

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
March 17, 2015

**MODERATOR**

The Rev. Trey Little

**ASSOCIATE PASTORS**

The Rev. Chris French

The Rev. Dr. Michael Fry

**STAFF**

Hardie Morgan, Executive Director of Ministry Support

Denise Phelps, Director of Older Adult Ministries

Susan McElroy, Pastor's Executive Assistant

Broun Stacy, Young Adult and College Ministries

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING in the Library of Grace Presbyterian Church on March 17, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

**ELDERS PRESENT:** Okey Akwari, Ronnie Braden, Paul Craig, Jim Davis, David Finck, Debbie Kaplan, Kevin Kiniry, Doris Looper, Scott Maham, Paul Mancillas, Kerry Moore, John Musgrove, Wanda Schwarz, Jim Weatherall, Mandy Weber, Sarah Williams.

**ELDERS EXCUSED:** Monika Frazelle, Phil Grant, Morris Harper, Matt Kiker, Doug Lunn, Dan Malaguilla, Myrna Maldonado, Lisa Schwartz, Rick Siegel.

**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 opened the meeting with prayer.

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

- Approve the March 17, 2015 Session meeting Agenda.
- Approve the minutes of the January 20, 2015 Session Meeting.
- Approve the minutes of the February 7, 2015 Session Meeting.
- Approve the March 2015 Clerk's Report and all action items therein.
- Approval to serve Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2015.

There was a second and the motion passed.

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

The Reverend Little introduced Jim Allosso to the Session as a candidate to be installed as a Deacon. There was a motion to install Mr. Allosso, a second and the motion passed. The Reverend Little examined Mr. Allosso who responded appropriately. The Session prayed, thanking God for Mr. Allosso and Mr. Allosso for his past and future service.

The Reverend Little introduced Denise Phelps to the Session as a candidate for ordination as a teaching Elder. There was a motion to endorse Denise Phelps as such, a second and the motion passed.

The Reverend Little and the Reverend Chris French introduced Mr. Broun Stacy as a candidate to be a new member of Grace. Mr. Stacy discussed his faith journey. Reverend French examined Mr. Stacy who responded appropriately. There was a motion to receive Mr. Stacy as a new member, a second and the motion was approved.

Reverend Little asked that Hardie Morgan discuss various committee-related resolutions and actions. Mr. Morgan first discussed the Grace School Foundation and then proposed the following resolution:

#### **Resolution Regarding Grace School Foundation**

*It is resolved that the following individuals be appointed to the Grace School Foundation board for terms ending December 31, 2015 or until their successors are named whichever occurs later.*

- *Liz Walgamuth – Grace School Head of School*
- *Les Davis – Grace School Finance Committee Chair*
- *Sarah Williams – Grace School Committee*
- *Judy Priest – Grace School Committee*
- *Hardie Morgan – Grace Church Executive Director Ministry Support*

A motion was made to adopt the resolution, there was a second, and the motion passed.

Mr. Morgan then discussed the **Margaret Jarboe Lectureship Endowment Fund**. No vote was needed on this item, but he wanted to notify the Session of the following:

This Jarboe Fund is administered by a board constituted of six adult members of Grace Presbyterian Church appointed by the Moderator of the Session. The board is organized into three classes of two persons each. The term of service is for three years. The following individuals have been appointed by the Moderator to the board:

| <u>Name</u>          | <u>Class</u> |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Jim Wagner           | 2015         |
| Dick Humphrey        | 2015         |
| Nancy Condrey        | 2016         |
| Vic Condrey          | 2016         |
| Michael Braden/Chair | 2017         |
| Broun Stacy          | 2017         |

The Session was appreciative of this announcement, and there was no objection.

### **Resolution Regarding Grace Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund**

Mr. Morgan then discussed the Grace Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund. The current bylaws of the Grace Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund call for a Board of Trustees composed of five persons serving five-year terms. Two of the members must be active elders of Grace Presbyterian Church. The current board has two vacancies and no active elders as trustees. The bylaws allow the Board of Trustees to modify the bylaws. It is proposed that at the next meeting of the board, the composition of the Board of Trustees be modified to provide for a six-person board with three-year terms. This will facilitate maintaining the required two active elder trustees. The existing trustees are Robert Whitten, Cindy Barrett and Sam Bradshaw.

Trustees are nominated by the Session and stand for election by the congregation. Mr. Morgan proposed the following resolution:

*It is resolved that the following individuals be nominated to stand for election to the Grace Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund Board of Trustees.*

- *Scott Maham – Class of 2015 (active session member)*
- *Debbie Kaplan – Class of 2016 (active session member)*
- *Steve Murphy – Class of 2017*

A motion was made to adopt the resolution, there was a second, and the motion passed.

The Reverend Little discussed the work done at the Church Officer Retreat and the resulting work product relating to church governance. With the help of the A, B and C team clerks from the retreat, as well as others, he is working on a proposal relating to new Teams to replace the current Committee Structure. Goals include making a Team structure that is more functional, that supports and enhances Grace’s current strategies, and that enhances and excites the teams.

The Reverend Little announced that Traci Baudin is now the Director of Children’s Ministries.

The Reverend Little reminded the group of the following dates:

- Presentation of Confirmands on March 29, 2015
- Celebration of Melissa Brown on April 19, 2015
- Melissa Brown's retirement date April 26, 2015
- Connect 1 group to meet with Session May 3, 2015
- Staff Retreat on May 14, 2015

The Reverend Little indicated that Sabrina Hergert is filling in for Melissa Brown on an interim basis.

It was announced by Rev. Chris French that Pastor Eid is moving his Hope International Fellowship of Houston ministry from Grace to St. Thomas Presbyterian.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Administration & Finance:** No 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:** No Report.

**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. Dan Fenn also spoke on behalf of the Committee with regard to a motion to replace the pew Bibles and the pew hymnals. The Committee made the following motion:

*The Worship Committee, upon recommendations from Pastor Trey Little and music director Dan Fenn, makes the motion that Grace Presbyterian Church replace its current pew Bible with the **NIV 2011** translation and its current pew hymnal with **Celebrating Grace** and that donations be*

*sought from Grace members who would like to purchase these items as memorials or honoraria of friends and loved ones.*

The discussion focused primarily on appreciation of the request for the new Bibles and hymnals but concern over the projected cost for the hymnals. The projected hymnal cost is \$15 per hymnal and \$5 per hymnal to have the church logo and name embossed thereon. The recommended number of hymnals to purchase is 1,100 for a total cost of approximately \$22,000 assuming that in a worst case scenario no Grace members underwrite these items for the church as memorials or honoraria as desired in the motion.

There was a motion to amend the Committee motion to limit the potential cost, by restricting the embossing on hymnals. There was a second and this amendment passed.

There was a motion to approve the Committee motion as amended. There was a second and the motion passed.

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

### **New Business**

Jim Davis noted his great appreciation, and that of other Sunday School teachers, of the church's audio visual staff which make using the equipment, and thus much of the class itself, possible.

Reverend Little reminded the Session to continue considering the Sunday schedule as previously raised at the Church Officer Retreat. He also reminded the Session of the need to consider the Grace facilities and the need for updating.

Reverend Little announced that the Staff Retreat would be May 14, 2015. He has invited Brian Moran, author of "The 12 Week Year" to speak. Elders are invited to attend.

### **CLOSING**

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

Respectfully submitted,

  
David Finck  
Clerk