

**Grace Episcopal Church**  
**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting**  
**May 11, 2021**

**Special Note:** Due to the continuing worldwide pandemic of COVID-19 coronavirus, this evening's Vestry meeting took place via Zoom, with Vestry, clergy and guests connecting to the meeting from the safety of their homes by way of computer or phone connection.

**Vestry Present:** John Adams, Lyn Ballard, Rebecca Harrison, Chris Ludbrook, Susie Reis

**Vestry Absent:** Mike Casey, Kelly Eschenroeder, Pat O'Brien, Ann VanConia

**Clergy Present:** The Rev. Todd McDowell

**Guests:** Shari Bonham, Director of Development and Ministries Coordinator; Tim Engelbrecht, Treasurer; Dick Entenmann, Personnel; Betty Bowersox, Stewardship

The meeting was called to order at 7:04.

The opening prayer was given by Father Todd. The opening prayer at the next Vestry meeting will be given by Rebecca Harrison.

The evening's agenda stood as presented.

Chris Ludbrook moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the minutes from the April 13, 2021 Vestry meeting be approved as written. Motion passed.

**Five Marks of Mission:** Proclaim the Good News: *Worship, Music:* Father Todd was happy to report that church attendance has stayed high after Easter Sunday.

Anyone interested in learning how to operate the streaming system during Sunday services is asked to contact Tom Petrie.

Tuesday Holy Eucharist will resume on May 25. The service will take place on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 in the nave, to allow for social distancing.

Bishop Deon Johnson will make his official visit to Grace on May 16.

Coffee hour will resume, with proper precautions, on May 16.

Teach, Baptize and Nurture New Believers: *Invite, Welcome, Connect* : Shari Bonham reported that the Invite, Welcome, Connect program will be resuming soon. Shari distributed the Vestry Greeter and Lock-up schedule to Vestry members.

Safeguard Creation: *Environmental Stewardship:* Rebecca Harrison reported that the lumber on the raised garden beds will need to be replaced if the beds are going to be used.

Father Todd noted that live plants used in church services are being planted on the church grounds, which is more environmentally friendly than discarding cut flowers.

Having church members maintain the garden beds continues to work very well.

Respond to Human Need, Seek to Transform Unjust Structures: *Outreach Programs, Activities* : *Trinity Hot Lunch* - John Adams reported that Grace cooked and served food for about 50 people at Trinity Episcopal Church in the Central West End on May 9.

Ministries of Governance, Administration, Stewardship and Facility: *Financial Report:* Tim Engelbrecht gave the Vestry an abbreviated, non-quarterly review of the finances. The complete report was sent to the Vestry via email.

*Capital Campaign:* Tim reported that about \$527,000.00 of capital campaign funds have been received to date. Tim proposed moving capital campaign funds received in the first quarter of 2021 to the appropriate accounts. Based on Tim's recommendations, Lyn Ballard moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the Vestry approve moving capital campaign funds received in the first quarter of 2021 to the following accounts in the following amounts: \$7,213.80 to Legacy Fund – Outreach; \$7,213.80 to Capital Reserve Debt Reduction Account; and \$50,496.60 to Legacy Fund – Building and Grounds. Motion passed.

*Copiers:* Tim reported that when the church got a new copier in 2019, they kept the old copier because there was a credit balance on the lease, and therefore would serve as a "free" second copier. The credit balance was depleted, unnoticed on the part of Grace, which resulted in a balance due for the old copier. After some negotiating, it was agreed that the copier company would take back the old copier, but the monthly lease price on the new copier would increase, adding about \$3,200.00 to the 2021 budget.

*Stewardship:* Betty Bowersox reported that she intends to use the TENS (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship) program for the 2021 stewardship season, since it worked well in 2020.

*Strategic Visioning Committee:* Dick Entenmann is serving on the Diocese's Strategic Visioning Group committee. There is an online survey on the Diocese website that parishioners can fill out if they are interested.

**Junior Warden Report:** Rebecca Harrison reported that the grass is being mowed and some trees have been planted. Plants used at three Sunday services will be planted on the grounds. Rebecca asked parishioners to be aware that COVID protocols remain in place as the church reopens, and that there is a cost associated with increased use. Clean-up must be done by those using the facilities. Many doors remain locked – parishioners are asked to check with Rebecca, Father Todd or Shari Bonham before opening locked doors.

The semi-annual HVAC maintenance is taking place this week.

Minor plumbing repairs are being done.

The Lab School lease has been sent to the Lab School for signatures. They will have a summer session. Members of Grace will receive a discount on tuition at the Lab School. The Lab School personnel have been good to work with, especially in regards to COVID related issues.

**Senior Warden Report:** Chris Ludbrook asked Vestry members to let him know if they have ideas for incorporating our members into church ministries or any ideas for getting back together safely.

Chris will contact Vestry members to get opinions on resuming in-person Vestry meetings.

New Vestry contact lists will go out in June.

The Vestry reviewed questions prepared for the Bishop's visit.

A diocese-wide softball tournament will take place on June 18 and 19. Contact Coach Dick Entenmann or Chris Ludbrook if you are interested in participating. The tournament is open to all ages.

**Report of the Rector:** Father Todd reported that the City of Kirkwood has notified Grace that the church property is zoned R-3, and therefore a commissary kitchen is not allowed. Grace can appeal this for a cost of \$1,000.00. Rebecca Harrison moved, and Susie Reis seconded, that the Vestry approve spending \$1,000.00 to make an appeal to the City of Kirkwood to change the zoning for Kirkwood

churches from R-3 so that commissary kitchens would be allowed. Motion passed. Father Todd will let area religious leaders know that we are pursuing the change.

Father Todd sent a letter to leaders of the various ministries at Grace, asking for their thoughts and plans for their ministries as church re-opens and beyond.

Father Todd will be having back surgery on May 17, with a three week recovery period.

The evenings meeting concluded with a reading of Compline.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:47.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Nixon  
Secretary of the Vestry

## **Motions from the May 11, 2021 Vestry meeting**

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Rebecca Harrison moved, and Susie Reis seconded, that the Vestry approve spending \$1,000.00 to make an appeal to the City of Kirkwood to change the zoning for Kirkwood churches from R-3 so that commissary kitchens would be allowed. Motion passed.

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