

MINUTES OF THE SESSION
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOUSTON, TEXAS
January 17, 2023

The January Stated Meeting of the Session began at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Rev. Jim Birchfield called the meeting to order, with a quorum present. Michael Harada gave the opening prayer.

OMNIBUS MOTIONS

The following omnibus motions, provided to Session in advance of the meeting, were duly adopted:

- Resolved, that the submitted Session Meeting Minutes, November 15, 2022, be approved.
- Resolved, that the November and December Membership Reports be approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

Finance

Steve Oldham

- December was a strong month; we finished the month with \$2,107M in contributions against a forecast of \$1,971M for a favorable variance of \$45K.
- The annual financial audit is near completion.
- Work on the FY24 Operating Budget has begun, with an initial draft being presented to the Finance Committee in March, and the final draft being presented in April. If approved, it will be submitted to the Session at the April meeting for a vote at the May meeting.

Community Life

Melaney Derden

- Neighborhood Connects, a program to connect members to each other and to the church, will begin in February 2023.
- Rev. Curtis and Cassie Bronzan will attend as many events as possible to meet the congregation.

- All communications will come from the church regarding the Neighborhood Connect events for February.

Advisory Committee/Clerk's Report

Martha Barnes

- One more delegate is needed to attend the January ECO Conference in California.
- Dr. Birchfield's last sermon at First Presbyterian Church will be March 26, 2023. A congregation reception will follow.
- Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 5:30pm there will be a Session gathering in LC 181 to discuss the church relationship to Presbyterian School. This is in keeping with the new Governance model to meet on a separate night for in-depth discussions.
- The Marriage conference is this weekend with Rev. Jim Singleton.

Pastor's Report

Rev. Jim Birchfield

- The session is one year into the new Governance Model. We are learning things about the model that work and/or need modification.
- Rev. Curtis Bronzan will be installed Sunday, February 19, 2023.
- Rev. Bronzan will begin preaching February 26, 2023.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Finance

Sara Robertson

- Following a discussion with the auditors and the Finance Committee regarding a change in designations, the following motion was made: The committee moved and the Session approved the revised Attachment A for the Policy of the Investment Management of Endowed and Quasi-Endowed Funds.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Following corporate prayer, communion was served by intinction by Rev. Jim Birchfield and elder Martha Barnes. Session laid hands on Jim and gave a prayer of thanksgiving, release of burdens for FPC and blessings for the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm with a prayer by Rev. Jim Birchfield.

Rev. Jim Birchfield, Moderator

___*Martha C. Barnes*___
Martha C. Barnes, Clerk of Session