

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

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

Vestry Absent: Jim Wethington

Clergy Present: The Rev. Thomas Skillings

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

Before the evening's meeting was called to order, Discernment Team members Brent Van Conia and Dick Entenmann conducted a listening session with the Vestry, with Lindsay Amen taking notes. The same questions will be used in 5 or 6 small group sessions, which will be made up of engaged members of Grace. In early November, there will be two sessions held which will be open to the whole congregation.

The meeting was called to order at 8:20.

The opening prayer was given by Chris Ludbrook.

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Ann Van Conia seconded, that the evening's agenda stand as presented. Motion passed.

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Mike Casey seconded, that the minutes from the August 9, 2022 Vestry meeting be approved as amended. Motion passed.

Discernment Team: Lyn Ballard reported on Discernment Team (DT) activity since the last Vestry meeting: Anne Schmidt is on-board as consultant to the DT. She is cc'd on emails, and will consult mainly on Zoom, to keep costs down.

The parish-wide survey went out on September 11. Lyn extended thanks to Andy Miller for heading up the survey. A report on the results should be ready at the November Vestry meeting. About 60 paper surveys were mailed to parishioners who are known to not use computers, but was otherwise distributed via email.

The team will meet again on September 20.

Dick Entenmann produced a Gantt chart for the team to use, but Lyn noted that timelines are not set in stone, and that the committee is committed to producing the best candidate, even if that takes more time than indicated in the Gantt chart.

A secure box will be set up where confidential materials from candidates and materials related to the search can be kept.

The parish profile is coming along, but can't be completed until the results are in from the listening sessions and the parish survey.

The Bishop's Office will see all candidate applications before they are seen by the DT. This allows the Bishop's Office to pull applications of candidates who are unacceptable to serve in the diocese due to

something in their background. The Bishop's Office will conduct background checks, and the DT will check references. The Bishop will meet any candidates who come to visit.

Five Marks of Mission: Proclaim the Good News: Worship, Music: Rev. Skillings reminded the Vestry that two fun events are approaching: the parish picnic will be held on September 25. On October 2, parishioners are invited to bring their pets (and/or their stuffed animals) to church. A blessing of the animals will be held after church. Chris Ludbrook noted that it was great to see a good number of kids at church on Sept. 11. Shari Bonham reported that new families have told her that their kids enjoyed church.

Teach, Baptize and Nurture New Believers: Invite, Welcome, Connect: Shari noted that new families continue to come to Grace.

Respond to Human Need, Seek Peace & Justice: Outreach Programs, Activities: John Adams reported that the Trinity Hot Lunch program is continuing to transition to indoor dining. Grace prepared and transported food for 100 guests on Sunday, September 11. John reported that the number of people coming to Trinity for food is increasing. 30 people dined indoors on Sunday, and 40 were given "to-go" bags (same food as the indoor diners).

John noted that at the last outreach meeting, the idea of having a signature ministry was discussed. It was noted that strong leadership would be needed to take on a big project, and the committee is not sure that we have that at this time. Chris Kurth has met with Kirkwood's mayor, Tim Griffin, to discuss the needs of the people of Kirkwood, and will report back to the committee when it meets on September 18. At the September 18 meeting, the committee will review existing ministries and discuss whether they should all continue, or if changes should be made.

Ministries of Governance, Administration, Stewardship and Facility:

Financial Report: Treasurer Tim Engelbrecht gave an abbreviated financial report for the month ending August 31, 2022. Copies of the financial report for the month were distributed to the Vestry. Tim gave the Vestry a 2023 budget timeline. He is hopeful that the budget can be settled by the December Vestry meeting.

The capital campaign ended May 31. Pledge statements went out in August, and a letter was sent to parishioners with final results in early September. Tim hopes to give a final accounting of the campaign to the Vestry at the October meeting and get approval to move the unallocated funds to the appropriate accounts.

Personnel: Dick Entenmann reported that there have been no responses to ads for a Sunday morning nursery worker. Vestry members were encouraged to spread the word about the job opening. Dick will work with Thomas Skillings on getting updated staff job descriptions written.

Junior Warden Report: Rebecca Harrison reported that we are still waiting for the part needed to repair the dishwasher. The part has been manufactured and shipped to the distributor.

Senior Warden Report: Chris Ludbrook extended thanks to Ann Van Conia for organizing Mother Ginny's farewell reception. Over \$1,700.00 was collected for the adult education fund established in Mother Ginny's name. Chris read aloud a thank you note written by Mother Ginny to the Vestry. Ryan Missel sent a letter asking the Vestry to sign his letter of support for ordination to the diaconate. After several Vestry members spoke in favor of Ryan continuing his journey towards priesthood, Susie

Ries moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the Vestry sign the letter of support for ordination to the diaconate for Ryan Missel. Motion passed.

Chris asked Vestry members to begin thinking about nominees for Vestry. Chris has served two terms, and will cycle off. Lyn Ballard and Rebecca Harrison would be eligible to serve another three year term if they desired to do so.

Ann VanConia moved, and Lyn Ballard seconded, that the Vestry approve changing the language of the Vestry's charge to the Discernment Team regarding the date by which a candidate would be presented to the Vestry from "by the end of April" to "by the end of June". Motion passed.

Transitional Pastor Report: Rev Skillings updated the Vestry on what he has been doing. Thomas has met personally with various groups within the church. He has provided pastoral care. He is planning to teach an adult education class in October.

Thomas reminded the Vestry that they are required to take the new Safe Church training. A link will be sent via email for the online class, which should be completed within the next 30 days.

Thomas has a series of topics he will address with the parish that should help with the transition process. In October, he will invite the parish to think about the history of Grace as a whole and individually. In the spring, he will talk about change, and how to help change happen. Later in the year, he will talk about welcoming. He asked the Vestry to think about what their role is in helping the parish deal with change.

Thomas was asked if there were plans to call an assistant priest. He replied in the affirmative, and hopes to have a recommendation for the Vestry to consider at the October meeting.

Rev. Skilling offered a prayer to close the meeting.

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

The evening's meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Nixon
Secretary of the Vestry

Motions from the September 13, 2022 Vestry meeting

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Ann Van Conia seconded, that the evening's agenda stand as presented. Motion passed.

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Mike Casey seconded, that the minutes from the August 9, 2022 Vestry meeting be approved as amended. Motion passed.

Susie Ries moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the Vestry sign the letter of support for ordination to the diaconate for Ryan Missel. Motion passed.

Ann VanConia moved, and Lyn Ballard seconded, that the Vestry approve changing the language of the Vestry's charge to the Discernment Team regarding the date by which a candidate would be presented to the Vestry from "by the end of April" to "by the end of June". Motion passed.

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