

Grace Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Vestry Present: Katie Compton, Jim Davis, Dick Entenmann, Julie Grossman, Rebecca Harrison, Janet Heyer, Michelle Huber, Elizabeth Kaul, Chris Kurth, Denise Miller, Weezer Wier

Vestry Absent: David Jayne

Clergy Present: Rev. Emily Davis, Rev. Irene Jones

Guests: Mike Heyer, Treasurer
David Willard, Past Senior Warden
150th Anniversary Committee: Christie Boyle, Jeanie Davis, Janet Mika

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. with a prayer by Rev. Jones.

Pursuant to the Baptismal vow “to love your neighbor as yourself,” Vestry members engaged in a discussion of “who is your neighbor?”

Senior Warden Dick Entenmann asked that members who want an item on the Vestry agenda notify him a week in advance.

David Willard moved and Denise Miller seconded approval of the agenda. Passed.

David Willard moved and Janet Heyer seconded approval of the minutes of the January meeting as corrected to show the dates of the Vestry retreat as February 20-21, and to show Steve Henson as the Finance Committee chair and Tim Engelbrecht as co-chair. Passed.

150th Anniversary

Christie Boyle, Jeanie Davis and Janet Mika presented preliminary plans for the celebration of Grace’s 150th anniversary. Using a theme of “It’s a New Day at Grace,” the year-long celebration will include a birthday party on Ascension Sunday featuring a return visit from Tino Wallenda preaching from the high wire, a fall Parish picnic, presence in the Greentree festival parade, special music commissioned for All Saints’ Day, banners, and invitations to former members.

Rebecca Harrison volunteered to handle the parade float, and Denise Miller and Julie Grossman volunteered to take responsibility for a booth at the park.

Vestry Duties

Senior Warden Dick Entenmann presented Vestry duties and building lock-up procedures.

A new key system for the outside doors is to be installed.

Terms for Convention Delegates

Elizabeth Kaul moved and Jim Davis seconded that terms for alternate convention delegates be established at three years. Passed.

To facilitate communications between the Vestry and Convention Delegates, Dick Entenmann has invited delegates to attend Vestry meetings and in addition, he has asked delegates to set a procedure for alternates to become delegates when appropriate.

Church By-Laws

Dick Entenmann asked Katie Compton to assist him in rewriting Article 111, Section 1 of the by-laws to address the wording that indicates “proportional giving” as a requisite for being elected to the Vestry.

Search Committee

As Chair of the Search Committee, Dick Entenmann asked the Vestry to set a special meeting on Tuesday, March 3 to discuss how the selection of a new rector will be handled. Vestry will receive candidates’ names at the March 10 Vestry meeting.

Finance Report

Treasurer Mike Heyer reported that revenues for the month of January showed an increase of 86 percent over January of 2008. Total revenue for the year January 2008 to January 2009 were up 8.4 percent., while total expenses were down 16 percent. Our current cash reserves would cover an estimated 1.96 months of our budgeted expenses. The full Financial report is on file.

Dave Willard moved and Rebecca Harrison seconded approval of the financial report. Passed.

Senior Warden Dick Entenmann reported that he, David Willard and Mike Heyer recently met with the Diocese to discuss the reduction in our assessment. While our financial position is understood, we are reminded that we owe part of our 2008 assessment as well and that should we experience an upswing in revenue, we should keep that in mind.

Jr. Warden’s Report

Junior Warden Michelle Huber has been assessing the physical needs of the building and grounds and has met with former Property Committee members to get their input. Jim Davis and Tim Engelbrecht have volunteered to take responsibility for the grounds. She has interviewed several companies concerning building maintenance following Fred’s expected retirement next month. In order to improve Parish communications about the state and needs of the property, she plans a Junior Warden column in the Messenger and on the website.

Senior Warden's Report

Senior Warden Dick Entenmann asked Vestry members to let him know if there are dates when they will not be available for meetings during the year. He presented the list of ministry areas and asked Vestry members to indicate their preferences for liaison positions.

Curate's Report

Curate Emily Davis reported that the Italian Dinner was a great success. Janet Heyer volunteered to send thank-you notes to the Hensleys and Terry Weir for their work on the dinner. Sean Adams has volunteered to build a picnic table and benches as an Eagle Scout project.

Priest-in-Charge Report

Rev. Jones reported that two focus groups have met and put together a format for the new third Sunday service which will begin March 1. She presented Lenten plans which include a Passion Play on Good Friday. She presented an agenda for the Vestry retreat to take place February 20-21.

Old Business

Senior Warden Dick Entenmann asked the finance team to review the process of memorial contributions.

New Business

Rebecca Harrison presented the idea of offering to parishioners advertising space in the Messenger. No action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M. with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Browne, Secretary