

**Grace Presbytery Council**  
Minutes of the March 16, 2020 Stated Meeting

**Actions of the Presbytery Council**

1. *Approved the following addition to the Standing Rules sent via the United States Postal Service to all members of Grace Presbytery including all ministers of Word and Sacrament and all ruling elders eligible to serve as commissioners at a presbytery meeting:*

“If a presbytery meeting needs to be cancelled or delayed for any reason, it will be announced on the Grace Presbytery website ([www.gracepresbytery.org](http://www.gracepresbytery.org)), eNews and through other electronic media. The decision to cancel or delay the start of a presbytery meeting will be made by the Moderator of the Presbytery in consultation with the General Presbyter and Stated Clerk. Rescheduling a cancelled meeting is the responsibility of the Stated Clerk in consultation with the Moderator and General Presbyter.

In the event of a natural disaster, a state of emergency, or other situation which would delay, postpone or cancel a meeting of the presbytery, the Presbytery Council is delegated the authority to act on behalf of Grace Presbytery and the Board of Trustees is authorized to conduct corporate business on behalf of Grace Presbytery, Inc.”

**Background and Rationale:**

If it becomes necessary to cancel a presbytery meeting, we need the proposed addition to the Standing Rules in order to avoid unnecessary delays on time-sensitive business and other hardships caused by not having a presbytery meeting. Most decisions concerning the business of the presbytery have already been delegated to our various committees. However, there are a few things which only the presbytery can decide as a whole. These items include:

1. Changes to the Standing Rules
2. Approval of Candidates and Ordination Examinations
3. Approval of Commissioned Pastor Examinations
4. Approval of Honorable Retirements
5. Election of committee members, officers, etc.
6. Establishment of the Presbytery Budget (which takes place at the end of each calendar year)
7. Overtures to the General Assembly (the deadlines of which have already passed for 2020)
8. Approval of the dates and places for future presbytery meetings
9. Approval of the minimum effective salary for fulltime pastors and educators (which takes place near the end of each calendar year)

The voting process for the proposed addition to the Standing Rules will follow our established guidelines. It will be a vote taken via United States Postal Service. All Book of Order and Roberts Rules of Order provisions will be followed in the voting process. For example,

- the recommended addition in the Standing Rules must be adopted with only affirmative votes or abstentions – and with no negative votes or votes asking for a delay until the next stated meeting of the presbytery (the ballot will invite anyone

who has a concern or questions to contact the Interim General Presbyter, Stated Clerk or any member of the Presbytery Council before voting in order to avoid negative votes, if possible)

- A simple majority of those voting is sufficient for approval
- A quorum of the presbytery must vote in order for it to be approved

**2. *Approved the following actions taken by the Presbytery Council as delegated by the Manual of Administrative Operations and receive the items of information.***

- A. Suspended all face-to-face presbytery gatherings due to the coronavirus pandemic until further notice, including: all committees will meet by conference call or other electronic means, staff will work from home unless it is essential to go to the office for some necessity, and all children and youth activities will be suspended.
- B. Recommended to sessions within Grace Presbytery that all face-to-face church gatherings be suspended including worship services until public health officials advise it is safe to resume group gatherings.

Information

- A. Attendance at the March 16, 2020 Presbytery Council special meeting held via electronic means: Class of 2020: **Rev. Donald Hogg** (Fort Worth, Westminster), **Ruling Elder Beth Peak Thompson** (Denton, Trinity), **Rev. Thomas Lamb** (Temple, Grace), Class of 2021: **Rev. William Wilson** (Kilgore, First), **Ruling Elder Wendell Black** (Arlington, Grace), Class of 2022: **Ruling Elder Kathy Jones** (Dallas, NorthPark), **Ruling Elder Denyse Rodgers** (Waco, Central), Ex-Officio with Vote: Council Moderator **Rev. John Williams** (Sherman, Austin College), Former Moderator of Presbytery Council **Ruling Elder Phyllis Kidwell** (Athens, First), Moderator of Presbytery **Rev. Lisa Patterson** (Denton, St. Andrew), Moderators of Presbytery Entities: **Rev. Andy Odom** (Personnel Committee), **Rev. Michael Waschevski** (Committee on Ministry), **Rev. Harry Meissner** (Church Development Committee), **Rev. Woody Meredith** (Budget and Finance Committee), **Ruling Elder Brian Parker** (Irving, Woodhaven and Congregational Support Committee), **Rev. Lisa Juica Perkins** (Nominating Committee). Ex-Officio without Vote: Stated Clerk **Rev. Gerry Tyer** (H.R.), Staff: **Joanna Kim** (Director of Ministry Services), **Rev. Elizabeth Callender** (Director of Ministry Development), **Vicki Roberts** (Director of Finance), **Ruling Elder Karen Ebling** (Director of Property Management). Excused: Class of 2021: **Rev. Seong Soo Lee** (Frisco, Holy Seed New Church Development), Vice Moderator of Presbytery **Ruling Elder Mike Jones** (Dallas, NorthPark), Presbytery Treasurer **Trey Angel** (Dallas, NorthPark), **Rev. Craig Krueger** (Director of Ministry Transitions).
- B. The March 16, 2020 Presbytery Council special meeting was open in prayer by Council Moderator **Rev. John Williams**. The meeting was closed in prayer by **Rev. Thomas Lamb**.