

**Grace Episcopal Church**  
**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting**  
**November 10, 2020**

**Special Note:** Due to the continuing worldwide pandemic of COVID-19 coronavirus, this evening's Vestry meeting took place via Zoom, with Vestry, clergy and guests connecting to the meeting from the safety of their homes by way of computer or phone connection.

**Vestry Present:** Lyn Ballard, Mike Casey, John Dotson, Kelly Eschenroeder, Rebecca Harrison, Chris Ludbrook, Pat O'Brien, Susie Reis

**Vestry Absent:** Mike Heyer

**Clergy Present:** The Rev. Todd McDowell

**Guests:** Shari Bonham, Director of Development and Ministries Coordinator; Betty Bowersox, Stewardship; Tim Engelbrecht, Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 7:07.

The opening prayer was given by Kelly Eschenroeder. The opening prayer at the December Vestry meeting will be given by Rebecca Harrison.

The evening's agenda was amended to add discussion of the Lab School lease to the Junior Warden's report. The agenda stood as amended.

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Kelly Eschenroeder seconded, that the minutes from the October 13, 2020 Vestry meeting be approved as written. Motion passed.

Proclaim the Good News: *Worship, Music:* Father Todd reported that four new cameras and the new audio mixer are in place in the nave, resulting in much improved live streaming quality. There have been complimentary remarks received about music at recent services. Three sopranos, properly distanced, have been singing at recent services.

Teach, Baptize and Nurture New Believers: *Invite, Welcome, Connect* : Shari Bonham is looking for volunteers to serve as on-line greeters. They would welcome people to live streamed services via messaging.

Shari has been working on improvements to the website.

Respond to Human Need, Seek to Transform Unjust Structures: *Outreach Programs, Activities:* Father Todd reported that Vince and Michele Nicosia will step down from their role as outreach committee chairs as of January 1, 2022.

**Five Marks of Mission: Ministries of Governance, Administration, Stewardship and Facility: *Financial Report*** : As discussed at the October Vestry meeting, Tim Engelbrecht gave an abbreviated financial report to the Vestry. Net Revenue for the month was (\$19,807), which was \$13,662 below the budgeted amount of (\$6,145). Current cash reserves would cover and estimated 2.86

months of 2020 budgeted expenses. Tim noted that third quarter pledge fulfillment status letters will be sent out this week. The letters typically stimulate pledge payments.

*Stewardship:* Stewardship chair Betty Bowersox reported 39 pledge cards have been received. 19 pledges will increase, 19 will remain the same, and one will decrease in 2021.

Betty reported that three small groups were formed to meet virtually to discuss the Faith Filled Generosity program. Betty received positive reviews from participants.

Susie Reis, Kelly Eschenroeder and Pat O'Brien will write thank you notes acknowledging the receipt of pledge cards from parishioners.

Father Todd welcomed Lyn Ballard to the Vestry. Lyn will fill Katie Compton's unexpired seat.

**Junior Warden Report:** Junior Warden Rebecca Harrison reported that a coppersmith will begin work to repair the holes in the St. Matthews spire.

Parishioners who are tending garden beds have been notified that they can blow leaves out of the beds prior to the lawn maintenance company's final mowing the week prior to Thanksgiving.

One of the triangular windows on the organ side of the church is leaking. It will be repaired from the outside.

The Lab School lease is scheduled for re-negotiation. They are currently operating at 80% capacity due to COVID-19. They have requested that they not have a rent increase for the July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 school year. Rebecca noted that they are currently at a break-even point in terms of covering their costs at Grace. Lyn Ballard moved, and Kelly Eschenroeder seconded, that the Vestry approve keeping the Lab School rent for the July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 school year the same as the July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 school year. Motion passed.

**Senior Warden Report:** Father Todd reported for Mike Heyer that they are expecting to have names of nominees willing to serve on the Vestry by the December meeting. Father Todd thanked Kelly Eschenroeder for her willingness to serve a second three year term on the Vestry.

**Report of the Rector:** The 2021 Vestry retreat will either be done via Zoom, or in person at Grace. The executive committee is exploring making Grace's kitchen available for rent to outside parties in the food industry.

The Vestry discussed the possibility of installing video monitors where the hymn boards hang. The monitors would allow people in church to see everything that those viewing a live streamed service would see. An example given was having a recorded video from the Presiding Bishop played during a church service. Currently, only those live streaming the service would be able to see the video, and those in church would not see anything. Tom Petrie provided a cost analysis of two options. Vestry members were asked to watch services from Trinity Wall Street, which uses monitors in their nave, to get an idea of how it might look at Grace. The idea will be revisited at the December Vestry meeting.

Bishop Deon Johnson will preside at the Advent 1 service on November 29 at Grace.

The diocesan convention will be held virtually on November 19, 20 and 21.

The evenings meeting concluded with a reading of Compline.

Kelly Eschenroeder moved and Pat O'Brien seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Nixon

Secretary of the Vestry

**Motions from November 10, 2020 Vestry meeting**

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Kelly Eschenroeder seconded, that the minutes from the October 13, 2020 Vestry meeting be approved as written. Motion passed.

Lyn Ballard moved, and Kelly Eschenroeder seconded, that the Vestry approve keeping the Lab School rent for the July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 school year the same as the July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 school year. Motion passed.

Kelly Eschenroeder moved and Pat O'Brien seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed.