

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HOUSTON, TEXAS**  
**October 13, 2024**

The Annual Congregational Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Houston was called to order on Sunday, October 13, 2024, at 12:20p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, with a welcome and an opening prayer by Rev. Curtis Bronzan. Leo Espinoza, Clerk of Session, declared that a quorum was present.

Report from the Clerk of Session

Leo Espinoza reviewed the responsibilities of the session and their activities for the past year. The congregation was charged to bring the Mission Statement of First Presbyterian Church alive – “Cultivating community in the way of Jesus for the flourishing of the city” -- and to find creative ways to serve God’s world. Rev. Curtis Bronzan shared the goal for the coming year to invite 5000 people to something. We are still searching for a Director of Youth and a Director of Young Adults.

Report from the Finance Committee

The First Presbyterian Church Treasurer, Keith Cole, reported that we operated on a fiscal year from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. The income for the 2023-2024 fiscal year was \$9,306,062.00 and expenses were \$9,423,746.00. However, our giving is based on a calendar year. We are now into a season of pledging for 2025. Pledge cards are available throughout the church or pledges can be made online for the coming year. Pray for how you can serve.

Motion from the Session

A **motion** was made by the session that The First Presbyterian Church of Houston allow voice and vote to Assistant Pastors duly called in accordance with ECO’s Polity and First Presbyterian Church’s By-Laws. This is in accordance with ECO’s Constitution, which in 1.0503 Business that shall be conducted at a Congregational Meeting reads, “Authorizing assistant pastors to serve on session with voice and vote by the congregation’s own rule.”

Following discussion, the following amended motion was made, seconded, and passed that the names of the assistant pastors, Rev. Emmanuel Paulpeter, Rev. Courtney McLaughlin and Rev. Jeanmarie Tade, be included in the motion. The amended motion passed. The amended motion was then voted on and approved as amended. “A **motion** was made by the session that The First Presbyterian Church of Houston to allow voice and vote to Assistant Pastors, Emmanuel Paulpeter, Courtney McLaughlin and Jeanmarie Tade, duly called in accordance with ECO’s Polity and First Presbyterian Church’s By-Laws. This is in accordance with ECO’s Constitution, which in 1.0503 Business that shall be conducted at a Congregational Meeting reads,” Authorizing assistant pastors to serve on session with voice and vote by the congregation’s own rule.”

Election of Elder (Class of 2027)

A **motion** was made by Jan Smith, Elder Nominating Committee Chair, and approved to elect Keith Hickey to fill the vacancy left by Jeff Kennedy in the Elder Class of 2027.

Election of Elder (Class of 2028)

Jan Smith, Elder Nominating Committee Chair, introduced the committee and Wei Yang, co-chair.

A **motion** was made by Jan Smith, Standing Nominating Committee Chair, and approved to elect the following people to the Elder Nominating Committee (2025): Ken Dunek, Sharon Henry, Tom Neville, Jaisent Patel, Cathy Robertson and Eric Thomas.

Election of Elder Nominating Committee (2025)

A **motion** from the committee was made and approved to elect the following people to the Elder Nominating Committee(2025): Alan Sexton (Ruling Elder), Chris Wolfe (Ruling Elder), Mary Alford, Kimberly Cole, Cle Dade, Cate Ebbs, Danya Goerig, Patti Kroll, Robert Moore, Sue Neville, and Ross Patton.

Election of Standing Nominating Committee (2025) motion was made and approved to add Shannon Going and Emily Patton to the Standing Nominating Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m. with the singing of the doxology and a prayer by Rev. Curtis Bronzan.

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Rev. Curtis Bronzan, Moderator

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Leo Espinoza, Clerk

**MINUTES OF THE STATED SESSION MEETING  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HOUSTON, TEXAS  
October 22, 2024**

The October Stated Meeting of the Session began at 6:00pm in LC181. Rev. Curtis Bronzan called the meeting to order with a quorum present. Susan Miclette gave the opening prayer. Rev. Curtis Bronzan gave a homily reflection and Rev. Courtney McLaughlin introduced communion which was served by intinction. Rev. Jon Crantz led a prayer for the concerns expressed by the Elders for the Yarrington Family, Hunter Johnson - recovery from fall, Tom Brent's uncle with cancer (Dan), Gabe Zamora, and Kimberly Cole's father (Joe) - stroke recovery, followed by prayers for the ministry areas.

OMNIBUS MOTIONS

The following omnibus motions, provided for the Session in advance of the meeting, were duly adopted:

- Resolved, that the submitted Session Meeting Minutes - September 27, 2024, be approved.
- Resolved that the submitted minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting - October 13, 2024, be approved with the following corrections:
  - Jan Smith and Wei Yang were co-chairs of the Nominating Class of Elders for 2028.
  - The **motion** for the Election of Elder Class of 2028 should read “ A **motion** was made, by Jan Smith, Standing Nominating Committee Co-Chair, and approved to elect the following people to the Elder Class 2028: Ken Dunek, Sharon Henry, Tom Neville, Jaisent Patel, Cathy Robertson and Eric Thomas.”
- Resolved, that the submitted September 2024 Membership Report be approved.
- Resolved, that the Session Dashboard be approved.

COMMITTEES REPORTS AND UPDATES

Advisory Committee/Clerk's Report

Susan Miclette

- Communion will be served on Sunday, November 3.
- A Task Force will meet with the Presbyterian School to discuss plans for future use of current building space.
- The Governance Committee will review the proposed resolution regarding session approval for the acceptance of gifts made to the church.

Finance Committee

Keith Cole

- To date, finished the last month \$25k behind forecast and \$8,700 for the quarter.
- Expenses for the first quarter were under budget by \$90k.
- A **motion** was made and approved that a new resolution specifically regarding the gift from the Humphreville estate in order to comply with wording changes

requested by Chase Bank. The new resolution specifically names and authorizes Hunter Johnson and any other First Presbyterian Church officer to execute any and all documents necessary to transfer the gift from the Humphreville estate banks or other financial institutions to First Presbyterian Church 's accounts, including temporarily opening and closing any accounts necessary to achieve that purpose.

Community Life Committee

Kristen Foxley

- Neighborhood Connect - a few more zones will meet this year to complete the season of Connect Gatherings.

Personnel Committee – no report

Stephanie Fleck

Governance Committee – no report

Randy Wilson

Standing and Elder Nominating Committee

Jan Smith

- The current Standing and Elder Nominating Committee has retired.

Pastor's Report

- When the Session Meeting closes, the session will then enter into an executive Session Meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

- A proposal was presented to refurbish the Memorial Garden. A **motion** was made, seconded and approved to refer the proposal to the Finance Committee for evaluation and then to be returned to the session.
- A **motion** was made and approved that First Presbyterian Church change its fund managers from Texas Presbyterian Foundation to Houston Trust Company.

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm with a closing prayer by Rev. Emmanuel Paulpeter and the singing of the Doxology.

Rev. Curtis Bronzan, Moderator

Susan Miclette, Clerk of Session

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