



**Grace Presbytery Council**  
Wednesday, February 24, 2021  
Stated Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The Stated Meeting of the Grace Presbytery Council was called to order with prayer by Presbytery Council Moderator **Rev. John Williams** at 9:30 a.m. on February 24, 2021. The Presbytery Council acted on behalf of Grace Presbytery in accordance with Standing Rule 1.4.9: “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.”

Electronic Meeting

The meeting was held electronically in accordance with Standing Rule 3.11, the General Assembly’s authoritative interpretation of F-3.0205 (*Minutes* of the General Assembly, 2004, Part I, page 329) and *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised* (page 482).

Quorum

The moderator declared a quorum was present in accordance with the *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised* and the Standing Rules and Manual of Administrative Operations of Grace Presbytery.

Reports

Reports were received from the following: Presbytery Moderator **Rev. Lisa Patterson**, Presbytery Vice Moderator **Ruling Elder Mike Jones**, Presbytery Council Moderator **Rev. John Williams**, Interim General Presbyter **Rev. Steve Shive**, Stated Clerk **Rev. Gerry Tyer**, Presbytery Treasurer **Trey Angel**, Committee on Ministry Moderator **Ruling Elder Cindy Miller**, Nominating Committee Moderator **Rev. Lisa Perkins**, Director of Property Management **Ruling Elder Karen Ebling**, Personnel Committee Moderator **Rev. Andy Odom**, Task Force on Social Justice staff liaison **Rev. Perryn Rice**, Task Force for Camp Gilmont Moderator **Ruling Elder Beth Thompson**, Director of Ministry Development **Rev. Elizabeth Callender**, Director of Ministry Services **Joanna Kim**, Director of Communication **M. E. Clary**, Director of Finance **Vicki Roberts**.

### **Motions Approved by the Presbytery Council**

- 1. Presbytery Council appointed the following as a Grace Presbytery Support Team in the wake of the recent cold weather and outages of power and water: Interim General Presbyter Rev. Steve Shive, Director of Ministry Services Joanna Kim, Director of Property Management Ruling Elder Karen Ebling, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance First Responders Rev. Jim Reinartz (HR) and Rev. Jim Ellor. [2-24-21]***

**Background:** The Grace Presbytery Support Team will be an emergency response group to work with Grace Presbytery churches experiencing severe water damage due to broken pipes or roof leakages as result of recent winter storm and freezing.

- 2. Grace Presbytery Council allocated \$50,000.00 from the 2021 Operating Budget Undesignated Funds for Emergency Assistance Grants for congregations with severe property damage and that all gifts received for such assistance will supplement this fund. [2-24-21]***

**Background:** The grants will not to be used to pay for the repair of a pre-existing building concern. Requests for grants will be approved by the Grace Presbytery Support Team. All approved grants will be reported to Presbytery Council.

- 3. Presbytery Council acting on behalf of Grace Presbytery in accordance with Standing Rule 1.4.9 approved the following actions taken by the Presbytery Council in accordance with the authority delegated by the Manual of Administrative Operations and received the items of information: [2-24-21]***

A. Discussed the March 2, 2021 Presbytery Zoom Gathering.

B. Changed the May 1, 2021 Presbytery Stated Meeting from a face-to-face meeting to an electronic meeting.

C. Discussed names to be suggested for election to the Nominating Committee.

D. Expressed the appreciation of the Presbytery Council with the quick pastoral response of the staff to ministers and other church leaders following the recent winter storm.

### **Motions from the Stated Clerk**

- 1. Grace Presbytery Council approved the minutes of the January 25, 2021 meeting of the Presbytery Council. [2-24-21]***
- 2. Grace Presbytery Council approved the following report of the Stated Clerk and received the items of information. [2-24-21]***

Information from the Stated Clerk

- A. The following ministers of Word and Sacrament have entered the Church Triumphant since the last stated meeting of the Presbytery Council: **Rev. Bruce R. George** (January 30, 2021), **Rev. Sally H. Brown** (February 7, 2021), **Rev. Carl G. Schrader** (February 8, 2021).

Motions from the Committee on Ministry

1. *Grace Presbytery Council elected the following as an Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Ferris at the request of the congregation with the authority to implement the Grace Presbytery Policy on Dissolving Congregations: Rev. Robert M. Young (H.R.) Moderator, Ruling Elder Patsy Chandler, (Ferris, First), Ruling Elder Patti Dickerson (Waxahachie, Central), Ruling Elder Karen Ebling (Grace Presbytery Director of Property Management), and Rev. Craig Krueger (Grace Presbytery Director of Ministry Transitions, Grace Presbytery and staff liaison). An opportunity for nominations from the floor was afforded prior to the election. [2-24-21]*

Motions from the Personnel Committee

1. *Grace Presbytery Council approved the following actions taken by the Personnel Committee in accordance with the authority delegated by the Standing Rules and Manual of Administrative Operations and received the items of information. [2-24-21]*
- A. Authorized **Rev. Will Wilson** to send out questions to an agreed list of presbyters for the committee to conduct the annual review of the stated clerk in March.
- B. Welcomed **Ruling Elder Chip Black** as the new committee member from Presbytery Council.
- C. Welcomed **Rev. Steve Shive** as the new Interim General Presbyter and received his report: he is learning the people, the assets and strengths, and the challenges in Grace Presbytery.
- D. Received a General Presbyter Search Committee update: **Ruling Elder Zem Neil** reported that the committee asked her to keep the Personnel Committee up to date on the progress of the search.

Information from the Personnel Committee

- A. Attendance at the February 10, 2021 Personnel Committee meeting: **Ruling Elder Zem Neil** (Fort Worth, First), **Ruling Elder Kathy Jones** (Dallas, NorthPark), **Ruling Elder Chip Black** (Arlington, Grace), **Rev. Katy Rigler** (Richardson, St. Barnabas), **Rev. Will Wilson** (Kilgore, First), **Rev. Andy Odom** (Richardson, Canyon Creek)
- B. The meeting was opened with prayer by Andy Odom and closed with prayer by Kathy Jones.

## Motions from the Nominating Committee

Note: An opportunity for nominations from the floor was afforded prior to the election.

1. *Grace Presbytery Council elected Commissioned Pastor Ruling Elder Martin Osaе (Irving, Woodhaven) to the Committee on Representation, Class of 2022.* [2-24-21]

## Motions from the Task Force on Social Justice

1. *Grace Presbytery Council authorized the Social Justice Task Force to establish, maintain, and oversee a social media presence (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) as secondary Grace Presbytery accounts.* [2-24-21]

Rationale: These instruments of communication will enable the Task Force to fulfill its mission as set forth in its Purpose Statement adopted by Grace Presbytery.

Background (from the Social Justice Task Force Purpose Statement):

“Grace Presbytery, through its Social Justice Task Force, seeks to deepen and widen its witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ as “good news” to the fulness of our humanity and to all of creation. The existence of this Task Force bears witness to Presbytery’s conviction that we must actively living out what can often be left to words alone.

The understanding of social justice governing this Task Force shall be rooted in our constitutional documents and approved worship resources, most specifically Book of Order W-5.0304 which states:

‘God sends the Church to work for justice in the world: exercising its power for the common good; dealing honestly in personal and public spheres; seeking dignity and freedom for all people; welcoming strangers in the land; promoting justice and fairness in the law; overcoming disparities between rich and poor; bearing witness against systems of violence and oppression; and redressing wrongs against individuals, groups, and peoples. God also sends the Church to seek peace: in the Church universal, within denominations, and at the congregational level; in the world, where nations and religious or ethnic groups make war against one another; and in local communities, schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, and homes. These acts of peacemaking and justice are established upon God’s gracious act of reconciliation with us in Jesus Christ, and are a way of participating in Christ’s priestly intercession or advocacy for the world.’”

Rationale: In order to fulfill its Presbytery designated purpose, the Task Force requires an instrument for communication that will function under the Task Force's management as a secondary Grace Presbytery account designated to serve the following Task Force responsibilities and initiatives:

- A. To be a public witness for Grace Presbytery dedicated solely to issues of social justice. This communication instrument will enable the Task Force to directly connect and communicate with interested parties.

- B. To respond to current events from a theologically Reformed perspective, in a timely manner. There are situations that local, national, or international news demand an immediate response from the Church. The absence of a timely response is a missed opportunity at best and, at worst, may communicate indifference.
- C. To publicize upcoming Presbytery social justice events and directly link registrations for such events in a timely manner. This will enable the Task Force to set its own schedule and appropriately respond to communications and registrations thereby relieving some of the administrative burden on Grace Presbytery staff.
- D. To be able to extend the reach of various statements and documents from the PC(USA) such as the Office of Public Witness and the Office of Worship and Theology in a timely manner.

Oversight, Responsibility, and Accountability:

- A. The Task Force will post documents, statements, and communications that have been evaluated as appropriate by virtue of being similar in substance and tone to already existing material on the site, or material that is clearly supportive of the mission and witness of the PC(USA) and Grace Presbytery with regard to matters of social justice.
- B. Task Force members will monitor the various platforms to ensure proper content is maintained. Any material that fails to reflect Presbytery's witness will be removed. Any material contested as its appropriateness will be put under review by Presbytery staff and/or Task Force members. Whenever appropriate, the Task Force will seek to engage conversation with those who may not share the point of view of a particular posting.

Presbytery staff (the General Presbyter or Interim General Presbyter and the Director of Ministry Development, staff resource to the Social Justice Task Force) will review and approve content prior to timely postings.

**Motions from the Task Force on Camp Gilmont**

***1. Grace Presbytery Council received and approved the following report of the actions and information from the Task Force on Camp Gilmont: [2-24-21]***

- A. In a meeting between the Task Force on Camp Gilmont Moderator **Ruling Elder Beth Thompson** and Co-Executive Director of Camp Gilmont **Rev. Kenny Rigoulot** in preparation for the meeting of the Council Task Force, Kenny reported that he is prepared to provide information regarding quarterly and annual financial statements, benchmarks regarding Gilmont's progress toward financial self-sufficiency by 2024, and numbers of churches who are members of the Camp Gilmont Corporation.
- B. Kenny had the following question for the Council: What is the schedule for disbursements of the grant funds from Grace Presbytery? Yearly, quarterly, or monthly, and by direct deposit or by check? 2021: \$150,000.00; 2022: \$100,000.00; 2023: \$75,000.00; 2024: \$0.00.

- C. The Presbytery Council received the report that the disbursement of the grant funds will be on a quarterly basis. Also, the task force decided to remain working with Camp Gilmont through 2023.

Information from the Presbytery Council

- A. Attendance at the February 24, 2021 Presbytery Council stated meeting held via electronic means: Class of 2021: **Ruling Elder Wendell Black** (Arlington, Grace), **Rev. Seong Soo Lee** (Frisco, Holy Seed New Church Development), **Rev. William Wilson** (Kilgore, First), Class of 2022: **Ruling Elder Kathy Jones** (Dallas, NorthPark), **Rev. Perryn Rice** (Dallas, Lake Highlands), **Ruling Elder Denyse Rodgers** (Waco, Central), Class of 2023: **Rev. Thomas Lamb** (Temple, Grace), **Ruling Elder Beth Peak Thompson** (Denton, Trinity), **Rev. Larry Spencer** (Honorably Retired), Moderators of Presbytery Committees: **Ruling Elder Cindy Miller** (Corsicana, Westminster and Committee on Ministry), **Rev. Alissa Conner** (Hurst, St. Philip and Church Development Committee), **Rev. Woody Meredith** (Budget and Finance Committee), **Rev. Andy Odom** (Personnel Committee), **Ruling Elder Brian Parker** (Irving, Woodhaven and Congregational Support Committee), **Rev. Lisa Juica Perkins** (Nominating Committee), 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), Ex-Officio without Vote: Vice Moderator of Presbytery **Ruling Elder Mike Jones** (Dallas, NorthPark), Interim General Presbyter **Rev. Steve Shive**, Stated Clerk **Rev. Gerry Tyer** (Honorably Retired), Presbytery Treasurer **Trey Angel** (Dallas, NorthPark), Staff: **Rev. Elizabeth Callender** (Director of Ministry Development), **Ruling Elder Karen Ebling** (Director of Property Management), **Joanna Kim** (Director of Ministry Services), **Ruling Elder Vicki Roberts** (Director of Finance). Guests: Excused:
- B. The meeting was opened with prayer by **Rev. John Williams**. The meeting was closed with prayer by **Rev. Woody Meredith**.

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These minutes are submitted by **Rev. Dr. Gerald L. Tyer**, Stated Clerk of Grace Presbytery and **Rev. Lisa Patterson**, Moderator of Grace Presbytery.




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Stated Clerk of Grace Presbytery




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Moderator of Grace Presbytery