

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
June 23, 2015

**MODERATOR**

The Rev. Trey Little

**ASSOCIATE PASTORS**

The Rev. Dr. Michael Fry

**STAFF**

Hardie Morgan, Executive Director of Ministry Support  
Beth Craig, Married Life Ministry  
Denise Phelps, Older Adult Ministries

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING in the Library of Grace Presbyterian Church on June 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

**ELDERS PRESENT:** Okey Akwari, Ronnie Braden, Russ Chase, Paul Craig, Jim Davis, Phil Grant, Morris Harper, Debbie Kaplan, Matt Kiker, Doris Looper, Doug Lunn, Scott Maham, Dan Malaguilla, Myrna Maldonado, Paul Mancillas, Kerry Moore, John Musgrove, Ken Purgason, Wanda Schwarz, Rick Siegel, Jim Weatherall, Mandy Weber, Sarah Williams.

**ELDERS EXCUSED:** David Finck, Monika Frazelle, Kevin Kiniry, Lisa Schwarz

**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 Reverend Little called the meeting to order and Dan Malaguilla opened the meeting with prayer. Session then went around the room stating one thing we were thankful for.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** Motion was made for approval of the Consent Agenda as stated below:

- Approve the May 19, 2015 Session meeting Agenda.
- Approve the minutes of the May 31, 2015 Congregational Meeting.
- Approve the minutes of the June 14, 2015 Session Meeting to receive new members after 9:00 worship service.
- Approve the minutes of the June 14, 2015 Session Meeting to receive new members after 11:15 worship service.
- Approve the June 2015 Clerk's Report and all action items therein.

There was a second and the motion passed.

### **MODERATOR'S REPORT:**

The Reverend Little requested session approval to extend an offer to Chad Erb as Assistant Pastor for Student Ministries. Sarah Williams, Matt Kiker, and Mandy Weber explained this new position then endorsed hiring Chad. Session discussed the difference between an Associate Pastor and an Assistant Pastor. It is Session's understanding that the main difference is in the process required to hire an Assistant Pastor. Hiring an Assistant Pastor does not require a Pastoral Nominating Committee or Congregational Approval. Session is able to approve the hiring of the Assistant Pastor exclusively. A motion was made to hire Chad Erb as Assistant Pastor, there was a second and session approved.

The Reverend Little then informed Session of the Facilities Improvement Team ("FIT"). This is a group of individuals (made up of both staff and congregational members) who will evaluate the facilities and make recommendations for improvements. Some of these may be simple repairs others might be capital improvements.

Session also discussed and approved \$125,000 be allocated to remodeling the second floor for youth space. This will be a temporary solution for the youth since The Well is scheduled for demolition in December. Proceeds from the sale of the land will be used to fund these improvements.

Session then discussed and approved \$165,000 to be spent on new signage around the Church. These signs will make it easier for new members and people visiting both the Church and School to find locations. These signs will be permanent and can be changed for any new capital improvements made to the Church and School in the future. The money to fund these signs will come from proceeds from the sale of the land.

Reverend Little discussed the results of the Sunday Morning Experience Survey. Participation was very good and comments were helpful. The congregation is open to additional surveys and the staff will continue to work to determine the next plan of action for Sunday Mornings.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Administration & Finance:** No written report.

**Adult & Encore Ministries:** The committee submitted a written report which was provided in the Session Packet.

**Congregational Care:** The committee submitted a written report which was provided in the Session Packet.

**Family Ministries:** The committee submitted a written report which was provided in the Session Packet.

**Grace School:** The committee submitted a written report which was provided in the Session Packet.

**Married Life:** The committee submitted a written report which was provided in the Session Packet.

**Missions:** The committee submitted a written report which was provided in the Session Packet.

**Outreach & Evangelism:** The committee submitted a written report which was provided in the Session Packet.

**Worship:** The committee submitted a written report which was provided in the Session Packet.

**Young Adult:** The committee submitted a written report which was provided in the Session Packet.

### **New Business**

Reverend Little informed session that he will be on a study leave for the month of July. We will not have a July Session meeting.

### **CLOSING**

There was a motion to close, a second and the motion passed. The meeting was closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Debbie Kaplan  
Acting Clerk