

Grace Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
Tuesday, September 11, 2018

Vestry Present: Lyn Ballard, John Dotson, Kelly Eschenroeder, Rebecca Harrison, Mike Johnson, Chris Ludbrook, Mike Heyer, Pat O'Brien, Tom Voller

Vestry Absent: None

Clergy Present: The Rev. Todd McDowell

Guests: Shari Bonham, Director of Development and Ministries Coordinator; Tim Engelbrecht, Treasurer; Amy Bertschausen, Executive Director at Care and Counseling

The meeting was called to order at 7:00.

The opening prayer was given by Kelly Eschenroeder. The opening prayer at the October Vestry meeting will be given by Mike Heyer.

Parish Development: Amy Bertschausen, Executive Director at Care and Counseling, met with the Vestry without Father Todd present to discuss feelings or concerns the Vestry may have about Todd and Sabine's separation. She also asked Vestry members what they've been hearing from the congregation. The names of those who made comments to Vestry members were not revealed. The primary feelings coming from the Vestry and the parish as a whole were surprise, and love and concern for both Todd and Sabine. Any parishioner with concerns is encouraged to speak confidentially to Senior Warden Lyn Ballard or to Father Todd.

The evening's agenda was accepted as written.

The minutes from the August 11, 2018 Vestry meeting were approved by acclamation.

Five Marks of Mission:

Ministries of Governance, Administration, Stewardship and Facility: *Stewardship* – Lyn Ballard reviewed a handout prepared by stewardship committee chair Betty Bowersox listing dates of upcoming stewardship campaign events. Betty Bowersox will meet with Terry Goolsby of Horizons Stewardship to coordinate the stewardship campaign with a possible upcoming capital campaign. The stewardship committee would appreciate it if all church leaders would submit their 2019 pledge cards by September 30.

Financial Report: Tim Engelbrecht presented the financial report for the month ending August 31, 2018. Tim noted that we made it through the typically difficult summer months in good shape.

Pledge Income for the month of August was \$20,894, which was \$2,606 below budget.

YTD Pledge Income was \$269,916 versus the budgeted amount of \$266,000.

Total Revenues for the month were \$37,809, which was \$3,417 below budget.

YTD Total Revenues were \$426,486, which was \$2,061 above budget.

Total Expenses for August were \$58,564 which was \$2,142 above budget.

YTD Expenses were \$430,785, which was \$235 below budget.

Net Revenue for August was (\$20,755) which was \$5,560 above the budgeted amount of (\$15,195).

YTD Net Revenue was (\$4,300), or \$2,295 above the budgeted amount of (\$6,595).

Our current cash reserves would cover an estimated 1.78 months of the budgeted 2018 expenses. The finance committee recommends that cash reserves equal at least three months of our yearly budgeted expenses.

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Lyn Ballard seconded, that the Vestry receive the financial report for the month ending August 31, 2018. Motion passed.

Capital Campaign: Father Todd reported that the feasibility study for a capital campaign is on schedule. Terry Goolsby of Horizons will be at Grace on September 13 and 14 to interview selected parishioners and an on-line survey will be sent to parishioners. The Vestry reviewed the case statement letter written by Fr. Todd in support of a capital campaign, and agreed on the points made in the letter.

Teach, Baptize & Nurture New Believers: Invite, Welcome, Connect: Shari Bonham talked to the Vestry about the Invite, Welcome, Connect program, and pointed out that the "Connect" component is lacking at Grace. There is a need to help parishioners, both new and long-time, find their place at Grace. Shari shared with the Vestry a proposal for a three-day Invite, Welcome, Connect event to be held at Grace. The event would be open to all Episcopal churches and to churches in the Kirkwood area, with attendees paying a fee for entry. Lyn Ballard moved, and Kelly Eschenroeder seconded, that Grace Episcopal Church enter into an agreement with Invite, Welcome, Connect to put on a workshop on March 1-3, 2019 at Grace Episcopal Church. Motion passed. Shari asked the Vestry to serve as ambassadors to the event, and to invite parishioners to attend.

Outreach – Hands on Kirkwood: Chris Ludbrook asked for help from adults on September 30 to accompany children from Grace as they pass out food collection bags in the neighborhood surrounding Grace for the Hands on Kirkwood food drive, which benefits Kirk Care.

Junior Warden Report: Rebecca Harrison distributed a report to the Vestry. Highlights include: The St. Matthew's spire can be erected after a welder gets the new base attached. It is hoped that the spire will be in place for the parish picnic on September 23.

Irrigation for the Columbarium is being installed.

Landscaping is complete for 2018. Some weeding and pruning will take place before the parish picnic.

The lower level Albright Hall door can be used once again. The pooling water and ensuing algae growth in front of the door was due to two leaking water spigots, which have been repaired.

Rebecca has been received positive comments from parishioners about the job the new custodial company, RSU, is doing.

Senior Warden Report: Lyn Ballard reported that the report regarding the labyrinth required by the terms of the grant will be submitted to the diocese by September 30.

The nominating committee is looking for people to serve on the Vestry and as convention delegates. Pat O'Brien is willing to serve a second term on the Vestry, which will leave two openings for Vestry.

Outgoing Vestry members Lyn Ballard and Mike Johnson will serve as the nominating committee. There are openings for one delegate and one alternate to attend the 2018 convention. Mike Heyer moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that Chris Ludbrook be appointed to serve as delegate and Lyn Ballard be appointed to serve as alternate to the 2018 convention. Motion passed. There is an opening for one convention delegate and one alternate to serve beginning at the annual meeting in January 2019.

Anyone interested in serving can contact Lyn Ballard or Mike Johnson. A new bishop for the Diocese of Missouri will be elected at the 2019 convention, so full representation of four delegates from Grace is very important.

Report of the Rector: Father Todd reminded the Vestry that the October meeting will take place one week later than normal, on October 16.

Grace Episcopal Church will mark its 160th anniversary in 2019. Ideas for celebrating or commemorating that event can be given to Father Todd or any Vestry member.

The Vestry read Compline as a closing devotional.

Pat O'Brien moved, and Mike Heyer seconded, that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:27

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Nixon
Secretary of the Vestry

Motions from the September 11, 2018 Vestry meeting

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Lyn Ballard seconded, that the Vestry receive the financial report for the month ending August 31, 2018. Motion passed.

Lyn Ballard moved, and Kelly Eschenroeder seconded, that Grace Episcopal Church enter into an agreement with Invite, Welcome, Connect to put on a workshop on March 1,2,3 of 2019 at Grace Episcopal Church. Motion passed.

Mike Heyer moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that Chris Ludbrook be appointed to serve as delegate and Lyn Ballard be appointed to serve as alternate to the 2018 convention. Motion passed.