

Grace Episcopal Church  
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting  
Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Vestry Present: Katie Compton, Dick Entenmann, Julie Grossman, Janet Heyer, Rebecca Harrison, Michelle Huber, David Jayne, Chris Kurth, Denise Miller, David Willard

Vestry Absent: Jim Davis, Elizabeth Kaul, Weezer Weir

Clergy Present: Rev. Emily Davis, Rev. Todd McDowell

Guests: Steve Henson, Finance Committee Chair; Mike Heyer, Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. Rebecca Harrison offered the opening prayer.

A reading from Luke 3:7-18 was read and discussed.

Following approval of the evening's agenda, Chris Kurth moved and Janet Heyer seconded approval of the minutes of the November 10 meeting. Passed.

Father McDowell congratulated the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee on the celebration dinner/dance as well as all of the year-long activities that commemorated the historic occasion.

### **Convention Update**

Denise Miller and Fr. McDowell reported that the recent Diocesan convention had affirmed all of the actions taken at the Episcopal Church General Convention. In addition, \$5,000 was added to the Diocesan budget for youth activities, and Grace's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was acknowledged.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Mike Heyer presented the financial report for the period ending November 30, 2009. Pledge income for the month was under budget by \$13,432 or 32%, and under budget YTD as well. Total revenue was also under budget for the month and YTD. Total expenses were over budget by 12.5% due primarily to various property related expenses. If December revenue and expenses come in at their budgeted levels, we should break even for the year. Current cash reserves would cover less than one month of our budgeted expenses. Sunday attendance continues to be up over last year by 16%.

### **Finance Report**

Finance Chair Steve Henson reported that his committee will meet in late December to propose a balanced budget to the Vestry to be discussed at its January meeting. At that time the Vestry will determine priorities and support for four principal areas: staff, building maintenance, Diocesan assessment and Outreach.

David Jayne moved and Michelle Huber seconded that the Capital Reserve Fund be drawn down to balance the 2009 budget. Passed.

### **Junior Warden's Report**

Michelle Huber reported that the HVAC system is working at present but will be simplified in order to make it more manageable. Work on windows is being estimated and bids sought so that costs can be compared. Hallways in the lower level need to be painted.

Michelle Huber moved and Dick Entenmann seconded that up to \$3,000 be approved in order to paint the lower level hallways. Passed.

### **Senior Warden's Report**

Dick Entenmann reported for the Stewardship campaign. To date, 158 pledges have been received out of a goal of 175. Eighteen of the pledges are new, 75 have been increased. Seventeen of last year's pledgers have not yet responded.

### **Report of the Assistant Rector**

Rev. Emily reported that a Diocese-wide pastoral care program is being planned for next year and will be presented by the Community of Hope.

This year has seen a higher participation in youth programs by our high schoolers than in the past.

### **Rector's Report**

Fr. McDowell commended the two wardens and the Treasurer for their many hours put forth in the pursuit of their duties. Junior Warden Michelle Huber is stepping down and a new Junior Warden must be elected by the Vestry following the annual meeting. He has asked Senior Warden Dick Entenmann to serve another year in that position.

### **Old Business**

David Willard presented the report of the Nominating Committee. Five Vestry candidates and three delegate candidates will be presented for election at the annual meeting. The Rector asked David to prepare a plan for dealing with any additional nominations from the Parish.

The Endowment Trust Initiative Committee has been formed and has held its first meeting. Members of the committee include Tim Engelbrecht (chair), Ken Hand, Mike Heyer, Elizabeth Kaul and Chris Mars. The committee is strongly considering maintaining the current restricted fund, but also establishing a new more flexible fund that provides options as to how those funds would be used. The new fund would allow donors to designate that fund in one of three ways:

- a) unrestricted
- b) property related
- c) mission/outreach

The committee also believes the current restricted fund allows for a draw of up to five percent of the current fund balance to be used for the operations of the parish.

### **New Business**

Chris Kurth presented a preliminary report on the effort to establish Grace as a missional congregation.

Mike Heyer announced that the 2010 mission trip will be made to Findlay, Ohio.

Julie Grossman volunteered to chair the grocery coupon program.

Fr. McDowell announced that the Vestry Retreat will be held February 5-6, 2010 at King's House in Belleville, Illinois.

Janet Heyer moved and Julie Grossman seconded adjournment of the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shirley Browne, Secretary