

Grace Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
June 13, 2023

Vestry Present: John Adams, Jane Cenova, Kelly Eschenroeder, Rebecca Harrison, Mike Lilmars, Chris Ludbrook, Susie Reis, Ann VanConia, Jim Wethington

Vestry Absent: Mike Casey

Clergy Present: The Rev. Thomas Skillings

Guests: Shari Bonham, Director of Development and Ministries Coordinator; Dick Entenmann, Transition Team; Tim Engelbrecht, Treasurer ; Lyn Ballard, Transition Team; The Rev. Canon Doris Westfall, Canon to the Ordinary

The meeting was called to order at 7:00.

The opening prayer was given by Susie Reis. Rebecca Harrison will give the prayer at the next Vestry meeting.

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Susie Reis seconded, that the evening's agenda stand as drawn. Motion passed.

Ann VanConia moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the minutes from the May 9, 2023 Vestry meeting be approved as written. Motion passed.

Five Marks of Mission: Respond to the Needs of Others: *Outreach:* John Adams explained to the Vestry the work that Grace does to support the efforts of Episcopal City Mission. Parishioner Linda Russell serves as an ambassador from Grace. Ambassadors have agreed to represent Episcopal City Mission to their congregations. They promote the ministry, they help advertise fundraising events, and they also elect the Episcopal City Mission Board members at the annual meeting. Grace sponsors the June birthday party at the detention center. Since COVID, this has meant dropping off food, cake, paper goods and gifts for the party. This year's party took place on June 2. Becky Coulter and Mary Merryweather delivered the goods to the party. The chaplains and kids are very appreciative of Grace's efforts.

Discernment Team: Lyn Ballard reviewed the work the discernment team has done since February 2022. Lyn let the Vestry know that, due to various factors, there were no finalists for the team to recommend to the Vestry. The discernment team is ready and willing to keep the discernment process going. It is up to the Vestry, with help from Rev. Skillings, Rev. Canon Westfall and the Rt. Rev. Johnson, to decide what the next steps in the process will be.

The Rev. Canon Doris Westfall spoke to the Vestry about the fact that a candidate for rector was not found, and let the Vestry know that this result is more common than one would think. She extended thanks to the discernment team for their diligent work. Rev. Doris filled the Vestry in on the current number of priests retiring from and entering into the priesthood. Rev. Doris recommended that the discernment team take a pause, and that we take a deeper look at the results of the Holy Cow survey and engage it to take us deeper into our discernment. Rev Doris noted that clergy look for churches that

are clear about what their mission is, with strong lay leadership and strong lay ministries. They also look at how churches are financing their mission. Rev Doris' additional recommendations are:

Keep Anne Schmidt on as consultant to the transition team

Keep Lyn Ballard and Dick Entenmann as discernment team co- chairs (if they are willing)

Don't be afraid to ask questions, and hold your opinions lightly

Go deeper into your spirituality personally and corporately

Look at the church's mission – are we funding and staffing the mission?

Be willing to take in information

The executive committee will work on the question of whether or not to have another interim priest, and will present options to the Vestry.

Rev. Doris recommended that the Vestry, as individuals, write down why Grace is important to them, what milestones they've witnessed, and why the milestones are important. Rev. Doris noted that the Vestry should be the spiritual leadership of the church, and should work with others in regard to how the faith gets passed on.

A special iMessenger will go out to the congregation to let them know that the discernment team did not find a candidate.

Five Marks of Mission: (continued): Invite, Welcome, Connect: Susie Reis spoke to the Vestry about coffee hour. Currently, there is no person or committee in charge to make decisions regarding coffee hour. Decisions that need to be addressed include options to make coffee hour more environmentally sound, more inviting to all, and more consistent in terms of kitchen use policy. Thomas suggested getting the coffee hour team together to thank them for their work.

Website: Shari Bonham reported that the software that runs the website is very out of date. The new update is finally available. The new version will save a good amount of time, as items posted to the website can be automatically uploaded to social media platforms. The cost is \$3,000.00, with a discount to those who buy the update in the near future. Rebecca Harrison moved, and Susie Reis seconded, that the Vestry approve spending up to \$3,000.00 on the software upgrade for the website. Motion passed.

Financial Report: Tim Engelbrecht reported that a grant request for \$4,600.00 was submitted to the diocese to be used for re-sealing and striping the parking lot. The diocese granted \$3,000.00. The work has been completed. An appeal will be put out to parishioners to raise the funds to cover the costs resulting from the shortfall in the grant request.

Junior Warden Report: Rebecca Harrison noted that the parking lot has been re-sealed and striped. She reported that four bids have been put out for the tuck pointing of the library chimney. Two bids have been returned so far.

Senior Warden Report: Chris Ludbrook reported that this year's mission trip was one of the best on record. The kids all jelled well. There was good community building and they got to do very meaningful work.

The Vestry moved to the labyrinth in Albright Hall for the closing of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Nixon
Secretary of the Vestry

Motions from the June 13, 2023 Vestry meeting

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Susie Reis seconded, that the evening's agenda stand as drawn. Motion passed.

Ann VanConia moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the minutes from the May 9, 2023 Vestry meeting be approved as drawn. Motion passed.

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Susie Ries seconded, that the Vestry approve spending up to \$3,000.00 on the software upgrade for the website. Motion passed.