

MINUTES OF THE SESSION
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOUSTON, TEXAS
February 20, 2024

The February Stated Meeting of the Session began at 6:00pm in LC181. Rev. Curtis Bronzan called the meeting to order with a quorum present. Michael Harada gave the opening prayer. Rev. Jon Crantz gave a homily. Rev. Emmanuel Paulpeter introduced communion which was served by intinction by Rev. Paulpeter and Rev. Crantz. Rev. Bronzan asked for prayer requests. He opened with a prayer encouraging elders to pray and then closed with a 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 January 16, 2024, be approved.
- Resolved, that the submitted Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes January 28, 2024, be approved.
- Resolved, that the submitted December and January Membership Reports be approved.
- Resolved, that the Session Dashboard be approved.

COMMITTEES REPORTS AND UPDATES

Advisory Committee/Clerk's Report

Michael Harada

- Gave instructions to new and current elders regarding the importance of prayer as we enter a time of change. He emphasized the importance of serving communion and that it is a privilege. He encouraged elders to look for opportunities to meet more covenant partners.
- Curtis added that Shawn Reilly, the Vision consultant, related how another church had urged elders to spend 5 minutes after a service meeting and welcoming a stranger. Curtis said what a difference that would make in expanding our community.

Finance Committee

Keith Cole

- January giving was \$566K. The budget was \$550K. February has been slow. Through the first half of the month giving is \$206K with a budget of \$444K.

Community Life Committee

Jane Champion

- Jane gave a hand out with the 16 Neighborhood Connect zones that have scheduled their neighborhood gatherings. Communications will send a kick off Save the Date to the congregation the week of March 3rd. If any group wants to add a service project that requires people bringing supplies, they can create a sign up genius link that Communications can embed in their invitation.

Personnel Committee

Evelyn Smith

- There have been no new hires or departures. Madie Weir will be helping Emmanuel as well as her current position assisting Mary Floye Federer.
- Lija Shah's last day will be 4/30 .
- The committee has plans to tweak their charter but will be sending changes to Governance before sending them to Session.

Standing Nominating Committee

Roby Norvell

- Nominations for new members of the ENC (Elder Nominating Committee) as well as nominations for new elders will start in March. Most of these nominations come from the Session elders and they are asked to prayerfully consider candidates to nominate.

Pastor's Report

Rev. Curtis Bronzan

- The schedule for the Vision Team extended to May as Shawn Reilly, the facilitator will miss the March meeting.
- Update from the recruiters for the position of Young Adults and Youth Directors/Pastors. Brian Abbey has interviewed 30 candidates for Young Adults and has 18 potential candidates. There are similar skills in both YA and Youth positions. He has interviewed 27 candidates for the more difficult hiring of a Youth Director. He has 9 potential candidates.
- Jim Singleton is helping with referrals.
- Rick Keltney is interviewing candidates for the Discipleship Pastor position and has a candidate that is interested in talking with Curtis.
- Leo Espinosa reported that the first meeting of the Search Committee will meet next week. Jon Crantz and Lija Shah will be working on transition as Lija leaves.
- Rev. Bronzan proposed having 3 Easter Sunday services instead of the 4 services last year. The children and Contemporary services had similar music and combining them into one will provide a larger and more meaningful experience in the Lancaster Center. The proposed services will be at 8:00 and 11:00 in the sanctuary and 9:30 in Lancaster Center.
- Rev. Jon Crantz's request for Sabbatical leave was discussed.
- Housing Allowance policy was discussed. James Melchers, a member of the Finance Committee described the intentions of his mentor and friend, Martin Dunagin, and proposed how the a portion of the remainder of his gift to the church could be used to help finance home loans to potential Pastors/Directors that would need assistance if they accepted positions at FPC.
- Rev. Bronzan revisited the questions from the January Session meeting regarding the Worship schedule. The Session members were broken into three groups to discuss the best answers and after a brief review from their groups, the elders were asked to pray about how to implement and make positive communication about any possible changes.

ACTION ITEMS

- A motion was made, seconded, and approved to have three services on Easter Sunday. The services would be at 8:00 and 11:00 in the Sanctuary and 9:30 in the Lancaster Center.

- The motion was made, seconded, and approved to for Rev. Jon Crantz to have a 3 month Sabbatical leave starting June?
- A motion was made, seconded and tabled till the March meeting regarding the Housing Allowance policy.

Wei Yang prayed for the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm with the singing of the Doxology.

Rev. Curtis Bronzan, Moderator

Michael Harada, Clerk of Session