

Grace Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
May 10, 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 7:04.

The opening prayer was given by Father Todd.

The evening's agenda stood as presented.

The minutes from the April 12, 2022 Vestry meeting were amended to show that the meeting adjourned at 10:15. Susie Reis moved, and Kelly Eschenroeder seconded, that the minutes from the April 12, 2022 Vestry meeting be approved as amended. Motion passed.

Five Marks of Mission: Proclaim the Good News: *Worship, Music:* Father Todd reported that there will be a recognition during services on May 15 of three staff members who have served at Grace for over three decades each. The Bishop will visit Grace on May 22 to perform confirmations. The May 8th handbell concert featured great music and was well attended. Shari Bonham noted that confirmands will have their photos taken individually with the Bishop. Parishioners are asked to sign photo mats that will fit into the picture frames for the confirmands as a show of support from the parish. The mats will be in the narthex.

Teach, Baptize and Nurture New Believers: *Invite, Welcome, Connect:* Shari Bonham reported that she is gearing up to get the "Connect" part of the program restarted over the summer. Shari recently took an online Invite Welcome Connect seminar given by Mary Parmer.

Respond to Human Need, Seek Peace & Justice: *Outreach Programs, Activities:* John Adams reported that 100 meals were prepared on May 8 for Trinity Hot Lunch. About 25 people ate indoors, and some "to go" brown bags were given to those who could not eat indoors due to capacity limits. Father Todd reported that a group called Hands and Feet of Jesus is now renting space formerly occupied by St Thomas Church for the Deaf. Father Todd hopes Hands and Feet of Jesus can find ways to collaborate with existing ministries at Grace that focus on food and homelessness issues.

Safeguard Creation: Father Todd reported that plants that were used to decorate the church at Easter have been planted outside. Four new trees have been planted on the front lawn of the church.

Personnel: Dick Entenmann reported that paid chorister Lisa Koehler has asked Phillip Brunswick for an increase in pay. A survey of area Episcopal churches revealed that the rate she receives is in line with other churches. Phillip will discuss the issue with Lisa.

Ministries of Governance, Administration, Stewardship and Facility:

Financial Report: With both the treasurer and assistant treasurer out of the country, Shari Bonham gave an abbreviated financial report. Copies of the financial report for the month ending April 30, 2022 were distributed to the Vestry. Pledge Income for the month of April was \$31,103, which was right on target with our budgeted amount of \$31,000. YTD Pledge Income was \$165,224 versus the budgeted amount of \$158,500. Total Revenues for the month were \$53,306, which was \$507 above budget. YTD Total Revenues were \$250,898, which was \$506 above budget. Total Expenses for April were \$57,010, which was \$5,872 above budget. YTD Expenses were \$201,447, which was \$8,520 below budget. Shari reported that there are three new tenants – two at \$440.00 per month, and one at \$300.00 per month, but we are losing one tenant who has been renting since the beginning of the year. Kelly Eschenroeder moved, and Lyn Ballard seconded, that the Vestry receive the financial report for the month ending April 30, 2022. Motion passed.

Discernment Chair: Lyn Ballard reminded the Vestry that the Bishop recommended having the transition team use a search consultant. Lyn contacted The Rev. Anne Schmidt, who comes recommended by the Bishop. Rev. Schmidt provided Lyn with an outline of the search process as well as her rate. Rev. Schmidt estimates that the cost for her services would run about \$7,000. She is available to begin on August 1. Lyn Ballard moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the Vestry approve contracting with the Rev Anne Schmidt to serve as a search consultant beginning August 1, 2022. Lyn Ballard moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded that the motion be amended to include a maximum compensation of \$7,000 spread over two years. Motion passed. A friendly amendment was made that the hiring of the Rev Anne Schmidt is contingent on a good report from St. Peter's Ladue, who used Rev. Schmidt during their rector search. Lyn will contact Jeannie Davis to get her thoughts on Rev Schmidt.

Junior Warden Report: Rebecca Harrison reported that we can afford to fix the potholes in the parking lot, but all three bids for resurfacing and striping are expensive and will need to be put into the 2023 budget. The pothole repair will be scheduled for a time that will not interfere with the Lab School summer camp.

Senior Warden Report: Ann Van Conia reported that plans for the various celebrations honoring Father Todd are falling into place.

Chris Ludbrook reported that he, Lyn Ballard and Rebecca Harrison created a list of 17 names for the Vestry to approve to serve on the discernment committee. The names came from a larger list of parishioners who either volunteered to serve or were nominated to serve, and all names were discussed by the Vestry at the April meeting during an executive session. The names of those being asked by the Vestry to serve will not be released until all people who were "in the running" are notified of whether or not they will be asked to serve on the team.

Chris Ludbrook will talk with Mother Ginny about Grace's needs over the summer.

Chris distributed a draft of the charge to the discernment team for the Vestry to review. Rebecca Harrison moved, and Kelly Eschenroeder seconded, that the goal date listed in item 10 of the charge should be changed from June 1, 2023 to April 1, 2023. Motion passed. Lyn Ballard will check with Rev. Anne Schmidt to see if the April 1 date is feasible. If she thinks April 1 is too early, the Vestry can change the date. Jim Wethington moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the Vestry accept the charge to the discernment team as amended. Motion passed.

Rebecca Harrison has spoken with the Rev. Sally Weaver and the Rev. Thomas Skillings about serving as part time interims at Grace. Both agreed that serving 20 hours each, per week, sounded feasible. Sally Weaver would be available starting June 9, and Tom Skillings would be available July 1. Both are of retirement age, so they would not require pension contributions or health insurance. Chris Ludbrook moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that Grace enter into conversation with The Rev Sally Weaver and The Rev Thomas Skillings to secure their services, at ½ time each, as interim priests, with The Rev Thomas Skillings being designated priest-in-charge. The executive committee will negotiate the contracts. Motion passed.

It is the custom of the Vestry to skip one Vestry meeting during the summer months. Rebecca Harrison moved, and Kelly Eschenroeder seconded, that the Vestry skip the July, 2022 Vestry meeting. Motion passed.

Chris will divide up names from the parish directory and assign them to Vestry members to make calls to parishioners as was done during the pandemic.

A celebration will be held for Mother Ginny on her last Sunday at Grace.

Lyn Ballard will make an announcement to the parish regarding the transition on Sunday. She will note that the diocese encouraged celebrating Fr. Todd's ministry before starting the search process. If all those who showed interest in serving on the transition team have been contacted by Sunday, she will name the team. Otherwise, she will let the parish now that we are in the process of contacting people. Chris Ludbrook will let the parish know about the interims.

Rector Report: Father Todd suggested that the personnel committee and the executive committee remain intact, but that they should report to the Vestry, who take on the administrative role of the rector in the absence of a rector. Ann Van Conia moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded that the executive committee and the personnel committee report to the Vestry as of June 5, 2022. Motion passed.

Effective June 5, Senior Warden Chris Ludbrook will chair the Vestry meetings. In his absence, Junior Warden Rebecca Harrison will chair the meetings.

Lighting for the back wall of the church is on order, and should be installed over the summer.

Bill Harrison put together a materials list for the lychgate, which comes to just over \$8,000. Bids for labor will be put out. Bill has volunteered to oversee the project.

Father Todd extended thanks to everyone at Grace Church, stating that the past 13 years have been a blessing. He extended thanks to the present Vestry, and to all who served on the Vestry during his time at Grace. He stated that the leadership at Grace has been wonderful. Father Todd encouraged Vestry members to attend parish events, particularly in this time of transition, and reminded the Vestry that they act as the rector during the interim period. He once again extended thanks and offered blessings to all, and asked everyone to keep in touch with him.

Susie Reis led the evening's reading of Compline.

Susie Reis moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed.

The evening's meeting adjourned at 9:11.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Nixon
Secretary of the Vestry

Motions from the May 10, 2022 Vestry meeting

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