

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
August 16, 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  
Denise Phelps

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING in the Library on August 16, 2016 at 7 p.m.

**ELDERS PRESENT:** Ronnie Braden, Deb Castillo, Russ Chase, Paul Craig, Monika Frazelle, Jenny Gottschalk, Morris Harper, Stephanie Husmann, Debbie Kaplan, Kevin Kiniry, Matt Kiker, Doug Lunn, Scott Maham, Dan Malaguilla, Myrna Maldonado, John Meloy, John Murphy, John Musgrove, Keeke Russo, Lisa Schwartz, Ted Teinert, Jim Weatherall, Mandy Weber

**ELDERS EXCUSED:** Okey Akwari, Jerry Hanlon, Keith McElroy, Kerry Moore

**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 and opened the meeting with prayer.

**CLERK'S REPORT:**

Motion was made for approval of the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approval of the minutes of the June 21, 2016 stated Session Meeting.
- Approval of Grace en Español – new members and baptisms at Mo Ranch on September 4, 2016.
- Approval of Clerk's Report for August 16, 2016.
- Approval for The Rev. Dr. Mike Fry to serve Communion to a couple for whom he is officiant for their October 1, 2016 wedding.

There was a second and the motion passed.

## **NARRATIVE ON THE HEALTH OF MISSION AND MINISTRY:**

The Rev. Dr. Little asked Session to contemplate how Grace is encouraging people to allow God's Word to shape their priorities and actions and to nurture constant learning and the life of the mind.

## **CONVERSATIONS ABOUT KEY STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES:**

Hardie Morgan and Russ Chase presented the Ministry Support preliminary budget report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. Items to note:

- Slight increase to revenue
- 2% salary increase for employees
- PCUSA payment will be taken out of operating income and become a part of the capital campaign as debt reduction.
- Combined Gather, Connect, and Bless reductions of \$37,000.

A final budget will be provided to the Session at the September 2016 meeting.

The Rev. Dr. Little presented a Facilities Improvement Team ("FIT") Report to Session. The capital campaign has already received a \$100,000 gift. Kick-off Sunday will be January 29, 2017. Commitment Sunday will be February 26, 2017. Grace Church and School have entered into an agreement with Team Open Book. The Rev. Dr. Little plans on having three congregational gatherings to highlight the upcoming campaign. The dates for these meetings are September 11, September 18, and September 28, 2016.

The Mission Affinity Group review team provided an update. Dan Malaguilla explained to Session that the group determined that Memorial Drive Presbyterian and First Presbyterian of Houston would be asked to join Grace as an ECO Mission Affinity Group. Reasons for not including First Presbyterian San Antonio were discussed. Session agreed with the decision.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- The Rev. French expressed the need for a team to assist with the ECO Confessions Study Group. He asked for volunteers or suggestions of who may be willing to sit on this team.
- The Rev. French also presented new procedures for receiving new members. Individuals wishing to join Grace may submit a form electronically. They will then be contacted by a Grace staff member. They will be invited to attend a Celebration Sunday.
- The Rev. French announced that the National ECO Meeting will be held January 24-26, 2017 in Greenville, SC. Elders interested in attending should let him know.

**CLOSING:**

There was a motion to close, a second and the motion passed. Mandy Weber closed the Session meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Kaplan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debbie Kaplan  
Clerk