

Grace Episcopal Church  
Minutes of the 163rd Annual Meeting  
Sunday, January 30, 2022

After establishing that a quorum was present, the 163rd<sup>d</sup> annual meeting was called to order at 9:04 and opened with a prayer given by Father Todd McDowell.

Father Todd appointed Sue Nixon as clerk, and Steve Jianakoplos as chancellor.

Mike Heyer moved, and Susie Reis seconded that the minutes from the 162<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting, held on January 24, 2021, be approved as written. Motion carried.

Lyn Ballard moved, and Mike Heyer seconded, that the agenda for the 163<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting stand as presented. Motion carried.

**Report of the Nominating Committee:** Father Todd reported that Pat O'Brien, who is cycling off the Vestry after two terms, headed the nominating committee. The slate of Vestry nominees is as follows: Mike Casey (to serve a second three year term), Susie Reis (to serve a second three year term), and James Wethington (to serve a three year term). At 9:09, the floor was opened to further nominations for Vestry members or Convention Delegates. Betty Bowersox was nominated to serve as Diocesan Convention Delegate. The polls remain open for 30 minutes.

**Rector's Comments:** Father Todd noted that his sermon at the 8:00 and 10:00 services contain his full report. The text of his sermon is included in the annual meeting packet. Father Todd let the parish know that he will be retiring from full time ministry in 2022. His last day at Grace will be Pentecost Sunday, June 5, and his last day on staff will be September 6. The time between June 5 and September 6 accounts for sabbatical time. The transition process has begun, and details will be given in the Senior Warden's report. Bishop Deon Johnson assured the Vestry that Grace will be able to attract great candidates due to the fact that the church is in good shape. Father Todd noted that Bishop Deon will also serve as an attractant to candidates. Father Todd feels that Grace is fortunate to have the current Vestry in place at this time of transition.

**Senior Warden's Report:** Chris Ludbrook's full report can be found in the annual meeting report packet. Chris extended thanks to Pat O'Brien, who is cycling off the Vestry after serving two terms; Susie Reis and Mike Casey for their willingness to serve a second term on the Vestry; Tom Petrie for his talents that allowed services to be streamed in a time of pandemic; outgoing Outreach Committee co-chairs Vince and Michele Nicosia for leading Outreach for nine years; John Adams for taking over the helm of the Outreach Committee; Phillip Brunswick and Ella Heigham for keeping the music going, especially during the pandemic; Tim Engelbrecht for his work as treasurer; Dick Entenmann for heading the Personnel Committee; Shari Bonham for being the glue that holds us all together while also welcoming newcomers; Father Todd and Mother Ginny for their leadership and guidance; and to all of the parishioners at Grace, for their efforts seen and unseen. Chris noted that Father Todd played a big part in

getting Grace on sound financial footing. He was happy to report that Lyn Ballard will be heading the search/transition committee. Chris encouraged the parish to thank Father Todd for his service to Grace by celebrating the time we had with him.

**Junior Warden's Report:** Rebecca Harrison's report can be found in the annual meeting report packet. Rebecca praised the congregation for the care, patience and fiscal support they showed during the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. The parish's fiscal support allowed for the installation of an air filtration system that is effective at eliminating 99% of virus particles. Financial support also allowed upgrades and complete repairs to various systems in the building, as opposed to patching things up and hoping for the best. Rebecca extended thanks to the many parishioners who spent time and talent keeping the flower beds looking good. That donation of time and energy allowed resources to be spent making other needed upgrades to the grounds.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tim Engelbrecht's financial reports can be found in the annual meeting packet. Tim extended thanks to the staff and committee chairs, all of whom continue to be good stewards of Grace's funds. Tim extended thanks to the Finance Committee, which includes Father Todd McDowell, Chris Ludbrook, Rebecca Harrison, Brent Van Conia, Bob Roth, Mike Heyer, Betty Bowersox and Dick Entenmann. Tim thanked the parish for their financial support. Happily, Tim's prediction of a rough financial 2021 did not materialize thanks to the parish's generosity and good stewardship on the part of staff and committee chairs. Tim extended thanks to stewardship chair Betty Bowersox, who ran another successful stewardship campaign; and to Mike Fitzgerald for performing the financial review of Grace's funds at no charge. Tim highlighted the capital campaign financial update. 92% of the total dollar amount pledged to the three-year campaign has been received as of December 31. Tim suggested that a great way to honor Father Todd's retirement would be to fulfill capital campaign pledges by the end of the campaign period, which occurs in May. Tim also drew the parish's attention to charts illustrating the percentage of the budget made up by endowed funds in 2009 (8%) versus the amount in 2022 (28%). Tim reviewed the 2021 financials. The \$53,678 Paycheck Protection Plan loan was forgiven, as anticipated. Tim reported that the generosity of the parish was demonstrated in the financials: the budget for Excess Pledge Income was \$7,500 – the actual amount received was \$32,753; the budget for Non-Pledge Income was \$25,000 – the actual amount received was \$31,982; and the budget for Plate Income, which funds Outreach and was lowered due to low in-person attendance during COVID, was \$3,000 - the actual amount received was \$6,869. There were some large, unexpected expenses, such as a new hot water heater, but the year ended with an excess of \$23. Pledges for 2022 are \$380,000, which is \$20,000 higher than 2021. Income for 2022 from the Endowment Fund and the Legacy Fund increased over 2021 levels. A year end surplus of \$2,999 is projected for 2022. The 2022 budget was approved by the Vestry at the December Vestry meeting. Tim noted that having a strong budget will be very helpful in the rector search. Kelly Eschenroeder moved, and Jim Moore seconded, that the parish receive the finance report. Motion carried.

Father Todd took time to extend thanks to Pat O'Brien, who is cycling off the Vestry after serving two terms; Betty Bowersox, who is stepping down as chair after running the Stewardship Campaign for many years; and Vince and Michele Nicosia, who are stepping down as co-chairs of the Outreach Committee. Father Todd directed the parish to the outreach report in the annual meeting packet. It illustrates a thriving outreach program at Grace, and Father Todd thanked the Nicosias for their dedication and leadership. Father Todd was happy to report that John Adams will be taking over as chair of the Outreach Committee. Anyone interested in chairing the Stewardship Committee can contact Father Todd.

**Polls Close:** Hearing no further nominations from the floor, Mike Heyer moved and Ann VanConia seconded that the polls close. Motion carried. The polls were closed at 9:39. Mike Johnson moved, and Lyn Ballard seconded, that the parish elect Mike Casey, Susie Reis and James Wethington to serve a three-year Vestry term. Motion passed. Father Todd noted that the names and contact information for Vestry members are listed in the service leaflet. Parish members are encouraged to contact Vestry members with any questions, concerns or suggestions. Sara Losse moved, and Vince Nicosia seconded, that the parish elect Betty Bowersox to serve as Diocesan Convention Delegate. Motion passed.

Father Todd asked parishioners with any questions to come forward.

Q: What is the status of the commissary kitchen?

A: The budget for commissary kitchen has been lowered for 2022. Tim noted that springtime is normally when people look for commissary kitchen space. There were some zoning issues in 2021 which precluded use of the kitchen by outside parties, so the spring uptick never materialized. There is one person currently using the kitchen, and he has some friends who may be interested in using the kitchen at Grace. Father Todd and Tim Engelbrecht met with Ron Gaus, who has been consulting on commissary kitchen issues, and Ron believes there will be more interest this spring.

Q: Where is the \$53,000 Paycheck Protection Loan show on the financials?

A: The funds were posted in 2020, but the \$16,000 carryover from the 2020 budget was shown in the 2021 budget.

Q: Has the \$380,000 budgeted for pledge income been discounted?

A: The \$380,000 was discounted - we have pledges in the amount of \$387,000 to \$390,000.

Tim noted that there is a \$55,000 line item in the budget for expenses related to the rector search. Any excess at year end will be carried over to 2023.

Father Todd reported that St Thomas Church for the Deaf has relocated to Advent Crestwood. Their vicar, Emily Hilquist Davis is the new rector at Advent.

Father Todd let the parish know that Vestry members will be available after the 10:00 service in the LaVielle room, the library and on Zoom to answer questions regarding the transition/search process.

Q: Is there a set length of time that we will have an interim priest?

A: The Bishop was at the January Vestry meeting, and noted that it is important to not rush the search process. The search committee will be formed soon. The Bishop is aware of Grace's experience with a less than ideal interim priest, and promised that Grace will not have that experience this time. The shortest time frame for the search process is about one year.

Chris Kurth extended thanks to those who kept worship at Grace happening during the pandemic, especially Mary Merriweather, who served as crucifer; Tom Petrie for streaming services for those at home; Bill Cadwallader for serving as usher; and for the choir for making sure that music, which is integral to worship at Grace, was able to continue.

Father Todd expressed his tremendous gratitude to the great staff at Grace who give so much to Father Todd and to the parish with their time and their considerable talents: Mother Ginny Bennett for her work as Priest Associate; Shari Bonham, our parish administrator, who has served 23 years at Grace; Philip Brunswick, who has served 28 years as organist and choir master; and Ella Heigham, who has served 32 years as director of the handbell choir. Father Todd noted that Grace thrives due to these four talented people and their calling to serve God in their home parish. Father Todd also extended thanks to the executive committee, who have been working on the transition for the past six months; to the Vestry for the work they have done and for the work that lies ahead of them; and to all members of Grace.

Bill Pohlman moved, and Mike Heyer seconded, that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Nixon  
Secretary of the Vestry

## **Motions from the 163rd Annual Meeting**

Mike Heyer moved, and Susie Reis seconded that the minutes from the 162<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting, held on January 24, 2021, be approved as written. Motion carried.

Lyn Ballard moved, and Mike Heyer seconded, that the agenda for the 163<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting stand as presented. Motion carried.

Kelly Eschenroeder moved, and Jim Moore seconded, that the parish receive the finance report. Motion carried.

Mike Johnson moved, and Lyn Ballard seconded, that the parish elect the Mike Casey, Susie Reis and James Wethington to serve a three-year Vestry term. Motion passed.

Sara Losse moved, and Vince Nicosia seconded, that the parish elect Betty Bowersox to service as Diocesan Convention Delegate. Motion passed.

Bill Pohlman moved, and Mike Heyer seconded, that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.