

**Grace Episcopal Church**  
**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting**  
**March 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:** Tim Engelbrecht, Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 7:01.

The opening prayer was given by Father Todd. Kelly Eschenroeder will give the prayer at the April Vestry meeting.

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Ann VanConia seconded, that the evening's agenda stand as presented. Motion passed.

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Kelly Eschenroeder seconded, that the minutes from the February 8, 2022 Vestry meeting be approved as written. Motion passed.

**Five Marks of Mission:** Proclaim the Good News: *Worship, Music:* Father Todd reported that we are still following Diocesan protocols for COVID, but we have begun gathering around the communion rail with proper distancing. The Host is intinctured with wine and placed in the palm of communicants. It is hoped that the Diocesan COVID protocols will soon ease to match the guidelines put out by St Louis County. Father Todd reported that the Lab School informed parents that masks were no longer needed, and that parents could enter the building. Because the more strict Diocesan protocols are still in place, parents were informed that they must still mask and have access to the building limited. The director of the Lab School has emailed the Bishop's Office asking them to relax the protocols.

Lyn Ballard noted that the formation of a boys choir is greatly appreciated.

Teach, Baptize and Nurture New Believers: *Invite, Welcome, Connect :* Father Todd reported that when Shari Bonham monitored the streaming of a recent Sunday service, she noticed several past parishioners were viewing the service.

There were technical difficulties with the streaming audio on March 6. It appears the church lost power at some point prior to the service, which caused the difficulties.

Respond to Human Need, Seek Peace & Justice: *Outreach Programs, Activities:* John Adams reported that his first meeting as Outreach chair was held on March 6. He reported that Trinity Hot Lunch hopes to begin in-house dining in March. Space will be limited, with "to go" bags for those who do not get a seat. The confirmands will help with the March 13 Trinity Hot Lunch.

The annual Christmas ornament party raised \$510.00, which will fund equipment for the Trinity Hot Lunch program.

Church youth collected \$862.00 at the Souper Bowl of Caring collection.

Chris Kurth spoke to the middle and high schoolers about homelessness on March 6. The youth then assembled blessing bags, which included socks, water, granola bars and a \$5.00 McDonalds gift card. McDonald's requires people to make a purchase if they are going to use the restroom, so the gift card has a double purpose. The bags were taken by parishioners to distribute to homeless people they encounter in the course of their days.

Safeguarding Creation: It was reported that the Lab School is throwing all of their refuse into the regular trash dumpster. An email has been sent to them letting them know that they need to put recyclable items in the recycle bins. Not only will that help the environment, but it will keep Grace from having to get a larger, more costly dumpster.

**Personnel:** Chris Ludbrook reported that Amy Escobar has started work in the position of parish administrative assistant. She is a quick learner, and things are going well.

Ministries of Governance, Administration, Stewardship and Facility:

*Parochial Report:* A copy of the 2021 Parochial Report was distributed to the Vestry. Lyn Ballard moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the Vestry approve the 2021 Parochial Report as presented. Motion passed. Tim Engelbrecht noted that the nearly \$54,000 Paycheck Protection Plan funds received by Grace are included under Revenue in the report, which will result in a higher Diocesan assessment next year.

*Financial Report:* The Vestry was provided with the financial report for the month ending February 28, 2022. Tim did not give a formal report, as it was a non-quarterly report, but noted that pledge income was nicely over budget due to some parishioners paying their annual pledges in full. That fact, coupled with expenses being under budget, made for a good start to the year.

Tim reported that there have been two leases signed for commissary kitchen use, with annualized income of about \$8,000. Ron Gaus is in contact with more potential lessees.

Tim will meet with John Adams to review the Outreach finances.

The budget for the Celebration Committee was discussed. Father Todd suggested that the committee submit a request to the Finance Committee.

Ann VanConia moved, and Kelly Eschenroeder seconded, that the Vestry receive the financial report for the month ending February 28, 2022. Motion passed.

**Junior Warden Report:** Rebecca Harrison reported that the Lab School was inspected. Some nominal issues were found with the bathrooms, and will be fixed.

Eatherton Landscaping has been hired to mow the lawn. The price has increased by \$10.00 per cut over last year.

Rebecca reported that the cost for salting and snow removal for two snow events was \$500, which was lower than anticipated.

**Senior Warden Report:** Father Todd let the Vestry know that an executive session may be called, at which time Sue Nixon and Tim Engelbrecht would leave the meeting.

Chris Ludbrook distributed a transition team agenda to the Vestry. Chris noted that it is important to start planning the celebration portion of the transition process.

The workings of the Celebration Team were discussed. The Celebration Team will operate parallel to the Transition Team, but will rely on the Transition Team for some information to help them plan events.

The Celebration Team will submit budget requests to Tim Engelbrecht, who will take the requests to the Finance Committee. The Celebration Committee will be in charge of celebrations for Father Todd and for the new rector. Announcements encouraging those interested in helping on the committee will be run

in the iMessenger and service leaflets. The parish-wide celebration for Father Todd will take place on June 5. There will be a smaller celebration before that date limited to the staff, committee heads and Vestry.

There will be a staff appreciation celebration on May 15, honoring Ella Heigham, Phillip Brunswick and Shari Bonham. Ann VanConia will see if the coffee hour committee will handle the celebration. Mother Ginny has decided that she will stay on for about six weeks after Father Todd's departure. She will preach and teach during that time, but someone will be needed for pastoral care beginning June 6. A celebration of Mother Ginny's ministry will be held in July or August.

Chris Ludbrook moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the meeting move to executive session. Motion passed at 8:16. The remaining minutes were recorded by Kelly Eschenroeder. The Vestry ended the executive session at 9:26.

**Rector Report:** The Boy Scouts will be the first outside group invited back to use our facility since the beginning of the pandemic. We welcome them back.

The rescheduled pilgrimage to the Holy Land leaves this Sunday (March 13). The 10 people going represent 5 different parishes and they would appreciate our prayers for safe travel.

Since Shari and Father Todd are going on the pilgrimage, Amy, our new office employee, will be manning the church office for limited hours.

Susie Reis moved, and Ann VanConia seconded, that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Nixon  
Secretary of the Vestry

### **Motions from the March 8, 2022 Vestry meeting**

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