

Grace Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
March 9, 2021

Special Note: Due to the continuing worldwide pandemic of COVID-19 coronavirus, this evening's Vestry meeting took place via Zoom, with Vestry, clergy and guests connecting to the meeting from the safety of their homes by way of computer or phone connection.

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

Vestry Absent: none

Clergy Present: The Rev. Todd McDowell

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:02.

The opening prayer was given by Lyn Ballard.

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Pat O'Brien seconded, that the minutes from the January 12, 2021 Vestry meeting be approved as written. Motion passed.

The evening's agenda stood as presented.

Susie Reis moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the minutes from the February 9, 2021 Vestry meeting be approved as written. Motion passed.

Five Marks of Mission: Proclaim the Good News: *Worship, Music:* Father Todd shared that he was pleased that worship has been able to continue safely through the pandemic. He noted that having four choir members participating in the service has been very nice.

The funeral service for parishioner Tom Lauber will take place on March 13. COVID restrictions remain in place, so only those asked to attend will be allowed to be present. The service will be live streamed at 11:00am.

Teach Baptize and Nurture New Believers: *Invite, Welcome, Connect:* Shari Bonham reported that she has been reviewing past Invite, Welcome, Connect efforts to see what has or has not worked well in the past. She hopes to put a committee in place to be ready for church reopening.

Respond to Human Need, Seek to Transform Unjust Structures: *Outreach Programs, Activities:* John Adams reported that the Trinity Hot Lunch program is running well, and thanked the parish for their support.

Shari Bonham reported that checks requested by the outreach committee have been distributed.

Ministries of Governance, Administration, Stewardship and Facility: *Financial Report:* Tim Engelbrecht provided the Vestry with a copy of the financial report for the month ending February 28, 2021. He gave an abbreviated, non-quarterly oral report. Ann VanConia moved, and Lyn Ballard seconded, that the Vestry accept the financial report for the month ending February 28, 2021. Motion passed.

Our Journey Continues: Tim provided the Vestry with an up to date report on the Our Journey Continues capital campaign. Not quite two full years into the three year campaign, \$482,000.00 has been received.

Columbarium: Father Todd noted that he and Rebecca met with the landscaper to discuss replacing some plants in the columbarium. Funds from the columbarium account will be used to pay for the project.

Junior Warden Report: *Kitchen:* Junior Warden Rebecca Harrison learned that, since food is served from the Grace kitchen, the St Louis County health department will need to conduct annual inspections. Food service includes coffee hour and other church events, which means that all of the updates done in anticipation of the commissary kitchen were actually required for Grace to operate whether or not the kitchen is rented out.

Everything is in place for the commissary kitchen, and Ron Gaus can begin looking for tenants.

Three new trees will be planted – a maple on the Woodlawn side and two evergreens on the Madison side. The trees are replacements for trees that have died or fallen during the last ten years.

Senior Warden Report: Chris Ludbrook reported that six Vestry members attended the on-line Vestry 101 program on March 6. The sessions were recorded and are available for viewing to anyone who is interested. The session highlighted resources that are available to Grace through the Diocese. The Vestry discussed the idea of creating a vision and mission statement. Some work was done toward that end at a previous Vestry retreat.

It was suggested that the position of Vestry member be presented to the parish before nominations are made in the fall. The description currently on the website will be updated.

Chris asked the Vestry to think about ways to welcome people to church as things are allowed to reopen. Email Chris with any ideas.

Report of the Rector: Father Todd announced that there will be a pilgrimage to the Holy Land beginning on December 1, 2021. The pilgrimage will be led by Bishop Deon Johnson, and will be open to the Diocese. Father Todd will be responsible for the logistics of the trip.

There will be a Bishop's Forum with members of Grace on March 15 at 7:00 via Zoom. The forum is an opportunity for Grace Church parishioners to get to know the Bishop, and for him to get to know us. All members of the parish are encouraged to attend. A link to the meeting will be provided to parish members.

Father Todd reported on the deaths of friends and family members of Grace parishioners, as well as the death of parishioner Tom Lauber.

The commissary kitchen contract was discussed. Wording regarding how tenants would move from the ground floor to the main floor will be added to the contract. Father Todd will look into making sure the Grace Church alcohol policy is observed by tenants. It was noted that Nine Mile Garden, located near the intersection of Gravois and McKenzie, hosts several food trucks. Since some tenants will probably run food trucks, Vestry members may want to stop by Nine Mile Garden to get an idea of how food

trucks work. Rent checks for the commissary kitchen will not be deposited into a separate checking account, but Commissary Kitchen will have a separate line item under revenue and expenses on the financial report. All commissary kitchen income and expenses will run through those accounts. The Finance Committee will determine what dollar amount from the commissary kitchen funds will be added to the annual budget.

The new sound system was discussed. It was noted that a couple of volunteers have been trained, and that, ideally, there would be one person on audio and one person on video. Currently, both audio and video are being handled by one person.

The by-laws change voted on at the annual meeting is on the agenda for the upcoming Standing Committee meeting.

The April 13 Vestry meeting will be held via Zoom.

The evenings meeting concluded with a reading of Compline.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:36.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Nixon
Secretary of the Vestry

Motions from the March 9, 2021 Vestry meeting

Susie Reis moved, and Rebecca Harrison seconded, that the minutes from the February 9, 2021 Vestry meeting be approved as written. Motion passed.

Ann VanConia moved, and Lyn Ballard seconded, that the Vestry accept the financial report for the month ending February 28, 2021. Motion passed.

Kelly Eschenroeder moved and Susie Reis seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed.
The meeting adjourned at 8:36.