

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

June 19, 2018

Minutes

Members of the Vestry

Elyssa de la Cruz
Cameron Denney
Andrew Eshleman
Robin Gault
David Goodrich, Jr. Warden
Phillip Koop
Steve Lovett, Sr. Warden

Clergy

The Rev. Martin Elfert

Others

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk

Members of the Vestry Absent

Curt Germundsen, Treasurer
Nora McLaughlin
Peyton Snead
Louise Tippens

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 May 15, 2018 Vestry meeting were distributed and discussed via e-mail prior to the current meeting. Following corrections, Elyssa moved to accept the minutes as corrected, and Louise seconded the motion. The motion passed with an e-mail vote on June 8, 2018.

3. Items

3.1 Potential Parking Contract with Uber

- Uber, which has an office across the street from Grace on Weidler, has offered to rent parking spaces in Grace's lot. A draft of a contract between Grace and Uber was reviewed and discussed. The contract notes the 14 parking spaces facing 16th Avenue with the rent set at \$500 per month. The contract is for September to December with Grace having access to all parking spots at specified times, such as on Sunday for services, and also with 24 hour notice for special events. Questions were raised about whether there would be enough parking available for all the groups regularly meeting at Grace. Several members of the Vestry went outside to survey the parking spaces along 16th, and, as a result, it was decided to amend the contract to 10 spaces along 16th Avenue, south of the driveway, for \$500 per month for 3 months. If parking proves problematic or other concerns are raised by the parish, the contract will not be renewed. It was noted Uber approached Grace with an offer to pay for parking, and it is a hope this might prove to be leverage for other businesses currently parking for free in Grace's lot to also contract for spaces.
- Steve noted the discussed edits to the contract on a copy of it, which include defining the location of the 10 spaces Uber will rent and correcting the Auction date to October 6, and Martin will give the document to Jackie to amend. Martin will include the parking rental information in the newsletter and also announce it during services. Cameron moved to accept the contract as edited, and Dave seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

3.2 Report on College for Congregational Development segueing into Vestry Communications Covenant

- Martin reported it was an energizing time and included a number of participants from many other states. An exercise the 3 of them did proved surprisingly rewarding; they talked about Grace while their small group listened, and then the group told them what they heard. It was noted many positive words were used and thoughts expressed. He will have more to share later.
- The covenant language was discussed, and Martin said more suggestions are welcome as it is a living document, which will be revised. The definition of conflict was discussed and needs to be clarified. It was agreed this can be difficult, but, generally, if the temperature of an e-mail exchange is rising, it's time to get offline and talk in person. However, flexibility needs to be a part of the definition, and it was suggested the document might have a footnote saying it only takes one person to see the exchange as conflict. Additional editing will be done to the document by Andrew.

3.3 Update on Campus Planning

- Phillip reported the City has said we probably won't have an answer until next year. Ross asked, unofficially, if Grace should look elsewhere for a development partner and was told, unofficially, yes. The Planning Committee is meeting July 5th and will discuss next steps. The irony of the City's requirement for a speedy response from Grace and their own delayed reply was noted.
- It was announced Jordan Schnitzer has purchased the Bishop's Close, but the house will be rented back to the Diocese for 5 years while another location is found for the offices. There is a possibility the Diocese may want to build offices on the Grace campus. Discernment and discussion are needed, as well

as discussions with other parishes who have their Diocesan offices on their campus. Martin knows of churches with this situation.

- Further news was shared about the City using bond money for property purchases for housing, and there will be affordable housing built at Grand and Holladay. It will have 144 affordable apartments and will be called Block 45. It's possible the City is waiting for the outcome of the election in November with the possible constitutional change regarding building partnerships before deciding on additional building projects.

3.4 Auction Update

- Phillip announced the Grace Dinner and Auction will take place Saturday, October 6th. The theme will mirror the Art Camp theme of the Silk Road and is tentatively being called An Evening at a Caravan Sarai. He has selected an auctioneer after reviewing the resumes of the available auctioneers from Stokes. While they all had good recommendations, he chose the one he felt was the best fit for Grace. The contract with Stokes needs to be signed, and he was directed to ask Jackie for the most appropriate person to sign.
- Donation forms should be available in the office this week after a few minor edits are made. The ticket prices will be \$50 for early bird purchases and \$60 at the door. They will be on sale as soon as Phillip checks the software and decides on the best sale procedure.
- Martin asked Phillip to let the Vestry know how it can best help with the auction. Phillip said soliciting donations is always helpful, and he has access to the list of past donors. Broadway merchants, for example, have always donated but do need someone to ask them for a donation.

3.5 Reclaiming Jesus Statement: is this something that Grace is called to endorse?

- The document provided by Martin is a robust statement signed by Bishop Michael Curry among others. While not necessary, Grace could choose to endorse it, and he commends it to the Vestry for consideration. It is also available online, and several commented they had seen it and found it very powerful. The question was asked: "What would we like to do with this, if anything?" It was suggested to brainstorm ideas. It was also seen as a potential test of conflict and too intense to discuss online.

3.6 Follow up on Helping Ministry

- Martin reported a member of the parish spent an afternoon with another parishioner needing assistance, and he was told it was a good experience. He raised the question if it's ok to let this type of help happen in a loose fashion or would it be better to formalize the ministry if others are called to it. He will solicit the congregation to see if there is interest. The ministry could consist of any number of activities from helping around the house, providing rides or staying with someone for an afternoon as Jo did. It would be great to have a roster of those able to help from time to time.
- The House Sharing presentation on Sunday was very good; it's a well-developed and sophisticated program, but Grace may be able to take some pointers from the model for the Helping Ministry.
- Martin will craft an announcement about the Helping Ministry for the e-news and the bulletin. It will be emphasized all levels of participation are appreciated.

- The pastoral care team has been consulted about the Helping Ministry for possible assistance. It was noted the Healing Ministry, another potential source for the Helping Ministry, is a very small group and maintains its Sunday morning presence. Consequently, the group may not be available for additional service. Phillip reminisced about the past casserole program and also the healing services, which used to take place monthly.

3.7 Reports

- Rector
 - Martin reported he is currently in contract negotiations with Jenny Stadler of PHAME, and a rent increase is expected to be the most significant change.
 - Martin will be away from July 9 to August 4 for vacation and continuing education. He is looking forward to a course in Sorrento, BC by John Bell.
 - On August 22, the next scheduled Vestry meeting, Martin will be attending a 2-day continuing education event. The Vestry meeting will need to be moved to either August 14 or 28. As a number of Vestry members are absent, Steve said he will e-mail all members to find out which date will work the best.
 - Martin, who will be away on Sunday due to an out-of-town wedding, asked Vestry members to be watching for a woman in her 70s, and her 40-ish daughter, on Sunday and say hello to them.
 - He reported a parishoner, who is a regular 8am service attendee, has stopped her chemo treatments and is entering the last stages of her life. He commended her to our prayers.
- Jr. Warden
 - Dave reported Nancy had the courtyard gate fixed. The work was well done, and the gate is now much more secure.
 - Some plastering repair work has been done on the foundations of the houses.
 - The recent work day was well attended and a lot of mulch was spread. Frank is very happy!
 - Martin reported he suspects the cause of the tremors felt on recent Sunday mornings may be attributed to busses driving over a sink hole on Weidler near the church.
- Treasurer
 - Financial reports were provided via e-mail, but Curt is presently out of town.

3. Other Business

- None.

3.8 Closing Prayer

- Martin offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk