-up the February retreat with a specific plan for how to navigate the changing landscape of modern Christianity.

New Business:

- Grace School Board Membership: Ronnie Braden informed the Session that this team has identified covenant partners to fill six open board positions. The candidates and terms listed on page 22 of this month's Session Report were presented for Session approval. A motion was made and seconded, and the Session approved the team's recommendations.
- High School Ministry Associates: Chad introduced the new High School Ministry Associate, Matt Davis. He came to Grace from Bayou City Fellowship.
- Church Officer Nominating Committee: Scott Maham announced that his team is reviewing the number of Elders and Deacons needed for the Class of 2018. They are working on enhancing the nomination process and doing a better job of describing the roles and the blessings of serving.
- Pastor Sabbatical: Chris French has requested and been granted a sabbatical from May through July 2017. He will provide monthly reports to the Session during the sabbatical.

Closing Prayer was offered by Candy Aldridge.

Respectfully submitted,



Candy Clarke Aldridge
Clerk of Session