

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
June 15, 2021

MODERATOR
The Reverend Doctor Julia Leeth

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Attendance:

Pastors Present: Rev. Julia Leeth

Elders Present: Deb Castillo, Dath Collins, Judy Dewey, Dorothy Hobbs, Debbie Kaplan, Debbie Lunn, Mike Mantel, Nnenna Okoro, Tom Prisk, Lisa Schwarz, Tanner Spears, Ethan Tritt, and Karen Welton

Excused: Bert Crump, Tory Gunsolley, Abby Meade

Absent: Natalie McElroy

Others in attendance: Traci Baudin, Beth Craig, Francisco Garibay, Sharon High, Heather Kaemingk, Hardie Morgan, Denise Phelps and Candy Clarke Aldridge

Call Meeting to Order – The Rev. Dr. Julia Leeth

Open with Prayer – Julia opened with prayer. The Session meeting began with a scriptural praying of Hebrews 11: 1-4 and 13-16.

Moderator's Report – Julia reported that the Church Officer Manual is being updated. Elders should reread the current one to familiarize themselves with their duties and responsibilities. She then presented a Quad Diagram that the Leadership Team uses to determine which Grace initiatives have a long-term or short-term effect, and whether we are equipping the members or edifying the church. The team runs everything through this grid: budget, missions, strategy team work, etc.

Clerk's Report, Administrative Matters and Approval of Consent Agenda – Candy Aldridge presented the Clerk's Report and the Consent Agenda, which included the Minutes from the previous meetings. There was a motion to approve the Agenda. It was seconded and approved

Team Updates

- Ministry Support Update – Referring to the monthly report in the Session packet, Debbie Kaplan and Hardie Morgan reported that contributions exceeded budget in May. YTD Operating expenses were 6% under budget, and 7% less than 2020. Projecting forward, we're on track for a ~\$650,000 shortfall.
 - Ready Campaign contributions are ahead of budget, with only 17% uncollected for the remaining 33% of the campaign.
 - Pledges and contributions for 2021 are holding steady.
 - The monthly report details the team's prayer requests.
- Worship Team – the team will meet next on July 8. Lisa Schwartz announced that the team is now reorganized under a single focus, without subcommittees.

- Equip – Chris French announced that the job description for the Mobility Specialist position is complete and that there are candidates.
- Serve - Denise Phelps announced that the Deacon ministry is mushrooming within its new organization structure. The campaign to raise funds for COVID relief in India is complete. The Paul Revere Middle School lunch project was a great success, serving 1200 meals to students and their parents. Denise asked for prayers that our partnership would hold strong. Current school leadership lacks the strong support that the predecessors did.
- Together – Current re-engagement efforts are getting traction. Julia is still meeting personally with many members.

New Business – Discernment

- Chris French and Francisco Garibay presented Christian Bolano’s application for Certified Lay Pastor training. Christian is a lay leader at Grace en Español, and desires to plant a church northeast of Houston. Grace is required to endorse this training. Elders moved, seconded, and approved the endorsement.
- COVID-19 Protocols – Elders and staff discussed masking and vaccination protocols for Vacation Bible School.
- Session meetings / Strategy team meetings – staff discussed a proposal to move all Session and Strategy Team meetings to a single night. Considerations included moving from the traditional 3rd Tuesday schedule to the 4th Tuesday, or to a different night of the week, moving Deacon meetings to the same schedule and adding an evening meal for Elders and Deacons. Julia asked the Elders to think about a revised schedule, beginning in September or January.

At this point, it was moved, seconded, and approved that the Elders move into Executive Session.

After Executive Session, a motion was made to adjourn, seconded, and approved.

Francisco closed the meeting in prayer.

DATES:

Summer Session retreat – Saturday, August 14, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candy Clarke Aldridge

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Clerk of Session