

Grace Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
July 5, 2022

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

Vestry Absent: Kelly Eschenroeder

Clergy Present: none

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00. The meeting was held via Zoom.

Letter of Agreement – The Rev Thomas Skillings: A copy of the Letter of Agreement (LOA) for the calling of The Rev. Thomas Skillings to serve as Interim Pastor of Grace Episcopal Church was distributed to the Vestry. The executive committee wrote the LOA based on an LOA used by the diocese along with some input from Thomas Skillings' LOA from a previous position. It was pointed out that Thomas will, among other duties, assist in the leadership of Invite, Welcome and Connect; and will assist in the leadership of Youth Ministries in the parish. Rebecca Harrison moved, and Jim Wethington seconded, that the Vestry accept the Letter of Agreement as written by the executive committee and Thomas Skillings. Motion passed. Chris Ludbrook will meet with Rev. Skillings on Thursday and will get the LOA signed at that time.

Discernment Team Consultant: Chris Ludbrook reported that potential discernment team consultant Anne Schmidt noticed that the Vestry charge to the discernment team calls for the discernment team to present two to four candidates to the Vestry, with the Vestry making the final decision. Anne will accept the position of consultant if the Vestry changes the charge to state that the discernment team presents one candidate to the Vestry for approval. Anne feels this avoids redundancy and avoids keeping candidates on hold for longer than necessary. It was noted that the sample charge to the Vestry that Anne provided to the Vestry specifies presenting one candidate. The Diocese recommends presenting one candidate to the Vestry as a best practice. The parish has already been told that the discernment team will present two to four candidates, and changing that number to one may lead to confusion or distrust among parishioners. There was concern that if a single candidate is presented, but doesn't work out, that the transition team will be back to square one. Lyn Ballard voiced her opinion that having a consultant is very important for the transition team. It was noted that the transition team could present one candidate with a "runner up" agreed upon if the first recommendation fell through. The downside to that idea is that it keeps the second candidate on hold while the Vestry discerns. Anne Schmidt is recommended by the Bishop, members of St Peter's Ladue and the Rev Susie Skinner. The next discernment team meeting will be held on July 26. There is not a need to hire a consultant immediately, but a consultant will be helpful in putting together the parish profile. Chris Ludbrook will speak with the Bishop about the concerns the Vestry has.

Lyn Ballard gave a closing prayer.

Lyn Ballard moved, and Susie Reis seconded, that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed.

The evening's meeting adjourned at 7:54.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Nixon
Secretary of the Vestry

