

MINUTES OF THE SESSION
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOUSTON, TEXAS
January 16, 2024

The January Stated Meeting of the Session began at 6:00 pm in the Solarium. Rev. Curtis Bronzan called the meeting to order, with a quorum present. Michael Harada gave the opening prayer. Rev. Emmanuel Paulpeter gave a homily. Rev. Jon Crazn introduced communion which was served by intinction by elders Michael Harada and Jane Champion.

OMNIBUS MOTIONS

The following **Omnibus Motions**, provided to Session in advance of the meeting, were duly adopted:

- Resolved that the submitted Session Meeting Minutes, November 14, 2023, be approved.
- Resolved, that the November and December Membership Reports be approved.
- Resolved, that the Session Dashboard be approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

Advisory Committee/Clerk's Report

Michael Harada

- The team is continuing to evaluate the changes in the method of the serving of communion in the 11:00 am worship service.
- A **motion** was made by email and approved on January 9, 2024, to call a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, January 28th at 12:15pm, in the Fellowship Hall to approve the update to the By-Laws for our Standing Nominating Committee process.

Finance Committee

Keith Cole

- The giving in December was \$287K short compared to the same time last year. The budget is \$122K short year to date.

Community Life Committee

Jane Champion

- Please provide date, time, and location for your Neighborhood Connect event to Jane by February 5. This will allow time for the Communications group to organize all the emails and rsvp reports for all the individual Zone events.
- It is suggested that the individual Neighborhood Groups consider participating in a service project.
- An updated list of FPC Covenant Partners will be available before the spring Neighborhood Connect meetings.

Personnel Committee

Evelyn Smith

- The implementation of the first payroll since switching to PayCorp went well.
- The committee is focusing on finding a Pastor/Director for Congregational Care and for the Youth Department.

Pastor's Report

Rev. Curtis Bronzan

- The Vision Team has continued to meet. Rev. Bronzan updated the Session on the progress of the team and issues the team has been working through. Why do people come to a church? Where is God leading us? What makes us unique? First Presbyterian Church's mission is to glorify God and to make disciples of Jesus Christ. How are we doing and where do we go?

ACTION ITEMS

- A **motion** was made, seconded, and approved to serve Communion on February 11 instead of February 4, 2024
- A **motion** was made, seconded, and approved to have Baptisms on February 4, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 16, September 15, October 3, and November 17.
- A **motion** was made, seconded, and approved to add the following members to the Advisory Search Team: Leo Espinoza (Chair), Emily Searles, Jared Spicer, Peter Brewton, Ali Loveday, John Going, Melaney Derden, Shelia Heinle, Dr. Robert Moore, Carol Taylor, Jim D'Agostino, and Marilyn McDonald.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Rev. Bronzan reviewed comments from the Session retreat regarding the three worship services and the Sunday School opportunities.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

The Session participated in a corporate prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm with the singing of the doxology.

Rev. Curtis Bronzan, Moderator

Michael Harada, Clerk