

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
June 23, 2020

**MODERATOR**  
The Rev. Trey Little

The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas met in a CALLED MEETING on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Because of the current public health environment, the meeting was held via Zoom conference.

**Attendance:**

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

**Elders Present:** Dath Collins, Bert Crump, Judy Dewey, Evan Ghazi, Francisco Garibay, Debbie Kaplan, Mike Mantel, Natalie McElroy, Hardie Morgan, Nnenna Okoro, Wayne Parchman, Tom Prisk, Tanner Spears, Jim Tomforde, Ethan Tritt, Karen Welton,

**Excused:** Debbie Lunn, Dan McElyea, Gindi Vincent, Woody Woodruff

**Absent:** n/a

**Others in attendance:** Traci Baudin, Sharon High, Denise Phelps, Heather Kaemingk, Angela Wade Simpson, and Candy Clarke Aldridge

**Opening Prayer** Trey Little opened the meeting with prayer.

**New Business**

**Re-gathering Plan for Grace – update:** This meeting was called to reconsider the plan to regather for in-person worship on June 28, in light of emerging public health data. The prevalence of COVID19 in the Houston area has increased at an alarming rate in the past week. Trey asked the Elders to consider whether we should proceed with the announced plan to regather on June 28 or postpone to a later date. The discussion included local trends for illness and hospitalizations, staff health, the need for volunteers to staff the service with its strict hygiene requirements and the responsibility we have to make the best decision at this critical time. Officials in the Texas Medical Center have asked churches that have not already begun in-person worship to please postpone their plans. An outdoor worship service is planned for July 12. A motion was made to postpone regathering in-person worship on June 28 in light of current public health data. It was seconded and approved.

Additional discussion included setting parameters for when and how to regather in the future. Further discussion included how to maximize the Grace campus for use by small groups that desire to gather for study and service. Chris French and Denise Phelps have prepared Conversation Groups for “equipping” for use by small groups on campus, at homes or virtually during the summer

Summary:

1. Postpone the June 28 worship service and communicate it to the Grace family immediately.
2. Monitor health data regularly for trends and guidance.

3. After the July 12 outdoor worship service, the Session will meet on July 14 to assess data and trends and to establish criteria for making decisions regarding regathering.
4. A focus group is established to prepare the campus for small groups to use the campus for study and service. Participants are Chris French, Denise Phelps, and Jim Tomforde.
5. Communication of these changes and plans is critical and will begin immediately.

Dates

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held Tuesday, July 14, 2020, 6:00 p.m. via Zoom conference.

Respectfully submitted,

*Candy Clarke Aldridge*

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Clerk of Session