

Grace Episcopal Church
Minutes of the March Vestry Meeting
March 10, 2020

Vestry Present: Mike Casey, Katie Compton, John Dotson , Kelly Eschenroeder, Rebecca Harrison, Mike Heyer, Chris Ludbrook, Susie Reis

Vestry Absent: Pat O'Brien

Clergy Present: none

Guests: Shari Bonham, Director of Development and Ministries Coordinator; Lyn Ballard, leader of the Saturday portion of the Vestry retreat; Tim Engelbrecht, Treasurer

Father Todd was absent from the evening's meeting, but authorized Senior Warden Mike Heyer to run the meeting, in accordance with church canons.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01.

The opening prayer was given by Rebecca Harrison. The opening prayer at the April Vestry meeting will be given by John Dotson.

The agenda stood as presented.

Rebecca Harrison moved, and John Dotson seconded, that the minutes from the January 31, 2020 Vestry meeting be approved as drawn. Motion passed.

Lighting Project: Parishioner Tom Petrie reported on the progress of the nave lighting project. Most of the can lights have been installed. The final two can lights will be installed after Father Todd returns from vacation and is conferred regarding their placement. The dimming system has not been installed yet, so the lights will be on full strength on Sunday, March 15. The uplights should be shipped this week. Tom reported that the electrician has been on budget so far. Many thanks were extended to Tom for the many hours he has spent coordinating the lighting project.

Five Marks of Mission: Ministries of Governance, Administration, Stewardship and Facility: *Financial Report:* Tim Engelbrecht presented the financial report for the Month ending February 29, 2020. Pledge Income for the month of February was \$28,418, which was \$1,824 below budget. YTD Pledge Income was \$88,019 versus the budgeted amount of \$91,027. Total Revenues for the month were \$45,774, which was \$5,903 below budget. YTD Total Revenues were \$123,772 which was \$6,670 below budget. Total Expenses for February were \$41,931, which was \$10,852 below budget. YTD Expenses were \$96,302, which was \$4,863 below budget. Net Revenue for February was \$3,843, which was \$4,949 above the budgeted amount of (\$1,106). YTD Net Revenue was \$27,470 versus the budgeted amount of \$29,277. Our current cash reserves would cover an estimated 2.63 months of the budgeted 2020 expenses. The finance committee recommends that cash reserves equal at least three months of our yearly budgeted expenses.

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Susie Reis seconded, that the financial report for the month ending February 29, 2020 be received. Motion passed.

Off-site review of Mission Statement, Objectives and follow-up: Lyn Ballard provided the Vestry with a written report summarizing the process and outcomes of the work done at the 2020 Vestry retreat. The purpose of the retreat was to achieve a longer-term vision of how Grace is (and will be) the Body of Christ. The Vestry reviewed and discussed the objectives and strategies that were developed at the retreat. Vestry members will need to take charge of the various objectives in the coming years. Lyn stressed that this is a long-term vision for Grace, and will take time to implement and actualize. The report had been reviewed previously by the Executive Committee. During the review, Father Todd added the following three items to the list of Grace's "unique advantages" – the people of Grace, the name "Grace" (both a noun and a verb), and size (Grace is a program size church). Susie Reis added "location". Lyn mentioned that The Rev. Ginny Bennett noted that the power of a good adult education program should not be underestimated.

Mike Heyer suggested that the Vestry review the report and that the Vestry should move forward with action steps at the April Vestry meeting. Vestry members were also asked to think about things currently happening at Grace that do not need to keep happening.

Teach, Baptize and Nurture New Believers: Invite, Welcome, Connect : Lyn Ballard provided the Vestry with a written report summarizing the process and outcomes of the work done at the 2020 Vestry retreat. The purpose of the retreat was to achieve a longer-term vision of how Grace is (and will be) the Body of Christ. The Vestry reviewed and discussed the objectives and strategies that were developed at the retreat. Vestry members will need to take charge of the various objectives in the coming years. Lyn stressed that this is a long-term vision for Grace, and will take time to implement and actualize. The report had been reviewed previously by the Executive Committee. During the review, Father Todd added the following three items to the list of Grace's "unique advantages" – the people of Grace, the name "Grace" (both a noun and a verb), and size (Grace is a program size church). Susie Reis added "location". Lyn mentioned that The Rev. Ginny Bennett noted that the power of a good adult education program should not be underestimated.

Coffee Hour: Long-time coffee hour coordinator Harriet Foiles will be moving out of the St. Louis area. Her last Sunday will be Palm Sunday. The Vestry was asked to help with coffee hour on that day. With Harriett gone, the coffee hour process will need to be overhauled. Thanks were extended to Harriett for her many years of work with the coffee hour.

Respond to Human Need, Seek to Transform Unjust Structures: Outreach Programs, Activities: The minutes from the February 23, 2020 Outreach Committee meeting were made available to the Vestry. Discussion was held about having Grace members who are involved with the various organizations supported by Grace give a report to the Vestry and/or the congregation. Sue Nixon will report on Kirk Care at the April Vestry meeting.

Junior Warden Report: Junior Warden Rebecca Harrison reported that the painting project in the nave has been completed.

Mulch will be delivered between now and Easter. Those who are participating in the adopt-a-bed program are asked to spread mulch by the Saturday before Palm Sunday.

Safeguard Integrity of Creation: Environmental Stewardship: Chris Ludbrook reported that the youth are collecting money for bee hives to be donated via Heifer International.

Senior Warden Report: Mike Heyer reported that the 2020 youth mission trip will take place in West Bend WI. This year, three mini vans will be rented, as opposed to the 15 passenger vans that have been used in the past.

A handout regarding the Covid-19 virus as it pertains to church matters was distributed to the Vestry.

The evenings meeting concluded with a reading of Compline.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Nixon
Secretary of the Vestry

Motions from the March 10, 2020 Vestry meeting

Rebecca Harrison moved, and John Dotson seconded, that the minutes from the January 31, 2020 Vestry meeting be approved as drawn. Motion passed.

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Susie Reis seconded, that the financial report for the month ending February 29, 2020 be received. Motion passed.