

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
November 13, 2018

MODERATOR
The Rev. Dr. Trey Little

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on November 13, 2018 at 7 p.m.

Attendance:

Pastors Present: The Rev. Dr. Trey Little, The Rev. Chris French, The Rev. Chad Erb

Elders Present: Candy Aldridge, Deb Castillo, Vic Condrey, Jenny Gottschalk, Jerry Hanlon, Stephanie Husmann, Jim Leeland, Mike Mantel, Dan McElyea, Stephanie Mixon, Greg Morby, Hardie Morgan, Tami Plummer, Keeke Russo, Jo Swank, Ted Teinert, Jim Tomforde, Gindi Vincent, Woody Woodruff, Greg Zuanich

Excused: Evan Ghazi, Terry Looper, Keith McElroy, John Murphy

Absent: Francisco Garibay, Philip Parker

Others in attendance: Elder and Deacon nominees: Dath Collins, Tina Crump, Billie Federman, Ken Fickes, Sally Fickes, Margaret Forristal, Sheila Guthrie, Karen Hahn, Natalie McElroy, Nnenna Okoro, Wayne Parchman, Tanner Spears, Janice Slater

Trey Little opened the meeting with prayer.

Examination of Class of 2021 Church Officers

Nominees for Elder and Deacon attended the Session meeting to complete their examination as church officers. Current Elders divided into 5 groups to listen to the prepared faith statements of 2-3 nominees per group. Afterward, an Elder representative for each of the 5 groups reported to the Session on their meeting. To complete the examination process, Trey asked the officer-nominees if they agreed to adhere to the Essential Tenets of ECO, to which they answered affirmatively. A motion was made to approve the 2021 Class of Elders and Deacons. It was seconded, followed by discussion. For those nominees who could not attend this examination, the Session authorized Trey to appoint a couple of current Elders who would meet with the remaining 6 nominees separately prior to the Class of 2021 being presented to the congregation for ordination and installation on December 16, 2018. An additional motion was made and seconded. Both motions approved.

Clerk's Report & Administrative Matters

Candy Aldridge presented the Consent Agenda for approval. A motion was made to approve the October 16, 2018 Stated Session meeting minutes and the November Clerk's Report. It was seconded and approved.

New Business:

Confirmation

Chad Erb reported that the confirmation class of 2019 will begin on January 6 and conclude on May 12, 2019 and will include a retreat. They will use the Catechism as part of the curriculum again and move the class to the Sunday School hour. Chad asked that 1-2 Elders attend the Sunday class each week. A program summary will be provided in advance.

Approval of 2019 Strategy Team Assignments

The Leadership Development Teams recommended assignment of new Elders to Session teams was presented and approved by common consent. The assignments are as follows:

Bless: Bert Crump

Ministry Support: Wayne Parchman

Connect: Natalie McElroy

Gather: Dath Collins

Leadership Development: Nnenna Okoro

Grace School: Tanner Spears

Recognition of Class of 2019 Elders

Trey recognized the outgoing class of Elders for their service and dedication to making Jesus visible as officers over the past three years.

Conversations About Key Strategic Opportunities:

Facilities Improvement Recommendation

The Facilities Improvement Team met today to revisit the architectural plans after the completion of the capital campaign. The campaign goal was to raise \$7.6 million. Actual pledges totaled \$6.3 million. The Team voted to revise the project scope to match the cost to the pledges. They recommended that the Session approve the FIT's revised scope of the architectural plans first approved by the Session on April 15, 2018, reducing the scope and cost by eliminating proposed Massey-Tucker expansion and courtyard renovations.

The matter of the external component of the capital campaign (originally set at 20% of the expected \$8.0 million internal cost, or \$1.6 million) was considered with the alternatives being to retain the original \$1.6 million amount or an amount equal to 20% of the now lower internal costs (estimated at \$6,337,000 x 20%, or approximately \$1.27 million). Retaining the original \$1.8 million external amount would result in external costs of approximately 25.2% of the revised internal costs.

Additionally, the recommendation was made from the floor that the expected \$2 million in cash to be retained after the completion of the project be invested with the earnings to be used to fund maintenance reserves.

After discussion of the recommendation, Vic Condrey moved to approve the revision of the construction plans to exclude the Massey-Tucker expansion and the courtyard renovations and defer a decision on the determination of the amount of external component and the use of any remaining cash to a subsequent Session meeting. Vic's motion was seconded and approved after discussion. Trey will call a special Session meeting in December to consider the two remaining items.

Financial Update

Hardie Morgan reported that October FYTD unrestricted contributions were -7% to budget and -11% compared to the previous YTD. Operating expenses were -5% to budget and -7% compared to the previous YTD. Operating results were unfavorable 5% to budget and unfavorable 8% compared to the previous YTD.

Mike Mantel closed the meeting in prayer.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 15, 2019, 7 p.m., and Trey will call an additional Session meeting in December to discuss the previously mentioned items.

Respectfully submitted,



Candy Clarke Aldridge

Clerk of Session