

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

August 28, 2018

Minutes

Members of the Vestry

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

Clergy

The Rev. Martin Elfert

Others

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk

Members of the Vestry Absent

Peyton Snead

Prior to August 28, 2018 Vestry Meeting

Approval of PHAME contract

- The PHAME contract was reviewed via e-mail following the June meeting. Robin moved to accept the contract, and Dave seconded the motion. Two typos were noted after the motion was made, and the motion passed with an e-mail vote on June 30, 2018.

Approval of the Minutes

- The minutes from the June 19, 2018 Vestry meeting were distributed and discussed via e-mail prior to the current meeting. Robin moved to accept the minutes as presented, and Cameron seconded the motion. The motion passed with an e-mail vote on July 1, 2018.

1. Formation

1.1 Opening Prayers

- The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm with a reading from Acts in an abbreviated form of lectio divina, followed by an opening prayer from Martin.

2. Items

2.1 Parking Contract with Uber

- Following the discussion of the Uber parking space contract during the June Vestry meeting, Jackie made the agreed upon revisions to the contract. After the June Vestry meeting, Uber requested the time period in the contract be extended to the end of 2021. The increased length of time initially caused some concern, but it was noted the contract can be terminated by either party at any time. After a brief discussion, the extended period was no longer seen as a concern. Martin had asked for an inflationary increase to be included in the contract and will review the document to make sure the increase is shown. An increase of 5% per year was proposed and considered reasonable. Nora moved to accept the contract with the inclusion of the annual increase as discussed, and Dave seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

2.2 Vestry Communications Covenant

- The Communications Covenant was edited by Andrew and the revised version was distributed to the Vestry. Thanks were given to Andrew for improving the flow of the language in the Covenant. After a brief discussion, Nora moved to adopt the Communications Covenant for the Vestry, and Dave seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

2.3 Update on the Grace Auction

- Phillip reported 6 tables have been sold and a few individual tickets. The online program for purchasing tickets is not working, but Phillip is looking into the situation. Unknown fees have been appearing on the statement for the service, and he is trying to determine if all the fees are correct or not. He noted some donations have been received and expects an increase once people are back from summer vacations. Currently, donated items are being stored in Tom's office, but they will soon be moved to the Godly Play Room. Phillip asked for all members of the Vestry to donate at least one oral auction item or service. There was a brief discussion of the Vestry also providing a basket for the auction.
- Martin commented he has been asking local merchants for gift cards for the auction and has had some success. He also noted there is a letter available to help individuals ask for donations. Phillip was asked if there is a list of merchants who have been regular donors in the past, which there is, and letters requesting donations should be going out to these merchants as well as in-person requests. It was suggested the list be divided among Vestry members, and Martin will ask Jackie to provide the list and letter to Vestry members.
- Phillip is planning to use a more ethnic caterer rather than an ethnic-inspired caterer. He has been in discussion with the owners of the food truck that provided the food for the end of Art Camp dinner as the meal was delicious and in keeping with the Art Camp and auction themes. He is hoping for a menu

of Mediterranean/Persian dishes. Several restaurant suggestions were offered by other Vestry members as possible caterers, and Phillip was urged to finalize the arrangements soon. Bar service will also be arranged and may possibly be provided by the caterer.

- The auction will have a different auctioneer this year but one from the same company Grace has used in the past. While Phillip felt any of the auctioneers available would have been an excellent choice, he was particularly drawn to the one he selected based on prior experience.
- Phillip added he has some volunteers already lined up, and James offered to once again be responsible for coordinating the Friday night set-up.
- Martin asked to have Vestry members pitch the auction at both services on Sunday. Curt said he would speak at the 8am service, and Phillip and Cameron will do the 10am service. Providing an update on campus planning was also suggested as the first Sunday of the month is the agreed time for updates to the parish. However, since this Sunday is a holiday weekend, it was decided to postpone the update until the 9th as attendance will likely be greater.

2.4 First look at a quote to install air conditioning in the Nave

- Martin has found out the furnace can accommodate air conditioning easily, and \$7,600 is the quote he received to install air conditioning in the Nave. It was generally felt the quote was reasonable, and it would be great to have air conditioning in the Nave. A suggestion was made to e-mail Art Camp participants to ask for donations for the installation. A mini campaign for the parish was another suggestion or a paddle raise at the auction. Curt reported there might be some money in the budget for some of the expense. After some discussion, it was felt asks of the parish should be kept to a minimum, and Martin will approach the Grace Foundation about covering some of the expense, if we were to proceed with the installation of air conditioning.
- The cost of operating air conditioning, if we proceed, was raised, and Martin will ask Jackie to contact the contractor for estimated costs. Because Art Camp is a heavy user of the Nave in the summer, asking Ashley for help with operating costs seemed appropriate.

2.5 Candidate for Grace Institute Board

- Elyssa reported the Grace Institute Board would like to add artist Dana Murphy as a non-voting member. Dana is a fiber artist who has been active at the Grace camps, and her grandchildren have also been campers. She is a retired Special Ed teacher, and a supporter of equity issues. The GI Board is excited to bring an artist's perspective to the table. The question was raised as to whether or not the GI by-laws allow for a non-voting board member (Dana would need to be a non-voting member as she is an employee of Grace Art Camp). Subject to the by-laws allowing non-voting members, Philip moved to approve Dana Murphy as non-voting Grace Institute Board member. Cameron seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

2.6 Moment of Grace

- Nora shared some poems from a book, Instead of Sadness, written by a friend of hers, Catherine Abbey Hodges.

2.7 Other business

- Andrew raised up the family detention camp display idea initially suggested by Mariann and discussed in several Grace newsletters as well as in church last Sunday. She did receive one negative comment on Sunday about the idea of a display at Grace, but the majority of comments have been positive. He would like Vestry support to move ahead with creating a similar display to the one in Indianapolis featured in the newsletters. The display would be temporary and probably be in place about 2 months. The possibility of vandalism was raised, and it was suggested contacting the church in Indianapolis for tips to minimize vandalism. It is possible acts of vandalism will provoke positive responses. An explanatory sign will be needed for the display as well as a document explaining the reasons for installing it. The poster outside the office was suggested as a source for the sign and document. The costs of the project will be covered by donations. Andrew moved to have the Vestry give affirmation to the project of setting up a nativity scene inside a fence to protest US immigration policies at the border that involve detention of families. Robin seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- A recent visit by several Grace members to the St. Francis apartments was discussed. The apartments were built by the St. Francis of Assisi church and provide low income housing. The dedication of the St. Francis parish to help the homeless was noted and discussed; there are many other programs at the church to help the homeless as well as the apartments. The building of the apartments involved complex financing from a number of different agencies and was a 5-year process. The apartments have on-site management and attractive interior common spaces. It was commented the exterior is not as attractive as the interior but is undoubtedly very practical and durable. The St. Francis parish has a succinct vision a “North Star” that guided it throughout the building process. There is interest in others from Grace also touring the St. Francis apartments, and, while the possible development at Grace will have different goals from the goals at St. Francis, there could still be much to learn from the experiences of the St. Francis parish.

2.8 Reports

- Rector
 - Martin reported Daniel Granias will be leaving Halsey House soon, most likely by December 31. What should Grace do with the Halsey House once Daniel leaves? Is Airbnb a possibility?
 - Martin has been visiting Grace’s building partners recently to become better acquainted.
 - He will be gone this Sunday to perform a wedding in California.
 - Recently, Martin saw an idea for providing a place for people to ask for prayers using a chalkboard in a public place. He would like to try this at Grace and provide a chalkboard placed near the bus stop outside church. It was agreed it will be interesting to see the results of the project.
 - On the 9th, new members will be welcomed to Grace, and Martin would like each new member briefly introduced (one or two sentences) at the service by a current member. Also, he would

like the current member to interview the new member and provide an article about the new member for the newsletter. He will circulate the request among the Vestry.

- It's time to begin thinking about new Vestry members. The new slate will be elected at the Annual Parish Meeting, and at least 4 new members are needed. Suggestions can be discussed via e-mail.
- Does Grace want to have stewardship goal this year? One suggestion is a part-time clergy position, but there are many other possibilities.
- After some research, Martin has discovered the Vestry is responsible for appointing delegates from Grace to the convention rather than the parish electing delegates. Jim and Claudia Frahm, Kathleen Chapman, and Myra Clark are willing to be delegates, and Bob Zimmer will be an alternate. Robin moved to accept this slate of delegates, and Louise seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Jr. Warden
 - Dave reported the platform for the altar is in poor repair. However, Martin is working on repairs, which will be completed soon.
 - Nancy McCusker was thanked for organizing the thorough cleaning of the pews.
- Treasurer
 - Financial reports were provided, and Curt reviewed some of his concerns. The pledges are a little behind, but it was concluded this is typical for the time of year. The Grace Foundation management fees are also lagging a bit. Cash in the bank is down, but the equity fund at Charles Schwab is doing well.
 - Curt has been asked to be a member of the Campus Development Committee. He recently became the executive director of QUAD Inc., which provides low income housing for the severely disabled. He is well versed in low income housing and noted QUAD Inc. has a lot of foundation support.

2.9 Closing Prayer

- Martin offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk