

**MINUTES OF THE SESSION**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOUSTON, TEXAS**  
**April 18, 2023**

The April Stated Meeting of the Session began at 6:00 pm 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, March 21, 2023, be approved.
- Resolved, that the March Membership Report be approved.
- Resolved, that the Session Dashboard be approved.

Finance

Steve Oldham

- The March contributions were strong. Year-to-date, First Presbyterian Church is now only \$190,000 below its revenue forecast and ahead of budget.
- The audit should be completed next week.
- The Finance Committee's recommendation for treasurer for 2023-2024 will be presented at the May session meeting.

Proposed 2023-2024 Budget

Hunter Johnson

- The 2023-2024 Budget was presented to the session. The budget will be voted on at the May Session meeting. The staff is working together to evaluate budget cuts for next year.
- The session will meet on Wednesday, March 26 prior to the meeting of the elders with Rev. Curtis Bronzan at which time there will be questions and answers regarding the budget for next year.

MISSIONAL PRIORITIES

Worship

Evelyn Smith

- The feedback for the worship services during Holy Week was very positive.
- First Presbyterian Church will be hosting the Philadelphia Boys Choir on Tuesday evening, August 1. Contact Nancy Turner if you might consider hosting boys in your home.

Community Life

Jon Crantz

- Covenant partners have been responding to the encouragement of inviting friends to church. The middle school students have been inviting their friends with a great response,
- The Men's Breakfast was a great success with men inviting friends to attend. Where we are, great things are happening in our congregation. Be asking, "Who can I invite?" There are plans to have the Men's Breakfast quarterly.
- Make a commitment to grow in your prayer life. Learn how to pray more effectively.
- The elders were asked to write a letter of support and encouragement to the new confirmands.

Formation

Caitlin Rhodes-Karahadian

- The all-church Lenten Sunday School based on John 17 was well-attended. The first two classes averaged over 100 attendees.
- Focus that our work and our lives will be directed by the Holy Spirit, and that we would have wisdom, guidance, and discernment in all we say and do.

### Outreach

Emmanuel Paulpeter

- Alpha had the largest class yet with 72 in attendance. Pray for those attending.
- Project Flourish will become an annual program.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

### Advisory Committee/Clerk's Report

Martha Barnes

- A motion was made, seconded, and approved that the Travis Lot Turf Project proposed by Presbyterian School, which will be funded by the school, to be completed during the summer 2023, be approved and that at a future time, if the property is needed by First Presbyterian Church, it will be returned to its present or better condition.

### Community Life Committee

Melaney Derden

- Covenant partners will be called to update the accuracy of our membership roll.
- A Session team needs to define "Covenant Partner" and what the requirements are to be a covenant partner at First Presbyterian Church.

### Personnel Committee

Amy Winstead

- The Wedding Coordinator has submitted her resignation.
- Lisa will review and redefine the job position.

### Governance Committee – No Report

### Standing Nominations Committee Update

Tom Brents

More nominations are needed for the Standing Nominating Committee and for the Officer Nominating Committee.

### Pastor's Report

Rev. Curtis Bronzan

The Session Retreat in September will focus on the "Transforming Church Index".

## ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made seconded and approved that Elders Stephanie Fleck and Thomas Brents may serve on the Presbyterian School Board.

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

Following corporate prayer, and a Homily Reflection by Rev. Emmanuel Paulpeter, communion was introduced by Rev. Jon Crantz and served by intinction by Elders Evelyn Smith and Jane Champion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm with a prayer by Rev. Caitlin Rhodes-Karahadian and the singing of the doxology.

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Rev. Curtis Bronzan, Moderator

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*Martha C. Barnes*

Martha C. Barnes, Clerk