

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
JANUARY 17, 2017

MODERATOR

The Rev. Dr. Trey Little

STAFF

Hardie Morgan, Executive Director of Ministry Support
Susan McElroy, Pastor's Executive Assistant
Traci Baudin, Director, Children's Ministries

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING in the Library on JANUARY 17, 2017 at 7 p.m.

Attendance:

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

Excused: Jenny Gottschalk, Terry Looper, John Meloy, John Musgrove, Keeke Russo

Absent: Rev. Chris French, Rev. Dr. Michael Fry, Rev. Chad Erb

The Rev. Dr. Trey Little opened the meeting and welcomed the new Elders. Greg Morby offered a prayer.

Expectations for 2017: The Rev. Dr. Trey Little communicated his expectations for this new group of elders, which included encouraging open participation in Session Meetings, responding promptly to church communications, attending the pre-Session Meeting dinner and being punctual for all meetings. He stressed the importance of serving communion, even when it means serving at a service you don't normally attend. Dates for the 10 communion services in 2017 were provided.

Clerk's Report & Administrative Matters: Candy Aldridge presented the Consent Agenda, which included the November 15, 2016 minutes and the Clerk's Report for January 2017. The Session approved the agenda.

Narrative on the Health of Mission and Ministry: *How is the idea of ministry as the joy and calling of every disciple evident in your congregation? How are you equipping people to represent Jesus more effectively in their respective professions?*

Discussion points included continuing our personal responsibility for equipping ourselves and leading others to engage more and stay on the path. We will invite more non-leader members to get in the game. If we expect to see more people in worship services, we need to bring them to church.

Key Strategic Opportunities

FIT Update from The Rev. Dr. Trey Little: The FIT Team met today (monthly meeting) and discussed what they learned from the subgroup meetings. Based on that, they will regroup a bit, synchronizing needs and timing for all constituencies.

2016 Contributions: Hardie Morgan distributed a Contributions Update. Collections for 2016 are \$152,675 (3%) below the CY2016 goal. Since the pledge year is a calendar year, and the fiscal year is July – June, this to-date shortfall will be managed by controlling operating expenses through Jun 2017. Currently, there are 4 vacant staff positions. Pledging units for 2017 are 4.8% below 2016, and pledged amounts are 9.4% below 2016. The question of why we altered the process of submitting pledge cards this year was raised and Hardie Morgan indicated that that change would be reevaluated for 2018 pledges.

New Business

High School Ministries: A High School Ministries Associate position is open. Elders were encouraged to pray about filling this position, as well as the other 3 open positions on staff.

Conflict of Interest forms: Hardie Morgan requested that Elders read, complete and submit the Conflict of Interest Form at this meeting.

Session Retreat: The Feb. 11 Session Retreat schedule was included in this agenda. Elders were requested to read the book *Canoeing the Mountains* prior to the February Session Retreat. The author, Tod Bolsinger, will speak at the retreat and will preach on Feb. 12. The retreat will replace the regular February Session Meeting.

Additional Discussion: Grace clergy members and John Murphy will attend the ECO National Gathering Jan. 24 – 27 in Greenville, SC. During that time, Rev. Little will meet with pastors from Memorial Drive Presbyterian and First Presbyterian Churches to discuss forming a Mission Affinity Group. Also, Elders were encouraged to attend the all-church lunch meeting after church on Jan. 22 to hear a recap of 2016 and visions for 2017. Lastly, Lisa Schwartz announced that the Sacristy Preparation Team chairs would like to be replaced. Suggestions for new chairs of this team were requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Candy Clarke Aldridge
Clerk of Session