

Grace Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
February 13, 2023

Vestry Present: John Adams, Jane Cenova (via Zoom), Mike Casey, Kelly Eschenroeder, Rebecca Harrison, Mike Lillmars, Chris Ludbrook, Susie Reis, Ann VanConia , Jim Wethington

Vestry Absent: none

Clergy Present: The Rev. Thomas Skillings

Guests: Shari Bonham, Director of Development and Ministries Coordinator; Tim Engelbrecht, Treasurer; Lyn Ballard, Discernment Team

The meeting was called to order at 7:27.

The opening prayer was given by Susie Reis. Jim Wethington will give the prayer at the March Vestry meeting.

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

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Susie Reis seconded, that the minutes from the January 10, 2023 Vestry meeting be approved as corrected. Motion passed.

Report of the Transitional Pastor: Vestry Retreat Debrief: Rev. Shillings provided the Vestry with notes from the Vestry retreat, with the intention of narrowing down some of the focus areas that were discussed at the retreat, and connecting Vestry liaisons to the focus areas.

Vestry members gave brief reports on some of the focus areas discussed at the retreat.

Chris Ludbrook reported that there is a need for someone familiar with youth ministry to assist with Christian formation. The church school is short on volunteers, and needs support in selecting and implementing curriculum, establishing structure and setting/meeting goals.

Jim Wethington reported that there is a need for a better social media presence, and that it should be put in place before the rector candidates start looking at Grace. He noted that we really need a professional to help with this work.

John Adams addressed outreach. He provided the Vestry with a current list of ministries supported by Grace, along with contact information and the amount of financial support given. The outreach committee is currently working with Rev. Mary Haggerty to discern if any changes need to be made. Community leaders will be asked to speak at church regarding the needs of the community.

Shari Bonham reported that the Invite, Welcome, Connect (and re-connect) committee is setting up meetings with various groups that fall under the Invite, Welcome, Connect umbrella. The first group to meet will be the greeters. There are also some small social events being planned. Shari reported that there are a good number of new members at Grace.

Vestry members each chose a focus area on which to serve as a liaison. The purpose of the liaison position is to serve as a champion of the focus area, and to create a collaborative atmosphere between committees, staff and the parish. Vestry liaison assignments are as follows:

Chris Ludbrook, Sr. Warden: Vestry development and leadership, rector support and communication, Personnel team
Communication/Social Media: Jim Wethington, Susie Reis
Outreach: John Adams, Jane Cenova
Invite, Welcome, Connect : Kelly Eschenroeder
Worship: Rebecca Harrison, Mike Casey
Pastoral Care: Mike Lillmars
Christian Formation: Ann Van Conia

There will be discussion about what it means to be a liaison before the next Vestry meeting.

Chris Ludbrook and Thomas will discuss the Safe Church training – it may be more extensive than necessary.

Lenten Program Discussion: Revs. Mary and Thomas are working on a Lenten program. It will be a cohesive, multigenerational journey including sermons, adult education and a Sunday dinner that includes a program.

Five Marks of Mission: Safeguard Creation: Environmental Stewardship: John Adams is waiting to get the date of a Zoom meeting that will discuss the diocese's solar energy program.

Discernment Team: Lyn Ballard provided the Vestry with a written report.

Lyn reviewed the results of the exercise that was conducted at the annual meeting

Lyn reported that the parish profile should be posted to the Grace website within the coming week. The OTM (Office of Transitional Ministry) form is being finalized, and will be submitted to the national church Office of Transitional Ministry shortly. The OTM publication will have a link to the parish profile on our website. Once the OTM and the parish profile are accessible via the internet, clergy can view them and begin to apply. The deadline for applications will be one month from the date that the profile and the OTM form are posted online.

Lyn reported on the progress of the questions committee, the candidate selection process committee, and the committee that will design and manage the process of conducting interviews via Zoom.

Ministries of Governance, Administration, Stewardship and Facility: *Financial Report:* Tim Engelbrecht had no report as he has just gotten back from vacation. He will be working on the financial report for January this week.

Junior Warden Report: Rebecca Harrison reported that security cameras have been installed in the nursery and the LaVielle room, and in the hallway outside the library. A new lock was put on the LaVielle room door to protect equipment kept in that room.

Senior Warden Report: Chris Ludbrook reported that volunteers are needed for the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner on February 21.

Chris reported that Grace has received thank you letters from Mary Etta Heggie's sons, thanking Grace for naming the mission trip in her memory. Rob Heggie made a donation of \$1,000 to the missions trip. The Elegant Italian Dinner raised over \$6,000.

Thomas led the Vestry in a devotional reading from the New Zealand prayer book.

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Jim Wethington seconded, that the meeting adjourn.
The evening's meeting adjourned at 9:21.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Nixon
Secretary of the Vestry

Motions from the February 13th, 2023 Vestry meeting

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

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Susie Ries seconded, that the minutes from the January 10, 2023 Vestry meeting be approved as corrected. Motion passed.

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Jim Wethington seconded, that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed.