

Grace Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
June 8, 2021

Vestry Present: Lyn Ballard, Mike Casey, Kelly Eschenroeder, Rebecca Harrison, Chris Ludbrook, Pat O'Brien (via Zoom), Susie Reis, Ann VanConia

Vestry Absent: John Adams

Clergy Present: The Rev. Todd McDowell

Guests: Tim Engelbrecht, Treasurer (via Zoom); Dick Entenmann, Personnel; Betty Bowersox, Stewardship (via Zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 7:08.

The opening prayer was given by Rebecca Harrison. The opening prayer at the August Vestry meeting will be given by Susie Reis.

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

Lyn Ballard moved, and Susie Reis seconded, that the minutes from the May 11, 2021 Vestry meeting be approved as written. Motion passed.

Five Marks of Mission: Proclaim the Good News: Worship, Music: Father Todd and the Vestry discussed how the more relaxed COVID protocols, which took place beginning on June 6, worked. Since the majority of those in attendance were vaccinated, the pews on the Epistle side were much more full than the Gospel side. Protocols will change as needed.

Father Todd, Shari Bonham and Philip Brunswick have tentatively set aside dates for church functions as follows:

August 29 Pancake breakfast

Confirmation class will take place in the 2021-2022 school year

Church School begins September 12

Choir will resume rehearsal during the last week of August

Bell choir will resume rehearsal during the last week of August

Hands on Kirkwood luncheon October 2

Retired clergy luncheon will be held at Grace the first week of August

Church picnic September 26

All decisions on personal spacing and serving of food will be decided based on COVID protocols.

Teach, Baptize and Nurture New Believers: Invite, Welcome, Connect : Shari Bonham has been working on dates for upcoming events. Father Todd extended thanks to Paula Russell and Susie Reis for handling coffee hour duties.

Respond to Human Need, Seek Peace & Justice: Outreach Programs, Activities: The Outreach Committee met on June 6. The Giving Tree will return in 2021.

Safeguard Creation: Environmental Stewardship: Rebecca Harrison reported that the goal of making the outside of our church look as beautiful as the inside is coming to fruition thanks to the installation of an irrigation system, the contributions of parishioners maintaining garden beds, and the fact that plants were purchased for use in the church throughout the Easter season, and the plants were then planted outside. Rebecca noted that Father Todd's vision for our worship and our mission was a key factor in achieving our goal. Father Todd extended thanks to the parishioners who maintain the garden beds.

Ministries of Governance, Administration, Stewardship and Facility: Financial Report: Tim Engelbrecht gave the Vestry an abbreviated, non-quarterly review of the finances. The complete report was sent to the Vestry via email.

Finance Committee Meeting Highlights: Tim reported that the Finance Committee held a special meeting on June 1st. Tim let the committee know that the copier issue discussed at last month's Vestry meeting will have an impact of about \$3,400.00 on the budget this year.

Progress on the zoning issue for the commissary kitchen was reviewed. Father Todd and Ron Gaus attended the Kirkwood Zoning and Planning meeting last week. Questions on commissary kitchen use and on use of space by non-profits will be sent to a sub-committee. Income from the commissary kitchen was budgeted beginning in May. The Finance Committee will meet on June 22 to discuss the impact of the additional copier costs and the fact that there will be no commissary kitchen income until the zoning issue is resolved. It was noted that the \$4,500.00 for continuing education budgeted for 2021 will not be needed, which will relieve some of the economic impact.

Junior Warden Report: Rebecca Harrison reported that the Lab School has agreed to a new five year contract. Lyn Ballard moved, and Kelly Eschenroeder seconded, that the Vestry approve having Rebecca Harrison sign the five year Lab School contract.

The waste pipes from the two Narthex bathrooms were found to be leaking, and have been replaced. The awning that hangs over the door nearest the vestments closet has several holes in it. The awning will be repaired, and water will run off towards the Woodlawn side, which will provide water for a newly planted evergreen. The cost of the repair is within budget limits.

Personnel: Dick Entenmann extended thanks to those who worked every week during COVID – Tom Petrie, who ran the audio-visual equipment; Rebecca Harrison, who was a one-woman altar guild; and Chard Russell and Bill Cadwallader, who served as ushers.

It is hoped that the altar guild and usher teams will be scheduled by the end of August.

Senior Warden Report: Chris Ludbrook put out a call for younger folks to sign up for the Diocese wide softball tournament, which will be held on June 18 and 19th at Tower Grove Park.

The Vestry greeter/lockup schedule is now in force.

The Vestry will be asked to do one more round of parish contact calls in late July. Chris will email the schedule as the time approaches.

Chris asked the Vestry to think about things that worked well during COVID, and things that we may want to discontinue.

Report of the Rector: Father Todd provided the Vestry with updated COVID protocols. There has been no guidance yet as to when wine can be resumed at communion. Vestry members were asked to help explain the current guidelines for seating and mask wearing to the parish.

The evenings meeting concluded with a reading of Compline.

Rebecca Harrison moved, and Susie Reis seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Nixon
Secretary of the Vestry

Motions from the June 8, 2021 Vestry meeting

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