

Grace Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
October 11, 2022

Vestry Present: Lyn Ballard, Kelly Eschenroeder, Rebecca Harrison, Chris Ludbrook, Susie Reis, Ann VanConia, Jim Wethington

Vestry Absent: John Adams, Mike Casey

Clergy Present: The Rev. Thomas Skillings

Guests: Shari Bonham, Director of Development and Ministries Coordinator; Ted Sward, Stewardship; Tim Engelbrecht, Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 7:04.

The opening prayer was given by Kelly Eschenroeder. Ann VanConia will give the prayer at the November Vestry meeting.

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Kelly Eschenroeder seconded, that the minutes from the September 13, 2022 Vestry meeting be approved as drawn. Motion passed.

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

Stewardship Campaign: Stewardship chair Ted Sward talked to the Vestry about this year's stewardship campaign. Vestry members received printouts regarding the timeline and action plan for the campaign. The campaign will focus on helping parishioners connect stewardship to the many ministries Grace is involved with. People from various ministries will speak at Sunday services. Parishioners will be asked to increase their pledges by 7%, in an effort to keep up with inflation. The Vestry will meet on November 20 at 3:00 to make phone calls to parishioners who have not turned in a pledge. It was noted that not all parishioners are familiar with the concept of pledging.

Five Marks of Mission: Teach, Baptize and Nurture New Believers: *Invite, Welcome, Connect:* Shari is working on getting Invite, Welcome, Connect teams that were established pre-pandemic back together.

Respond to Human Need, Seek Peace & Justice: *Outreach Programs, Activities:* Chris Ludbrook reported that people involved with the mission trip would like to re-establish the holiday cookie sale. The Vestry was not aware of any groups that would object to that idea.

It was suggested that the mission trip be named the Mary Etta Heggie Memorial Mission Trip, in light of the fact that Mary Etta was instrumental in making the mission trip a tradition at Grace.

Ministries of Governance, Administration, Stewardship and Facility:

Financial Report: Treasurer Tim Engelbrecht gave a full quarterly financial report for the month ending September 30, 2022. Pledge Income for the month of September was \$18,310, which was \$8,690 below budget. YTD Pledge Income was \$289,109 versus the budgeted amount of \$292,000. Total Revenues for the month were \$38,938, which was \$12,016 below budget. YTD Total Revenues were \$481,397, which was \$2,400 below budget. Total Expenses for September were \$36,054, which was \$17,704 below

budget. YTD Expenses were \$468,440, which was \$14,633 below budget. Net Revenue for September was \$2,884 which was \$5,648 above the budgeted amount of (\$2,764). YTD Net Revenue was \$12,957, versus the budgeted amount of \$726. Our current cash reserves would cover an estimated 1.75 months of the 2022 budgeted expenses.

Tim noted that there were some unexpected expenses that were not budgeted for (large gas bill and new freezer), the expenses of which are included in the financial report. Despite the unforeseen costs, expenses still came in better than expected.

The finance committee will meet on October 17. The committee will begin work on the 2023 budget. The commissary kitchen has brought in about \$10,000 YTD. One tenant, Wandering Yeti vegan ice cream, has left and will open their own store.

Ann VanConia moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the Vestry receive the financial report for the month ending September 30, 2022. Motion passed.

The final results of the capital campaign are not quite ready. Tim will have results at the November Vestry meeting, and Vestry approval to make final distributions to the appropriate accounts will be given at that time.

Tim extended thanks to parishioner Mike Fitzgerald for performing a financial review for 2020 and 2021 free of charge. Tim will get the report out to the Vestry when he receives it from Mike.

There will be six foursomes playing in the annual golf outing on October 16.

Transitional Pastor Report: Rev Skillings provided the Vestry with a written report, which covered worship, program, pastoral care, transition, staffing and information regarding a new associate priest. The current adult education series, which takes place on Sundays at 9:00, will be recorded and posted on You Tube.

Thomas has invited the Rev Mary Haggerty to serve as Interim Associate Priest. Thomas will meet with Dick Entenmann and Tim Engelbrecht to get the details of her employment nailed down. If Vestry approval is needed for the signing of a letter of agreement, a quick Zoom meeting will be held.

Vestry members received copies of the Vestry Resource Guide. Thomas pointed out some especially informative pages in the book.

Thomas has been wondering about the Vestry's role in the transition. He raised a few questions, including how does the Vestry inform the transition team? And what are we called to do next? It was noted that the Vestry and the congregation can continue to inform the transition team even after the parish profile is completed. He suggested talking to parishioners who are grandparents about why their children and grandchildren don't attend church. It is important that the whole congregation goes through the discernment process – this will help the transition team gain a deeper understanding of what the congregation feels the mission of the church is.

Thomas suggested that the Vestry go on retreat in February.

Thomas was asked how long the interim associate rector would stay at Grace. He answered that there is no set end date, and it is possible that she may stay after the new rector is in place.

Discernment Team: Lyn Ballard distributed a report to the Vestry regarding the group's activity over the past month, as well as a rundown of tasks the team will complete in the future. Lyn will send an email to the parish tomorrow reminding them that the last day to complete the parish survey is October 16. Lyn noted that the Vestry and the women's study group have participated in focus group discussions. More focus groups will be scheduled. Lyn noted that it is helpful having a large number of people on the transition team, as not every member can attend every meeting, but each meeting has had a good number of participants. Lyn extended thanks to everyone who was involved in getting the correct technology together to facilitate meetings and support the work that the transition team needs to complete.

Junior Warden Report: Rebecca Harrison was happy to report that the dishwasher has been repaired. On the weekend of November 19 -20, leaves will be blown out of the garden beds and onto the lawn to be mulched. Parishioners who tend the beds will be notified.

Senior Warden Report: Chris will meet with Tim Engelbrecht regarding the commissary kitchen.

Kelly Eschenroeder moved, and Susie Reis seconded, that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed.

The evening's meeting adjourned at 8:41.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Nixon
Secretary of the Vestry

Motions from the October 11, 2022 Vestry meeting

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