

Grace Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
November 9, 2022

Vestry Present: John Adams, Lyn Ballard, Mike Casey, Rebecca Harrison, Chris Ludbrook, Ann VanConia, Jim Wethington

Vestry Absent: Kelly Eschenroeder, Susie Reis

Clergy Present: The Rev. Thomas Skillings, The Rev. Mary Haggerty

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:02.

The opening prayer was given by Ann VanConia. Ann VanConia will give the prayer at the December Vestry meeting as well.

Rev. Skillings introduced Grace's interim associate priest, the Rev. Mary Haggerty. Rev. Haggerty noted that she has received a very warm welcome from the people of Grace, and is looking forward to getting to know everyone. She will be in her office all day on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The Vestry broke into small groups to analyze the song "Grace" by U2. They discussed what the qualities of Grace are, and what it means to be a church called Grace.

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

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Ann VanConia seconded, that the minutes from the October 11, 2022 Vestry meeting be approved as drawn. Motion passed.

Stewardship Campaign: Stewardship chair Ted Sward did not attend the evening's meeting, but provided a written report regarding stewardship activities. Shari Bonham reported on results as of November 8. 72 pledges have been received, totaling \$262,153. 42 of those pledges increased over last year's amount. Vestry members will send thank you notes to parishioners who have pledged (dollar amounts of pledges remain confidential, and are not shared with Vestry members).

Five Marks of Mission: Respond to Human Need, Seek Peace & Justice: *Outreach Programs, Activities:* Sue Nixon reported that several members of Grace attended the Horizons (formerly SPROG) gala, at which Kirk Care received a special award for their support of Horizons, which helps finance Horizon's cooking classes. Grace's outreach supports both Horizons and Kirk Care.

John Adams noted that Task Force for the Hungry and Horizons (SPROG) are seeking board representation from Grace, and that Episcopal City Mission would like someone from Grace to volunteer to be in charge of one of the monthly birthday parties that are held for youth in detention. John suggested that it would be a good idea to get younger parishioners involved in Outreach. He is making calls to recruit volunteers.

Lisa Jianakoplos is the new United Thank Offering chair.

Chris Ludbrook reported that the mission trip participants will hold a holiday cookie sale. Parishioners are asked to donate 6 dozen cookies. The sale will be held on December 10, and will be open to the public.

Ministries of Governance, Administration, Stewardship and Facility:

Financial Report: Treasurer Tim Engelbrecht gave a non-quarterly financial report. Copies of the full report for the month ending October 31, 2022 were distributed to the Vestry. Tim noted that the last two months of the year are generally good in terms of income, and he expects to end the year in good shape.

Tim distributed copies of the first draft of the 2023 budget to the Vestry. All budget requests were included in the draft. The Finance Committee will meet on December 7 to work on the budget. Tim hopes to present a balanced budget to the Vestry at the December meeting.

Dick Entenmann distributed a handout regarding personnel costs in the 2023 budget.

Tim extended thanks to parishioner Mike Fitzgerald for performing a financial review for 2020 and 2021 free of charge. Copies of the reviews were distributed to the Vestry. Ann VanConia moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the Vestry accept the financial reviews performed by Mike Fitzgerald for 2020 and 2021. Motion passed.

The Finance Committee, in response to results from the Holy Cow survey, reviewed the makeup of the committee. It was decided that the current setup of the committee makes sense and works well.

Personnel Committee: Dick Entenmann reported that new Letters of Agreement for church staff have been written, and they provide better clarity concerning job duties.

Jackie Johnson and Jen Wethington have joined the Personnel Committee.

The search continues for a nursery coordinator. An ad will be placed in the Webster Kirkwood Times.

Dick noted that some parishioners are waiting to return to in-person worship until a nursery worker is in place.

Transitional Pastor Report: Rev Skillings distributed copies of the job description for the Ministries and Engagement Coordinator (Shari Bonham's position). Shari will be concentrating on Invite, Welcome, Connect. Some finance and personnel duties that migrated to Shari will go back whence they came. Ministry teams will meet in January to be re-invigorated and to invite new participants.

Discernment Team: Lyn Ballard provided the Vestry with a written report. Lyn reported that the 2023 budget request for the Discernment Team has been submitted. The Discernment Team and the Vestry received results from the Holy Cow survey. Two listening sessions are scheduled, with all parish members being invited to attend. Discernment team members will be asked to commit to a confidentiality agreement.

Lyn noted that the team is trying hard to keep up with the dates laid out for completion of tasks. The team hopes to get a final candidate presented to the Vestry in July.

Lyn suggested waiting to disseminate the survey results until after the listening sessions are completed. She is hopeful that the information can be pulled together by mid-January. The Vestry discussed providing a summary of the survey and listening sessions versus just waiting until the parish profile comes out.

Junior Warden Report: Rebecca Harrison reported that the lumber for the lychgate will be arriving at a cost of about \$7,500.00. The lumber cost is not included in the bid for construction of the lychgate. The bell for the lychgate will have a new hanging plate welded on.

The commissary kitchen storage room has been dirty and may not pass the health department inspection. Grace's custodians are now cleaning the floor. The floors of the refrigerators used by members of Grace have been messy. Rebecca emphasized that all items, except for bottles of surface sanitizer, must be stored in the pantry. We need to find someone to clean the kitchen towels. Pyrotech will remove a redundant pilot light on the stove. This will allow the stove to be lit from the stovetop as opposed to lying on the floor as the old setup required. Leaves will be blown out of the flower beds on the weekend of November 19-20. Leaves will be mulched into the lawn.

Senior Warden Report: *Nominating Committee:* Lyn Ballard and Rebecca Harrison are eligible to serve another three year term on the Vestry . Chris Ludbrook has served two terms, but there may be an exception for extraordinary circumstances listed in the Canons that would allow him to serve one additional year. Thomas shared with the Vestry the system his former church used to recruit new Vestry members. Lyn Ballard suggested using the list that was created when recruiting Discernment Team members to select Vestry nominees. Thomas will work with the wardens to pick a nominating committee.

John Adams moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed.

The evening's meeting adjourned at 10:14.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Nixon
Secretary of the Vestry

Motions from the November 8, 2022 Vestry meeting

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