

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

April 17, 2018

Minutes

Members of the Vestry

Elyssa de la Cruz
Cameron Denney
Andrew Eshleman
Robin Gault
Curt Germundsen, Treasurer
Phillip Koop
Steve Lovett, Sr. Warden
Nora McLaughlin
Peyton Snead
Louise Tippens

Clergy

The Rev. Martin Elfert

Others

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk

Members of the Vestry Absent

David Goodrich, Jr. Warden

1. Formation

1.1 Opening Prayers

- The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm with a reading from Acts in an abbreviated form of lectio divina, followed by an opening prayer from Martin.

2. Minutes

2.1 Approval of the Minutes

- The minutes from the March 13, 2018 Vestry meeting were distributed and discussed via e-mail prior to the current meeting. After corrections were made, Louise moved to accept the minutes as corrected, and Nora seconded the motion. The motion passed with an e-mail vote.

3. Items

3.1 Follow-up on Sunday's conversation regarding Campus Planning

- There was a good turn-out for the conversation, and it was considered productive. A third Vestry member is needed for the Grace Campus Development Committee (GCDC), and Nancy would like someone who is a good communicator. It was noted this fits all the Vestry members, and, after a period of consideration, Cameron agreed to be the third Vestry member on the GCDC.
- There was discussion as to the responsibilities of the third Vestry member for the GCDC including whether or not minutes would be required. However, Paddy has been taking minutes at the GCDC meetings, so additional minutes are not needed. If items from the GCDC meetings need attention from the Vestry before the next Vestry meeting, these will be brought to the Vestry immediately.
- The question of involving the neighborhood in discussions at this point was raised, but the committee believes it is better to wait until there is more concrete information to share. There is a possibility a police liaison office could be part of a development project, which could ease some concerns for the neighborhood.
- The need to develop a good mechanism for communicating information to the parish was discussed, and it was decided the regular newsletter will work well for regular updates. A report will be made regularly even if there are no changes to report. Big announcements or developments will have a separate mailing. Steve will contact Nancy to ensure the Vestry receives the minutes of the GCDC meetings. Also, two Vestry members will report monthly on the first Sunday to the congregation, and a rota for the Sunday announcements will be established via e-mail.
- The question of how next steps occur was raised. Paddy and Paul should be able to provide guidelines, and it was also suggested other churches could be contacted for their experiences. After some discussion, it was decided Martin and Nora will draft an appropriate list of questions to ask other churches. Martin will then contact his colleagues and report back to the Vestry with the answers he receives to the questions.
- It was requested the final version of the letter Nancy sent to the Portland Housing Bureau (PHB) be sent to the Vestry to make sure all have the correct version.

3.2 Auction Update – what does Phillip need from the Vestry, staff and volunteers? What is our timeline?

- Phillip reported he needs to confirm the date for this year and would also like to confirm next year's date. Stokes is definitely wanted as the auction house, and Phillip will find out if Brad is available the last Saturday in September. It was suggested the date be moved to mid-October due to summer absences creating a rush in September. Phillip will check with Jackie regarding church availability as a starting point for setting the date.
- Once the auction date has been established, Phillip will work on forming a committee. A list of past donations is available, and the list could be divided among Vestry members to request donations for this year's auction. Direct contact with an individual regarding a donation is more successful than a general

appeal for donations. Using an Excel spreadsheet to track donations was suggested. Auction updates will be now be a regular Vestry agenda item.

3.3 Moment of Grace

- Robin shared one of the most famous sermons of St. John Chrysostom.

3.4 “10 Rules of Respect” or something similar – what kind of norms might we adopt around communication?

- Effective communication is a priority, and, while Martin likes the substance of the “10 Rules”, he would like it to be less pastor-centric. He suggested drafting a similar document that is more “we” oriented. It would initially be a Vestry document with the possibility of sharing it with the congregation after testing it for several months. Although the guidelines are basic, it would still be beneficial to have them in written form. Cameron and Robin agreed to help Martin draft a new version of “10 Rules”, with more positive elements added. The document will be revisited at the next Vestry meeting.

3.5 Reports

- Rector
 - Martin reported the pilgrimage was great but coming back in the midst of Holy Week was tough.
 - Geoff will Skype in to the next Vestry meeting, and the Vestry will be invited to recommend he continues the ordination process.
 - A stewardship committee would be welcomed, and a new model for the stewardship campaign might be considered for this year. The committee should be 3 to 5 people and do not need to be Vestry members.
 - Martin posed the question if there is energy in the parish to offer respectful help to caregivers who might need assistance. He will leave this with the Vestry to think about.
- Treasurer
 - Curt has had good, helpful sessions to do report clean-up with Jackie. Some pledges are lagging so there is a bit of a deficit. Expenses are ok and the cash is steady. Curt and Jackie have regular check-ins, which will help clear up discrepancies and questions. He will look into the variances he mentioned.

3.6 Other Business

- Elyssa, as the Grace Institute liaison, reported on the upcoming Earth Day celebration and distributed flyers.
- Martin noted the upcoming Grace Family Retreat scheduled to take place the first weekend in June at Camp Magruder near Tillamook. The theme is “Who Do You Say That I Am?”

3.7 Closing Prayer

- Martin offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.

Addendum: As the result of an e-mail discussion several days after the Vestry meeting, Elyssa moved to have Grace Memorial Episcopal Church refund the purchase price of two columbarium niches to Tom and Roberta Opdenweyer. Nora seconded the motion, and the motions passed. Martin, at Steve's recommendation, will send the Opdenweyers a letter with the \$1,500 refund making it clear the refund is entirely voluntary on the part of the parish, and Grace is under no obligation to issue a refund to them or anyone else.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk