

**Grace Episcopal Church**  
**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting**  
**September 14, 2021**

**Vestry Present:** Lyn Ballard, Mike Casey, Kelly Eschenroeder, Rebecca Harrison, Chris Ludbrook, Pat O'Brien, Ann VanConia

**Vestry Absent:** John Adams, Susie Reis

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00.

The opening prayer was given by Kelly Eschenroeder. The opening prayer at the October Vestry meeting will be given by Chris Ludbrook.

The evening's agenda was amended to include a report from Father Todd on St. Thomas Church. The evening's agenda stood as amended.

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Ann VanConia seconded, that the minutes from the August 10, 2021 Vestry meeting be approved as written. Motion passed.

**Five Marks of Mission:** Proclaim the Good News: *Worship, Music:* The choir is now singing at the Sunday service. Choir members are masked, because of their close proximity to one another.

Teach, Baptize and Nurture New Believers: *Invite, Welcome, Connect :* Shari Bonham reported that there have been several new people attending services. She has established communications with the newcomers.

Grace youth walked to Kaldi's on Sunday morning.

Although the nursery is not staffed, parents are welcome to use the space with their children.

Father Todd noted that there was a baptism held recently on a Sunday that was not one of the four dates on which baptisms are traditionally performed. The baby's father's job precluded the family from baptizing the baby at the next traditional date, so an exception was made. Another family with a baby awaiting baptism was offered the opportunity to have their baby baptized at the same time, but decided to wait until All Saint's Sunday.

Respond to Human Need, Seek Peace & Justice: *Outreach Programs, Activities:* Father Todd reported that Hands On Kirkwood (HOK) will take place on October 2. Grace will provide hospitality in the form of a drive-thru/ walk-up lunch at the end of the event. Volunteers are needed to help with the event. Church youth will distribute food drive bags the weekend of September 25.

Trinity Hot Lunch will serve meals indoors beginning in November. There will be a maximum of thirty diners. Barbie Click from Trinity Central West End will communicate all safety protocols to Sandy Adams. The food drive for Kirkwood School District Nutrition On Weekends is taking place now, with barrels in the narthex for food collection.

Safeguard Creation: Environmental Stewardship: There are no plans for tree removal in the “wedge” bed at the back of the church. Rebecca Harrison noted that the irrigation system will be turned off in three weeks.

Ministries of Governance, Administration, Stewardship and Facility: Financial Report: Tim Engelbrecht provided the Vestry with the financial report for the month ending August 31, 2021. Since August is a non-quarterly month, Tim did not give an oral report. Shari Bonham reported that a valid check had been fraudulently altered and cashed against Grace’s checking account. Tim Engelbrecht will complete paperwork to get the money refunded to Grace. Father Todd reported that both the Diocesan finances and Grace’s finances are in good shape. Pat O’Brien wondered about current cash flow. Father Todd noted that, while 3 months in cash reserves is desired, it is typical to have less than that at this time of year.

Father Todd reported that Ron Gaus will place commissary kitchen ads on Craig’s List today. The City of Kirkwood will now allow commissary kitchens in residential areas.

Pat O’Brien moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the financial report for the month ending August 31, 2021 be received. Motion passed.

**Stewardship:** Betty Bowersox reported that she will be creating a 2 page brochure on The Case For Giving. Grace’s many food related ministries will be highlighted. Every Perfect Gift reflections will begin on September 19 in the Messenger and service leaflet.

**Junior Warden Report:** Rebecca Harrison reported that the A/C compressor required oil, at a cost of about \$1300.00.

Surge protectors will be installed on seven panels, which will obviate the need for re-programming electronics every time there is a power surge.

Rebecca is soliciting bids for replacement of the elbows in the pipes that drain from the kitchen. They were discovered to be leaking last month.

Boiler work on the backflow system will take place next month. Rebecca will make sure the water is not left running, as it likely was last year.

**Senior Warden Report:** Chris Ludbrook gave the Vestry an overview of the 2021-2022 church school year. Chris was happy to report that more children than anticipated were present on September 12. Confirmation class will take place in the spring, led by Joanie VanReese and Dianne Casey. Confirmation will take place at Grace during the Bishop’s annual visit. Traditional activities such as the turkey cookie sale and the “Souper” Bowl of Caring will take place this year.

The parish picnic will be held on September 26. Chris Ludbrook is organizing the bar-b-que, and Shari Bonham is organizing the side dishes and set up/tear down. It was suggested that neighbors of Grace Church, the Lab School and the Kirkwood City Council be invited.

**Report of the Rector:** Father Todd provided the Vestry with an amended copy of the proposed By-laws change of Article II (Quorum and Voting), which would add language regarding attending meetings via electronic means. The proposed change to the By-laws was approved by the parish at the 2021 annual meeting, and then sent to the Diocesan Standing Committee for their approval. The Standing Committee altered the language, but not the intent, of the proposed change. The Chancellor of the Diocese will allow the Vestry of Grace Church to approve the changes to the language of the proposal without going to the parish for approval. Pat O’Brien moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, the Vestry approve the amendments made by the Chancellor of the Diocese, per the Standing Committee, to the proposed By-laws changes to Article II as approved at the 2021 annual meeting. Motion passed.

Father Todd reported that Iris Grote, parish secretary, resigned at the end of August. Volunteer help in the office would be appreciated, especially during the first two weeks of December.

Emily Hilquist Davis has been named the new Rector of Advent Episcopal Church, Crestwood. It is likely that St Thomas Church for the Deaf will follow her to Crestwood, but the matter is unsettled at this time. In the event St Tomas leaves Grace, the chapel, the Thompson room and their office space would be freed up for rental purposes.

Father Todd thanked Ann and Brent VanConia for hosting the Perpetual Grace reception on September 10. Father Todd reminded the Vestry of the importance of building up the church's endowment, and stressed that participation in the Perpetual Grace program, regardless of the size of the bequeathal, is very important. The Vestry was referred to page 445 of the Book of Common Prayer, which states that "the Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of... all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses."

The evenings meeting concluded with a reading of Compline.

Lyn Ballard moved, and Kelly Eschenroeder seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Nixon  
Secretary of the Vestry

### **Motions from the September 14, 2021 Vestry meeting**

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Ann VanConia seconded, that the minutes from the August 10, 2021 Vestry meeting be approved as written. Motion passed.

Pat O'Brien moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the financial report for the month ending August 31, 2021 be received. Motion passed.

Pat O'Brien moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, the Vestry approve the amendments made by the Chancellor of the Diocese to the proposed By-laws change to Article II as approved at the 2021 annual meeting. Motion passed.

Lyn Ballard moved, and Kelly Eschenroeder seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed.