

**MINUTES OF THE SESSION**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOUSTON, TEXAS**  
**March 21, 2023**

The March Stated Meeting of the Session began at 6:05pm in the Fellowship Hall. Rev. Curtis Bronzan called the meeting to order, with a quorum present. Martha Barnes 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, February 21, 2023, be approved.
- Resolved, that the following motion from the Finance Committee be approved. “The Finance Committee moves that the Session approve the Policy for Designated Gifts, which was provided in the February Session meeting packet for review and is provided in this packet.”
- Resolved that the following Grants and Scholarships be approved:

Grant Applicant	GRANT
Holly Hall	\$10,000
Prestige Learning Institute	\$35,000
The Evangelical Theological Seminary of Cairo	\$15,000
Teen Challenge Romania	\$30,000

- Resolved, that the February Membership Report be approved.
- Resolved, that the Session Dashboard be approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

Finance

Steve Oldham

- Contributions in February were below our budget forecast. Efforts to pare back spending are already underway.
- The budget for 2023-2024 will be reviewed in April. The audit is in its final stages.
- Contribution gifts for Rev. Jim Birchfield were used to pay off his car loan.

Sara Robertson

The Finance Committee is now taking suggestions for the new treasurer for 2023-2024. (slight edits to the previous attached report. The Finance Committee has been in Communication with the Texas Presbyterian Presbytery Foundation in regard to their Annual Report.)

Hunter Johnson

- A request from Presbyterian School to resurface the playground with Astro turf was distributed to the session. No action was to be taken tonight.
- Hunter showed a sample of the new flooring to be laid in the Fellowship Hall.
- The museum is being contacted to see if they are still interested in a wall being installed around the chillers and sharing the expense. The improvements in that area will provide an additional 15 parking spaces.

Community Life-Melaney Derden

- Neighborhood Connect program hosted 24 events and 450 people participated.
- Through information gathered from these events there will be an opportunity to clean the church rolls.

#### Advisory Committee/Clerk's Report Martha Barnes

- More elders are needed for serving communion on Maundy Thursday.
- Volunteers are needed as greeters for Easter Sunday.
- There is an effort to narrow down the shepherding elders who still want to be active.
- Helen Lancaster's Memorial Service will be March 25 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.
- A motion was made, seconded, and approved to remove the name of Rev. Jim Birchfield on all banking documents and replace it with Rev. Curtis Bronzan.
- There will be one service on Sunday, March 26 to celebrate Rev. Birchfield's retirement.

#### Personnel Committee-Amy

Winstead

Amy Winstead and Martha Barnes held an exit interview with Rev. Birchfield on March 8. (Slight correction to the previous attached report -Rafael Arambula Arambula is retiring from his position of 25 years of service.)

#### Governance Committee-Houghton Hutcheson

Houghton Hutcheson gave an updated report on the Governance Documents of March 2023. Significant changes to any of these documents should be and have been presented to the Session for review and approval. By-Law changes must then be approved by the full congregation. Hunter Johnson and his team are working on a process and protocol for maintaining the most up to date versions of all our governing documents.

#### Standing Nominations Committee Update-Brent Dorsey

- The Elder Nominating Committee is working on modifying the two nomination forms, replacing them with a single form used for both the nominations of Elders and nominations for the Elder Nominations Committee.
- All nominations for elder must be received by April 30. The interview process will begin in May. A slate of nominees for Elder and the Elder Nominating Committee will be presented to the Session in time for the annual meeting of Covenant Partners in October.

#### Pastor's Report -Rev. Curtis Bronzan

- Beginning April 16, elders will be asked to participate in a leadership role during the worship services. There will be opportunities for prayer following the worship service.
- Prayers were asked for the clarity of the mission of the church. There will be a team of 12 (four pastors, four elders, four covenant partners) who will draft an update of a 15-year vision for the church. What is the collective potential that God has for his people, their strengths, and passions?
- Rev. Bronzan shared a power point of a Vision Frame, (Mission, Strategy, Measure and Vision).
- Be in prayer for the congregation as they hear about this vision planning and for the twelve members of the Vision Team.

#### PRAYER AND PRAISE

Following corporate prayer, and a Homily Reflection by Rev. Jon Crantz, communion was served by intinction by Rev. Caitlin Rhodes-Karahadian and Rev. Emmanuel Paulpeter. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm with the singing of the doxology and a prayer by Rev. Bronzan.

