

Grace Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
December 13, 2022

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

Vestry Absent: Susie Reis

Clergy Present: The Rev. Thomas Skillings

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00.

The opening prayer was given by Ann VanConia. Lyn Ballard will give the prayer at the January Vestry meeting.

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

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Ann VanConia seconded, that the minutes from the November 8, 2022 Vestry meeting be approved as drawn. Motion passed.

Stewardship Campaign: Stewardship chair Ted Sward reported that 102 pledges were received, totaling \$381,563.00. 58 pledges showed an increase over last year totaling \$41,952.00. 26 commitments were received inline, as opposed to 4 online commitments in 2021. 10 pledges did not renew due to death, relocation and other reasons. Those pledges totaled about \$42,000.00 in 2021. There were seven new pledges totaling \$14,765.00. 10 parishioners have not yet responded. Shari will contact those who have not responded. The Vestry extended thanks to Ted for running the campaign. Ted volunteered to run the campaign again in 2023.

Five Marks of Mission: Teach, Baptize and Nurture: *Invite, Welcome, Connect:* Shari Bonham is putting together a steering committee for Invite, Welcome, Connect. Several Vestry members volunteered to serve as greeters at the Christmas Eve Service.

Report of the Transitional Rector: Rev. Skillings reported that he is entering responses from the Grace Stories project into a spread sheet, and will share the results with the Vestry at a later date. There will be another set of questions in January. The next step will be to explore the question "who is our neighbor?" Vestry members paired up to answer the current round of Grace Stories questions.

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 November 30, 2022 were distributed to the Vestry. Tim noted that November was a fabulous month in terms of revenue.

Tim provided the Vestry with a handout listing the final results of the Our Journey Continues capital campaign, including dollar amounts that need to be distributed to the proper accounts. Rebecca

Harrison moved, and Lyn Ballard seconded, that the Vestry approve moving the following funds as requested by the treasurer: \$2,199.43 to Lighting; \$4,599.57 to Legacy Outreach; \$5,547.91 to Debt Repayment; and \$33,648.83 to Legacy Building and Grounds. Motion passed. The White Fund loan has been restructured, and payments will be lower by about \$300.00 per month.

Tim noted that the Finance Committee is still working on the 2023 budget. He distributed copies to the Vestry of what the budget looks like so far. The budget will be presented to the Vestry for approval at the January Vestry meeting. Tim noted that the line item for the nursery supervisor has been increased from \$50.00 per week to \$100.00 per week. The budget is currently at (\$37,443.00). Tim will remove the \$25,000 budgeted for parking lot repair, and will try to fund the project with grants. Additionally, \$2,000 from Commissary Kitchen Expenses (line 231) will be removed. If funds are needed, they will come from the reserve fund.

Ann VanConia wondered if the custodial service could clean the kitchen floor more frequently. There is not currently money in the budget for additional cleaning.

Personnel Committee: Dick Entenmann reported that he and Thomas have interviewed a person who responded to the ad in the Webster Kirkwood Times for a nursery worker. She currently works at Webster Hills United Methodist Church, and has a background in education. She will be offered the job on December 14, and will start in January if she accepts. Volunteers will be needed to work as assistants – two adults are needed in the room when children are present. It was noted that it would be easy to add a security camera to the room.

Discernment Team: Lyn Ballard provided the Vestry with a written report. Lyn reported that the parish profile should be ready by February 1. Thanks were extended to Andy Miller for underwriting the cost of the Holy Cow parish survey.

Outreach: John Adams reported that the Outreach Committee met on December 6, and approved \$6,500.00 in grants to several existing groups as well as two organizations that had not received funds from Grace in the past – Club 44 at the Kirkwood YMCA, and Rockwell House Episcopal Campus Ministry.

Senior Warden Report: Nominating Committee: Lyn Ballard will cycle off the Vestry. Thanks were extended to Lyn for her service to the Vestry. Lyn Ballard, Tim Cenova and Sara Losse will serve on the nominating committee. Rebecca Harrison and Chris Ludbrook will run for another three year term on the Vestry. Kelly Eschenroeder moved, and John Adams seconded, that the Vestry approve expanding the number of Vestry members by one in 2023. The motion was amended to add one new member each year for 2023, 2024 and 2025. Motion passed as amended. Chris Ludbrook will make the announcement about the expansion at this Sunday's services.

Chris Ludbrook reported that the youth missionaries held a cookie sale, with help from the Women of Grace. The sale was held on December 10, and was open to the public. They raised \$1,993 on Saturday, and another \$600.00 the following day as unsold cookies were sold to parishioners during coffee hour.

Chris reported that there was a great community feel to the event – outsiders were happy to see the return of the cookie sale, and the kids had a good time working with adults from the parish.

The annual ornament exchange party was held in Albright Hall. 31 parishioners attended. The event raised \$640.00, and will be donated to the mission trip.

Jim Wethington moved, and Ann Van Conia seconded, that the annual mission trip be named in honor of Mary Etta Heggie.

Chris shared a thank you card from Dick Corbett thanking the transition team for their work.

It was noted that it was great to see new acolytes serving, and a Messenger article about the acolyte program would be a good idea.

The clergy housing resolution for the Rev. Mary Haggerty was reviewed. The resolution reads as follows: Whereas, the Reverend Mary Haggerty is compensated by Grace Episcopal Church exclusively for the services as a minister of the Gospel; and whereas, Grace Episcopal Church does not provide Rev. Haggerty with a rectory, therefore, it is hereby

Resolved, that the total compensation to be paid to the Rev. Mary Haggerty in 2023 by Grace Episcopal Church, an amount not to exceed \$24,000 be designated as a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986; and be it further

Resolved, that the designated housing allowance shall apply to calendar year 2023 and all future years unless otherwise provided.

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Jim Wethington seconded, that the Vestry approve the Clergy Housing allowance for the Rev. Mary Haggerty for 2023 as written. Motion passed.

In order to make payroll for 2023 easier, Tim Engelbrecht asked the Vestry to approve making the amounts shown in the 2023 proposed budget for compensation and raises effective January 1, 2023, as opposed to waiting until the final 2023 budget is approved by the Vestry at the January Vestry meeting. Rebecca Harrison moved, and Ann Van Conia seconded, that 2023 compensation, as listed in the 2023 proposed budget, be effective on January 1, 2023. Motion passed.

The evening's meeting adjourned at 9:03.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Nixon
Secretary of the Vestry

Motions from the December 13, 2022 Vestry meeting

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