

Grace Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
May 9, 2023

Vestry Present: John Adams, Mike Casey, Jane Cenova, Kelly Eschenroeder, Rebecca Harrison, Mike Lillmars, Chris Ludbrook, Susie Reis, Ann VanConia

Vestry Absent: Jim Wethington

Clergy Present: none

Guests: Shari Bonham, Director of Development and Ministries Coordinator; Lyn Ballard, Transition Team

The meeting was called to order at 7:04.

The opening prayer was given by Mike Lillmars. Susie Reis will give the prayer at the June Vestry meeting.

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Mike Lillmars seconded, that the evening's agenda stand as drawn. Motion passed.

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Susie Reis seconded, that the minutes from the April 11, 2023 Vestry meeting be approved as drawn. Motion passed.

Five Marks of Mission: Respond to the Needs of Others: *Outreach:* John Adams reported that there will be a focus on Horizons (formerly SPROG) this month. He spoke about the longstanding relationship Grace has with Horizons, and that Horizons is very complimentary of that relationship. Horizons is holding a fundraising event this month, and all are asked to make a donation if they are able. Sue Nixon provided the Vestry with a report on Kirk Care, another of Grace's longstanding outreach recipients.

Invite, Welcome, Connect: Shari reminded Vestry members that their "why I go to Grace" paragraphs are needed for the website, which is currently being updated. Shari needs a volunteer to head up the Invite, Welcome, Connect committee. Suggestions should be sent to Shari's attention.

Personnel: Chris Ludbrook reported for Dick Entenmann that the personnel committee is firming up job duties and descriptions in an effort to "get the house in order" before a new rector arrives.

While Phillip Brunswick is on leave, his work will be done by the following:

Liturgy Committee will consist of Lisa Kohler, the Rev. Mary Haggerty, the Rev Thomas Skillings, and Ella Heigham.

Shari Bonham and Mary Haggerty will work on the bulletin.

Lisa Kohler will select hymns and do some work with the choir.

Carla Kurth will schedule lay readers.

Temporary organists have been scheduled for all but two weeks.

Covering Phillip's workload may cost an additional \$4,000 – funding sources are being researched.

There is one applicant for the part-time bookkeeper that looks promising, with another in the wings if needed.

Parishioner Jackie Johnson is working on the Letter of Agreement (LOA) making it specific to Grace. The LOA will be presented to the potential new rector when they visit Grace.

Vestry members are asked to review the trifold pamphlet that was attached to the agenda. Job descriptions need to be created based on the priorities listed in the pamphlet. The Vestry will need to create a ministry review to be performed annually to ensure that everyone is on track.

Discernment Team: Lyn Ballard reported that the team is making great progress. Local interviews will be conducted before the end of May, and will include a meeting with the Bishop. Lyn assured the Vestry that there are good finalists who are very interested in Grace Church. The team has solidified logistics such as hotels for candidates and off site meeting locations for candidates and discernment team members to meet. While the Diocese performs the background checks, Grace is responsible for checking references. Lyn believes that the team should be able to present a name to the Vestry by the end of May or early June.

Thanks were extended to Lyn for her leadership. Lyn let the Vestry know that Grace has “one heck of a discernment team”. Everyone on the team is smart and working hard in different ways – it is a large, diverse group. Lyn reminded the Vestry that the team will only call someone who is absolutely right for Grace.

Junior Warden Report: Rebecca Harrison reported that a person in the neighborhood wrote a letter suggesting that Grace use herbicide on the lawn to get rid of the snowdrops. Grace will not be using herbicide on the lawn.

The irrigation system has been turned on, and new shrubs are being monitored.

The chimney in the library is leaking due to tuckpointing issues. Galati Tuckpointing will make repairs. Grace’s sexton, Tim, will make repairs to fix the leak over the men’s room.

Senior Warden Report: Chris Ludbrook thanked Vestry members for meeting with the groups they were assigned to as liaisons.

May 21 is youth Sunday. There will be some examples of their church school work from the past year. Ryan Missel’s ordination will take place at the Cathedral on June 3. He will preach at Grace on June 4. The home parish traditionally gives an ordination gift. Ann VanConia moved, and Susie Reis seconded, that the Vestry authorize the gift of a stole for Ryan Missel to be presented to him on June 4. Motion passed

Parishioner Bill Nix carved a crucifix that he would like to give to Grace. Chris Kurth, who visits the Nixs regularly, will get the background on the item.

John Adams noted that Mike Lillmars has taken on the task of finding out if Grace can be a part of the diocesan solar power project. Mike has submitted electric bills to those in charge and is awaiting a reply.

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

Rebecca Harrison closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Nixon
Secretary of the Vestry

Motions from the May 9, 2023 Vestry meeting

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