

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING MINUTES
HOUSTON, TEXAS
April 15, 2020

MODERATOR
The Rev. Trey Little

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a STATED MEETING on Tuesday, April 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Because of the current public health environment, the meeting was held virtually, via Zoom conference.

Attendance:

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

Elders Present: Dath Collins, Bert Crump, Judy Dewey, Francisco Garibay, Evan Ghazi, Debbie Kaplan, Debbie Lunn, Mike Mantel, Dan McElyea, Hardie Morgan, Nnenna Okoro, Wayne Parchman, Tom Prisk, Tanner Spears, Jim Tomforde, Ethan Tritt, Gindi Vincent, Karen Welton, Woody Woodruff

Excused: Natalie McElroy,

Absent: n/a

Others in attendance: Sharon High, Candy Clarke Aldridge

Prayer for Grace, our Church Family and our Leadership: Francisco Garibay opened the meeting with prayer. Trey read Lamentations 3 and highlighted verses 22-27: God's faithfulness to His people. The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him, and those who wait for Him.

Clerk's Report & Administrative Matters

Candy Aldridge presented the Consent Agenda for approval. A motion was made to remove an item from the consent agenda for separate consideration: *Approve CARES Act – Payroll Protection Plan*. The motion was seconded and approved.

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda, as amended. It was seconded and approved.

Strategy Team Opportunities: Jim Tomforde discussed how the closure of local schools has affected Grace School. Distance learning is in place for teachers and students. School will tentatively commence on May 4. See more details in the report attached to the agenda.

New Business

- CARES Act – Payroll Protection Plan – the Ministry Support Team and the Grace School Team recommended that Grace Church and Grace School jointly apply for the Payroll Protection Plan loan available to employers during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide financial security over the next 60 days. After talking to several other churches, these Strategy Teams requested that the Session approve a resolution authorizing an application for a loan in the amount of \$1.6 million, \$1.1 million of which will go to Grace Church and \$0.5 million of which will go to Grace School. The resolution also authorizes Hardie Morgan to apply for and submit the loan application in accordance with federal

guidelines. Eighteen Elders voted to approve the resolution and one Elder voted no. The resolution was approved.

Old Business

- COVID-19 Update - Church offices will remain closed and worship will be delivered online for the foreseeable future, in accordance with guidance from local officials. We discussed how we could do things better during this unusual period of time, and the improvements in the live video feed on Sunday mornings.
- Finance/Updates - In addition to the Financial report attached, Hardie noted that FYTD income was -9% to last year, and operating expenses were 1% greater. Collections for March were only 18% off the projected model, likely due to a drop-off in large gifts this year. He expects April to miss the target, as we've only collected 28% through mid-April.

Dates

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held Tuesday, May 19, 2020, 6:00 p.m., likely via Zoom conference.

Respectfully submitted,



Candy Clarke Aldridge
Clerk of Session