

Grace Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
February 8, 2022

Vestry Present: John Adams, Lyn Ballard, Mike Casey, Kelly Eschenroeder, Rebecca Harrison, Chris Ludbrook, Susie Reis, Ann VanConia , Jim Wethington

Vestry Absent: None

Clergy Present: The Rev. Todd McDowell

Guests: Shari Bonham, Director of Development and Ministries Coordinator; Dick Entenmann, Personnel

The meeting was called to order at 7:02.

The opening prayer was given by Rebecca Harrison.

The evening's agenda stood as presented.

Ann VanConia moved, and Susie Reis seconded, that the minutes from the January 11, 2022 Vestry meeting be approved as written. Motion passed.

Jim Wethington moved, and Kelly Eschenroeder seconded, that the minutes from the special Vestry meeting held on January 30, 2022 at which Rebecca Harrison was elected to serve as Junior Warden be approved as written. Motion passed.

Five Marks of Mission: Proclaim the Good News: *Worship, Music:* Father Todd reported that planning for Holy Week and Ester has begun. Updated COVID protocols have been received from the diocese. It is likely that wine will be served at communion only on major feast days.

Teach, Baptize and Nurture New Believers: *Invite, Welcome, Connect :* Shari Bonham reported that she is continuing to see new faces at church, as well as some former members returning.

Respond to Human Need, Seek Peace & Justice: *Outreach Programs, Activities:* No report.

Safeguarding Creation: No report.

Report of the Rector:

Ministries of Governance, Administration, Stewardship and Facility:

Financial Report: Chris Ludbrook gave the financial report. The financial report for the month ending January 31, 2022 was distributed to the Vestry via email. Since it was not the end of a quarter, no detailed oral report was given. The Finance Committee requested that the Vestry approve the transfer of funds received for the Our Journey Continues capital campaign to the appropriate accounts. Ann VanConia moved, and Kelly Eschenroeder seconded, that the Vestry approve moving the following funds received for the Our Journey Continues capital campaign from the general fund to the following accounts: \$6,666.67 to Legacy Fund - Outreach; \$6,666.67 to Capital Reserve Debt Reduction Account; \$46,666.67 to Legacy Fund – Building and Grounds. Motion passed.

Chris Ludbrook reported that the final calculations for the Legacy Fund Allocation were done, resulting in a higher than anticipated budgeted amount for 2022. Rebecca Harrison moved, and Lyn Ballard seconded, that the 2022 budget be updated to show the annual budget for Endowment, Legacy & Investments – Legacy Fund Allocation as \$76,884.00. Motion passed.

Jim Wethington moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the financial report for the month ending January 31, 2022 be received. Motion passed.

A copy of the Vestry covenant was distributed to Vestry members. Chris asked Vestry members to sign the document and return it to him.

Personnel: Dick Entenmann reported that a part time parish assistant has been hired. Amy Escobar served as church secretary at St Luke's Episcopal Church, and will bring good technical capabilities to Grace. Her start date will likely be February 22.

Stewardship: Chris Ludbrook reported that Betty Bowersox will give a final stewardship report at the March Vestry meeting.

Junior Warden Report: Rebecca Harrison reported that she received many comments about the snow removal last week. The work was less than adequate because, by the time the crew attempted to remove the snow, the parking lot had been driven on which resulted in a difficult to remove layer of icy snow.

Rebecca has received two bids for upcoming landscaping work. Three bids are needed before selecting a company. She is waiting to hear from several companies.

Rector Report: Father Todd explained that former Grace parishioner Ryan Missel is in the final stages of becoming a priest. Since Grace is his sponsoring church, the Vestry is asked to sign a document which will allow Ryan to move on to the next step. Susie Reis moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the Vestry sign the document titled Letter of Support for Candidacy for Priesthood from the Priest In Charge, the Vestry or Bishop's Committee, which will allow Ryan Missel to continue towards priesthood. Motion passed.

The following documents were distributed to the Vestry: Parish By-Laws; the Greeter, Counter and Lockup schedule; lock up procedures; and the Vestry contact list. It was noted that Search Committee members will be listed on the back of the Vestry agenda.

Senior Warden Report: Chris Ludbrook reported that Lyn Ballard will head the search committee. Lyn reported that the Vestry should be working on figuring out who would be good candidates to serve on the search committee, and what the demographics of the committee should be; what a celebration of Father Todd's ministry would look like; and what a celebration of the new priest would look like. Lyn reported that Dick Entenmann is willing to serve on the search committee. Chris Ludbrook moved, and Lyn Ballard seconded, that the Vestry name Dick Entenmann to serve on the search committee. Motion passed.

The Vestry's duties include putting together a charge for the search committee and naming committee members. Attributes needed on the search committee include good communication skills, people with a long term knowledge of Grace, and people new to Grace. A wide age range should be represented.

The Vestry is responsible for choosing what type of search is conducted. Details of the various methods were discussed at the January Vestry meeting. Chris Ludbrook moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the search committee conduct its own nationwide search for a new Rector. Motion passed

unanimously. Lyn Ballard noted that the diocese's role in the search will be as a resource. Lyn will write an article for the Messenger inviting parishioners to let the wardens know if they are interested in serving on the search committee. Lyn wants to have the Vestry choose the committee at the March Vestry meeting. New members may be named after that time, but it is important to get at least a core group established. Father Todd reminded the Vestry that he will not be at Vestry meetings beginning in May, and it will be important to keep devotion and prayer a part of Vestry meetings during this time of transition. Father Todd also encouraged free discussion at Vestry meetings, but reminded the Vestry that confidentiality must be maintained outside of meetings.

Several parishioners have already let Vestry members know that they are willing to serve on the search committee. All parishioners are asked to let the Senior or Junior Warden know if they would like to be considered for a spot on the search committee. The Vestry compiled a list of those who have already stepped forward as well as parishioners that Vestry members feel would be a good addition to the committee. Father Todd asked the Vestry if they thought a staff member should be on the committee. Rebecca Harrison moved, and Susie Reis seconded, that Ann VanConia be named chair of the celebration committee. Motion passed.

The Vestry reviewed the list of parishioners who have already volunteered to serve on the search committee. The list was narrowed down by the Vestry based on the range of ages, skill sets and other attributes that will result in a diverse committee. Those remaining on the list will be contacted by Chris Ludbrook or Rebecca Harrison and asked if they are willing to be voted in by the Vestry to serve on the search committee.

Chris will get to work on the charge to the search committee. It will be completed by the March Vestry meeting.

Lyn Ballard moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the Vestry name Shari Bonham to serve on the search committee. Motion passed.

Other Business: Mike Casey asked if the Vestry vote for the new Rector needs to be unanimous. Father Todd answered that no, it just needs to be a majority, but that it is important to try to get consensus. Mike asked who will choose the Senior Warden in 2023. Father Todd explained that many of the Rector's functions will fall to the Vestry in the interim period. He noted that the constitution of the national church, the Diocese of Missouri Canons and the By-Laws of Grace Church can all be found on line. These documents can answer questions about authority in an interim period. It was noted that Chris Ludbrook will be cycling off the Vestry in 2023, and that the Junior and Senior Warden positions are filled by existing Vestry members.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Kelly Eschenroeder moved, and Lyn Ballard seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:08.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Nixon
Secretary of the Vestry

Motions from the February 8, 2022 Vestry meeting

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Susie Reis moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the Vestry sign the document titled Letter of Support for Candidacy for Priesthood from the Priest In Charge, the Vestry or Bishop's Committee, which will allow Ryan Missel to continue towards priesthood. Motion passed.

Chris Ludbrook moved, and Lyn Ballard seconded, that the Vestry name Dick Entenmann to serve on the search committee. Motion passed.

Chris Ludbrook moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the search committee conduct its own nationwide search for a new Rector. Motion passed unanimously.

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Susie Reis seconded, that Ann VanConia be named chair of the celebration committee. Motion passed.

Lyn Ballard moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the Vestry name Shari Bonham to serve on the search committee. Motion passed.

Kelly Eschenroeder moved, and Lyn Ballard seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed.