

**Grace Episcopal Church**  
**Minutes of the February Vestry Meeting**  
**Friday, January 31, 2020**  
**King's House Retreat Center, Belleville, Illinois**

**Vestry Present:** Mike Casey, Katie Compton, John Dotson , Kelly Eschenroeder, Mike Heyer, Chris Ludbrook, Pat O'Brien, Susie Reis

**Vestry Absent:** Rebecca Harrison

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

**Guests:** Shari Bonham, Director of Development and Ministries Coordinator; Lyn Ballard, former Senior Warden and leader of the Saturday portion of the retreat

The meeting was called to order at 7:16.

The opening prayer was given by Kelly Eschenroeder . The opening prayer at the March Vestry meeting will be given by Mike Heyer.

Father Todd noted that Katie Compton was the only new Vestry member, and she had served on the Vestry in the past. Father Todd stated that he would comment throughout the meeting on Vestry procedures that have changed since Katie last served.

The evening's agenda was amended to reflect the fact that Father Todd would be running the evening's meeting. The agenda stood as amended.

Susie Reis moved, and John Dotson seconded, that the minutes from the January 14, 2020 Vestry meeting be approved as written. Motion passed.

Mike Heyer moved, and Chris Ludbrook seconded, that the minutes from the special Vestry meeting held on January 26, 2020 be approved as written. Motion passed.

**Five Marks of Mission:** Ministries of Governance, Administration, Stewardship and Facility: *Financial Report:* Since the February Vestry meeting was held before the financial activity for January could be compiled, there was no financial report. Shari Bonham let the Vestry know that, going forward, the financial report that is presented to the Vestry will be a smaller report that follows the Five Marks of Mission. An example of the report format can be found in the 2020 annual meeting packet. The full financial report will be available upon request, and Vestry members are encouraged to ask for details regarding any part of the financial report. The "Gifts Beyond the Budget" report will be reinstated in 2020.

*Our Journey Continues:* Father Todd reviewed the allocation of funds received from the Our Journey Continues capital campaign.

Father Todd reminded the Vestry to let Shari Bonham know if there's an item they would like to add to the agenda.

Proclaim the Good News: Worship, Music: Father Todd reminded the Vestry that the First Sundays at 5 service will be held on February 2. Philip Brunswick has put together a contemplative Candlemas service. The handbells choir will be playing at services on February 9.

Teach, Baptize and Nurture New Believers: Invite, Welcome, Connect : Shari Bonham reported that improvements to Grace's social media presence are attracting visitors.

Shari brought the Greeter, Counter and Lock-Up Schedule to the attention of the Vestry. There will be three greeters at each Sunday service – two people from the Greeters Committee, and one Vestry member. Counting and lock-up procedures were reviewed.

Shari is hoping that a parishioner will come on board to head up the Invite, Welcome, Connect committee.

Respond to Human Need, Seek to Transform Unjust Structures: Outreach Programs, Activities: Lyn Ballard commented on the "Souper Sunday" video featuring youth from Grace, and filmed by Dianne Casey, which appeared on the Facebook pages of Grace and the Diocese of Missouri.

Safeguard Integrity of Creation: Environmental Stewardship: Susie Ries and Kathy Davis are exploring the possibility of using donated ceramic coffee mugs at coffee hour. The cups currently used are not recyclable.

**Junior Warden Report:** Junior Warden Rebecca Harrison was absent. Father Todd reported that the lighting project in the nave will begin soon. Painting will be done first, then the lighting. There are two phases to the lighting project. Phase one includes lighting above the pews, uplighting for the wood ceiling, and light above the baptismal font. Phase two, which will be done in the future, will include lighting on the altar, reredos, lecterns, pipes and the back stone wall. All fixtures will use LED bulbs. The new lighting control system will be located in the back of the nave where the crosses and torches are stored. The control system will allow for pre-set lighting scenarios for the various services and occasions. The two large triangular windows above the organ and the choir loft need to be replaced. There is some insurance money from a previous leak that could be used toward the cost. The price of two new thermal windows is out for bid.

Tom Petrie has been asked to give a quote on what it would cost to hang the cross over the alter with steel cables instead of the chain from which the cross currently hangs.

**Senior Warden Report:** Mike Heyer distributed the Vestry Covenant to all Vestry members, and asked them to sign and return it to Mike.

Since a quorum is needed to vote at Vestry meetings, Vestry members are asked to let the Senior Warden, Father Todd or Shari Bonham know if they will be unable to attend a Vestry meeting. It was noted that some issues are voted on using email, but that there must be 100% Vestry participation for an email vote to be counted.

All reports from the annual meeting will be made available on the Grace website.

Shari Bonham will send invitations to Vestry members for REALM, which is a website that houses the church directory and allows parishioners to make pledge payments and donations among other things. It is also available as an app, which is called REALM Connect.

**Vestry Retreat Program:** Lyn Ballard provided the Vestry with a handout that will be used for the Saturday program. The program will look at the future of Grace and the unique advantages Grace has at this time.

There was no devotional at the Vestry meeting as the Vestry plans to gather on Saturday morning for Morning Prayer in the chapel.

Mike Heyer moved and Susie Reis seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:22.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Nixon  
Secretary of the Vestry

### **Motions from the January 31, 2020 Vestry meeting**

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