

Grace Episcopal Church
Minutes of the 161st Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 26, 2020

After establishing that a quorum was present, the 161st annual meeting was called to order at 9:09 and opened with a prayer given by Father Todd McDowell.

Father Todd appointed Sue Nixon as clerk and Steve Jianakoplos as parliamentarian.

It was moved that the minutes from the 160th annual meeting, held on January 27, 2019, be approved as written. Motion carried.

It was moved that the agenda for the 161st annual meeting be approved as written. Motion carried.

Report of the Nominating Committee: Father Todd presented a slate of three candidates for Vestry terms of three years each: Katie Compton, Chris Ludbrook and Rebecca Harrison. There were two candidates nominated to serve a three-year term as Delegate to Diocesan Convention: Vince Nicosia and Michele Nicosia. Deborah Caby was nominated to serve a one year term as Diocesan Convention Delegate Alternate. At 9:12, the floor was opened to further nominations for Vestry members or Convention Delegates. There were no further nominations from the floor. The polls remain open for 30 minutes.

Legacy Giving: Brent VanConia spoke to the parish about legacy giving. He reminded the parish that we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. The Rev. David Fly started the endowment fund, which, together with the Grace Legacy Fund, is now valued at about three million dollars. Income from the endowment fund makes up 23% of the 2020 budget, which makes it a very important component of the ministry and outreach of Grace Episcopal Church. Father Todd and parishioner Ron Ryan developed Perpetual Grace to recognize those who have named Grace Episcopal Church in their estate plan. Brent VanConia will take the lead on educating parishioners and encouraging them to remember Grace in their estate planning. Brent directed those present to the inserts in the service leaflet which included "Steps to a Legacy Gift" and a Declaration of Intent form.

Brent was happy to inform the parish that Grace will be receiving a gift from the estate of former parishioner Carl Luyties in the amount of approximately \$250,000.00.

Junior Warden's Report: Rebecca Harrison's report can be found in the 161st Annual Meeting packet. Highlights for 2019 included a new roof over Albright Hall, getting the outside of Albright Hall cleaned and painted, and installing lighting in front of it. The Columbarium has new lighting and an irrigation system. Rebecca thanked parish members for their work as volunteer gardeners. They accomplished more than was expected, and saved the church money in the process. 2020 will bring new, up to code lighting in the nave. Rebecca thanked parishioner Tom Petrie for his help in implementing the lighting plan.

Senior Warden's Report: Mike Heyer's report can be found in the 161st Annual Report packet. Mike thanked church staff, Vestry members and other volunteers for their service to Grace. He encouraged parishioners to consider serving on the Vestry. He briefly reviewed the successful capital campaign. Mike pointed out that Grace lost a dedicated staff person when Janis Greenbaum took a position with the Diocese. Her position is currently being staffed by volunteers. Mike closed with a statement of gratitude for the support that the people of Grace have provided him over the years.

Treasurer's Report: Capital Campaign: Tim Engelbrecht began his report with a review of the Our Journey Continues capital campaign. A detailed report can be found in the 161st annual meeting packet. The campaign received pledges (less 5% reserve and expenses) of \$595,182.44. To date, over \$300,000.00 has been collected, which is very encouraging given that it is the first year of a three year campaign.

Tim thanked Grace's staff and committee chairs for being good stewards of the church's funds. He thanked the finance committee members for their service to Grace. Tim thanked all parishioners for sharing their time, talent and treasure. Tim especially thanked parishioner Mike Fitzgerald for providing a yearly financial review of the church's books at no charge, which provides a significant cost savings to Grace. The report of the treasurer can be found in the 161st annual meeting packet.

2019 Budget Review: Tim noted that the goal of the finance committee is to put together a balanced budget without sacrificing the values and mission of Grace Episcopal Church. 2019 ended with a surplus of \$510.00, but we didn't get there in the way we planned. 2019 saw the deaths and transfers of seven parishioners. A significant error on a pledge card led to an overstated budget amount for pledge income. The finance committee met with the church staff to balance the budget by cutting some expenses and by asking the parish to make additional contributions if they were able. It was noted that 2019 marked the seventh year that Grace has made its full Diocesan assessment payment.

2020 Budget: Tim presented the 2020 budget to the parish. Due to seven parish deaths and transfers, the initial budget for pledge income in 2020 was down by about \$50,000.00. This was ameliorated somewhat by the addition of six new pledges. Tim thanked Stewardship Committee chair Betty Bowersox, and the entire Stewardship Committee for their hard work on the stewardship campaign. The budget was balanced by making cuts that would not compromise the values and mission of Grace. Tim informed the parish that the monthly financial reports will show the budget results broken out into the five marks of mission.

Rector's Comments: Father Todd informed the parish that his sermon at the 8:00 and 10:00 services will serve as his report. Father Todd drew the attention of the parish to the Declaration of Intent leaflet in the service bulletin and stressed the importance of participation in the Perpetual Grace program. There are many experts at Grace who are happy to answer questions regarding legacy gifts. Father Todd noted that this year's annual meeting packet is much shorter than it has been in the past several years. This is because Janis Greenbaum, who served as Grace's communications person, and had crafted the annual report packet in past

years, accepted a position at the Diocesan level. All reports will be made available to the parish online. Father Todd moved that all reports for the 161st annual meeting, both printed and electronic, be received, by title, by the parish. Motion passed.

Father Todd extended thanks to all who have helped maintain our 60 year old building. Father Todd thanked the Vestry and the Finance Committee for eight years of balanced budgets. He noted that balancing the budget is not an easy task, and that not all requests can be met.

Father Todd extended thanks to outgoing Vestry member Tom Voller, and to the entire Voller family for their help with the garden beds.

Father Todd thanked Lyn Ballard, John Dotson and Dick Entenmann, who have completed their terms as convention delegates.

Father Todd thanked Don Neubacher, Diane Warhover and Chris Pierce, who have completed their terms on the Endowment Committee. He also thanked new committee members Julie Sward and Brent VanConia for agreeing to serve.

Polls Close: Hearing no further nominations from the floor, the polls were closed at 9:42.

All those in favor of electing the slate of Vestry nominees put forth by the nominating committee were asked to answer “aye”, those opposed “nay”. Motion passed unanimously.

All those in favor of electing the slate of Diocesan Convention Delegate nominees put forth by the nominating committee were asked to answer “aye”, those opposed “nay”. Motion passed unanimously.

Father Todd asked parishioners with any questions to come forward.

Becky Coulter asked why the total for fundraising in 2019 was only \$245.00 when the budgeted amount was \$2500.00. Tim Engelbrecht explained that Skip Giessing had been heading up the fundraising efforts until he moved to Texas. A replacement for Skip was not found, and the fundraising fell by the wayside.

Chris Kurth asked what opportunities were being explored for additional clergy, staff or interns at Grace? Father Todd replied that he has asked the Diocese for a deacon or intern to serve at Grace for many years. There was hope that an intern would be coming to Grace in 2020, but the Diocese placed that person in another position. Father Todd is hopeful that Grace’s request for an intern or deacon will be met by the incoming Bishop.

Jim Davis asked if there is any flexibility in the budget to allow more money to be spent on marketing. Father Todd replied that we have had good success with marketing in the past six months thanks to the volunteer efforts of parishioner Rachel Major, who has been expanding Grace’s presence on various social media sites. Rachel’s efforts have led many people to the Grace website, and there has been an increase in the number of visitors to Grace services.

Ron Ryan asked what the White Fund loan balance is, and what the repayment plan is. Tim Engelbrecht stated that the White Fund loan balance is \$168,472.00. Monthly payments continue to be made, and at the end of the three year Our Journey Continues campaign, a paydown on the debt of nearly \$60,000.00 will be made. Father Todd noted that the interest rate on the loan is extremely low.

It is the custom of the parish to recess the meeting at this time, so preparations can be made for the 10:00 Eucharist, and to adjourn the meeting at the dismissal of the 10:00 service. All in favor of adjourning the meeting at the 10:00 service dismissal were asked to answer "aye", those opposed "nay". Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Nixon
Secretary of the Vestry

Motions from the 161st Annual Meeting

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