

:MINUTES OF THE SESSION
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOUSTON, TEXAS
August 15, 2023

The August Stated Meeting of the Session began at 6:00 pm in LC181. Rev. Curtis Bronzan 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, June 20, 2023, be approved with the following corrections noted to the Finance Report:
 - Change the first bullet point to: “Over \$225,000 was sent to three different endowed and quasi-endowed funds. The proceeds were primarily from the Manvel property sale and also from a legacy gift from Helen Lancaster.”
 - Change the second bullet point to read: “We have asked our external auditors, Blazek and Vetterling, to finish the audit of our fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, by the end of October 2023.
 - The third bullet point under Sara Robertson’s presentation should be deleted and the information moved to follow the Omnibus Motions and before the Committee Reports. This is where Rev. Curtis Bronzan read Fred Robertson’s report detailing the history of the receipt and sale of the Manvel land.”
- Resolved, that the June and July Membership Reports be approved.
- Resolved, that the Session Dashboard be approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

Advisory Committee/Clerk’s Report

Michael Harada

- The Anointing and Prayer time Sunday was a water shed moment for First Presbyterian Church.
- There were multiple issues with the serving of communion in the sanctuary on Sunday. Those interested in serving on a team to explore ways to improve the serving of the elements are invited to contact Michael Harada.
- There will be a Presbytery Meeting in September. **A motion was made, seconded, and approved** for the following slate to serve as Elder Representatives for the presbytery gathering on September 15-16, 2023: Evelyn Smith, Dade Dowdle, Susan Miclette and Michael Harada.

Finance

Keith Cole

- The giving in July, the first month of our fiscal year, was \$355K, missing our forecast by \$85K. However, the giving over the last months is on par with our historical giving.

Community Life Committee

Jane Champion

- The next Neighborhood Connect will meet in October. 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.

SNC/ENC

Roby Norvell

- The slate for the next Elder Nominating Committee has been completed. See the approved slate below.
- The Elder Nominating Committee has completed their interviews for the Elder Class of 2027 and the slate will be presented to the session at the August Session meeting.

Pastor's Report Rev. Curtis Bronzan

- Session elders, shepherding elders and leaders in the congregation are assisting in the worship services.
- The possibility of providing more prayer opportunities following worship services is being researched.
- Session Elders are asked to attend all three of the Sunday morning worship services and observe what it would be like for a first-time visitor. Options are formed within the first 4-11 minutes. These observations will be discussed at the session retreat.
- Sunday, September 17, 2023, will be a coffee and dessert time with Rev. Curtis Bronzan and an opportunity for the congregation to see the vision for the church for the coming years.

DISCUSSION ITEM

A Celebration of Communion

- Those interested in serving on a team to explore ways to improve the serving of the elements are invited to contact Michael Harada.

ACTION ITEMS

- **A motion was made and approved** to accept the following slate for the Next Elder Nominating Committee: Madison Baldwin, Bob Chenoweth, Fielding Cocke, Lesley DiBello, Sabrina Espinoza, Becca Herbold, Claudia Hutcheson, Bryan Miller, and Rebecca Turner. The slate is to be voted on at the Annual Congregational Meeting in October.
- **A motion was made, seconded, and approved** to hold an Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, October 15, 2023.
- **A motion was made, seconded, and approved** to accept the amended Finance Report.
- **A motion was made, seconded, and approved** that as Session is charged with approving our spend rate each fiscal year from our endowed and quasi-endowed funds, the Finance Committee recommends and moves that Session approve a 4% spend rate.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Following corporate prayer, and a Homily Reflection by Rev. Curtis Bronzan, communion was introduced by Rev. Caitlin Rhodes-Karahadian and served by intinction by Rev. Caitlin Rhodes-Karahadian and elder James Melchers. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm with a prayer by Rev. Caitlin Rhodes-Karahadian, and the singing of the doxology.

Rev. Curtis Bronzan, Moderator

Michael Harada, Clerk