

MINUTES OF THE SESSION
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOUSTON, TEXAS
June 20, 2023

The June Stated Meeting of the Session began at 6:00 pm in LC181. 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, May 16, 2023, be approved.
- Resolved, that the May Membership Report be approved.
- Resolved, that the Session Dashboard be approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

Finance

Steve Oldham

- May contributions were \$544,000 for the month and approximately (\$40,000) under forecast. First Presbyterian Church appears to be on pace to complete this fiscal year with a small negative variance to revenue expectations, lower-than- expected costs, resulting in a break-even or positive net income.

Sara Robertson

- The amount of approximately \$250,000 (\$ from the Manvel property sale and Helen Lancaster endowment) was deposited to the Endowment and Scholarship Fund.
- The audit will be ready by the end of October.
- A letter was read from Fred Robertson reviewing the history of the receipt and sale of the Manvel property.

Advisory Committee/Clerk's Report

Martha Barnes

- Martha Barnes thanked the outgoing elders and welcomed the new class coming on. Each member of the session was gifted with a journal containing daily scriptures.

Community Life Committee

Melaney Derden

- The next Neighborhood Connect will meet in October. There is a need for membership verification. A letter will go out to members asking them if they still consider First Presbyterian Church their home church and to verify their contact information. There will be a follow-up phone call to those who do not respond.

Personnel Committee

Amy Winstead

- High School Girl's Coordinator has been filled by Leah Williams and Alex Batt for the Boy's Youth.
- A search to fill a position in accounting that would report to Hunter Johnson is active.
- A search to fill a position in Local and Global Missions that reports to Mary Floye is active.
- A search for a director/pastor for Young Adults is active again.

Governance Committee

Houghton Hutcheson

- Following an explanation of the Document Retention Policy, a motion was made to adopt the Document Retention Policy. During the discussion, a motion was made to table the voting on the adoption of the retention policy. The motion to table failed for lack of a second.
- After continued discussion, the **motion to adopt the Document Retention Policy** was approved.

SNC/ENC

Tom Brents

- The SNC has received 15 names of good, qualified candidates. They are now scheduling the interviews.
- The ENC has completed their interviews and selection and the slate will be presented to the session at the August Session meeting.

Pastor's Report

Rev. Curtis Bronzan

- The Session Retreat will be at the Barnes Ranch September 22-23, 2023.
- It has been a rich and rewarding experience to have the elders leading in the worship services.

TRUEWORKS

Doug Meikle distributed a handout and reviewed the document that was included in the session packet regarding TrueWorks. The program is now one year old and is gaining the confidence of the Christian community in Houston.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Grants and Scholarship Funding

- A **motion was made and approved** to increase maximum undergraduate scholarships from \$5,000 per academic year to \$7,500 per academic year, not to exceed \$30,000 in aggregate per applicant.
- A **motion was made and approved** to increase maximum Seminary student grants from \$7,500 per academic year to \$10,000 per academic year, not to exceed \$40,000 in aggregate per applicant.

ACTION ITEMS

Facility Use Policy

- A **motion was made, seconded, and approved** to adopt the Policy for Facility Use.
- A **motion was made, seconded and approved** for \$75,000 for plans for design and construction fees for the South Parking Lot.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Let the minutes reflect a particular note of gratitude for the staff and volunteers in carrying out a wonderful VBS in June. Following corporate prayer, and a Homily Reflection by Rev. Jon Crantz, communion was introduced by Rev. Emmanuel Paulpeter and served by intinction by Rev. Emmanuel Paulpeter and Rev. Caitlin Rhodes-Karahadian. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46pm with a prayer by Rev. Caitlin Rhodes-Karahadian, and the singing of the doxology.

Rev. Curtis Bronzan, Moderator

Martha C. Barnes
Martha C. Barnes, Clerk

Policies attached.