

**Grace Memorial Episcopal Church**

**Vestry Meeting Minutes**

**April 21, 2020**

**Members of the Vestry Present**

Roosevelt Carter  
Cameron Denney  
Andrew Eshleman  
Robin Gault, Co-Sr. Warden  
Curt Germundson, Treasurer  
Daniel Jones  
Holly Puckett  
Louise Tippens, Co-Sr. Warden  
Kathryn (Katy) Unbehaun  
David Waldow  
Kevin Walsh

**Clergy Present**

The Rev. Martin Elfert  
The Rev. Jeanne Kaliszewski

**Others Present**

Nancy Entrikin  
Sharon Loomis-Malin  
Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk

**Members of the Vestry Absent**

Charles McGee

**Prior to April 21, 2020 Vestry Meeting**

Small Business Administration Lending Program

- On April 2, 2020, Robin moved to have Grace Memorial apply for the Small Business Administration Lending Program "Paycheck Protection Program". Louise seconded the motion, and it was approved by an e-mail vote of the Vestry on April 2, 2020.

## **1. Formation**

### 1.1 Opening Prayers

- The meeting began at 6:02pm with a reading of Acts 25 in an abbreviated form of lectio divina, followed by a prayer from Martin.

## **2. Items**

### 2.1 Consent Agenda Items

- The March Vestry Meeting Minutes and Jr. Warden's Report were included in the Consent Agenda Items distributed to the Vestry prior to the meeting. No items were requested to be removed from the Consent Agenda. Daniel moved to accept the reports as presented, and Curt seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

### 2.2 Grace Institute Report

- Sharon was open and upfront about the dilemma of deciding what the summer will look like this year in regards to Grace Art Camp. She and the GI Board have been consulting with health care professionals, and it appears it will not be possible to hold Art Camp in June and maybe not July as gatherings of over 200 are not being allowed. She is very concerned for her Art Camp artists and thinks they might qualify for unemployment if Art Camp is postponed for a year. If Art Camp is postponed, she is hoping the fees paid for this year will either become donations or used for next year's Art Camp tuition so that refunds will not be necessary for this year.
- The possibility of a smaller version of Art Camp held outside has been discussed, but this is not feasible either financially or from the position of deciding which campers and artists could attend. Another more promising option might be offering online content, and this is being explored. It may be possible to allocate grants for Art Camp for online offerings by artists, and she is currently waiting to hear about two grants. Sharon is keeping the artists informed as possibilities are discussed.
- The financial impact to not using the space for the summer was discussed. Sharon said she is not worried about the ability to bounce back next summer but is very concerned about the approximately 70 employees who may be laid off. Future protocols are unknown, and there is a need, of course, to provide a safe work environment. When asked her thoughts for a best case scenario, she said it would be to have some Art Camp in August. In case that can happen, a week has been added to the Grace calendar for Art Camp in August. Possible loans or grants were discussed, such as a rent forgiveness loan. Martin said PHAME was able to receive a rent forgiveness loan and can now continue to pay rent to Grace. Sharon said her main concern is taking care of the Art Camp artists.
- Sharon added she and her Board are working from home, and those who need to use Grace's internet system are experiencing connectivity issues. Efforts are being made to resolve the problems.

### 2.3 Planning Committee Update

- A draft of the Grace Commons Newsletter was provided to the Vestry via e-mail prior to the Vestry meeting. Nancy noted the work of the Planning Committee has slowed as the businesses involved are adjusting to working from home. She believes the current pandemic situation will put back the

development plans by at least a year. Destin thinks the delay is actually ok as the available funds for the project need to be sorted out and waiting until next year will allow time for this to happen.

- On May 14, the City Council will hold the zoning hearing. Nancy this it will be a closed meeting and approval is expected. Rezoning will help the development plans by allowing greater flexibility. Nancy said the concept for the development has been shifting towards separate structures for Grace, PHAME and the housing. Brian is working on a new concept, which will keep all the entities separate but still provide a sense of community. With this new approach, she noted the overall legal fees for Grace would be less and not all of the funding would need to be in place before building could start. Once the concept is revised and accepted, the capital campaign can begin.
- Nancy added the Leaven Community Land and Housing Coalition would love to have a small team from Grace participate in their work towards affordable housing. Interested Grace members should contact Jeanne.

#### 2.4 Rector's Report (Capital Campaign)

- Before Martin presented his report, Robin complimented Martin, Jeanne and their team for the stunning services we've had. Martin said it was the gift of a crisis and offered many thanks to all those who made it possible. He was thankful this did not happen a year ago while he was solo-pastoring. He said this is a wonderful community and hopes the current situation will be a growing and learning experience. There are plans to continue streaming the services even after we can once again meet in person. He noted attendance has been up for the services, which is an unintended consequence. The easier accessibility to services has been appreciated, and he has received positive comments on the intimacy of streaming to homes.
- Martin suggested the Vestry meet Diane, the new capital campaign coordinator, virtually at next month's Vestry meeting so she can both meet the Vestry and explain the capital campaign. We are at the very beginning of the campaign, and he is thinking of recruiting people to take part in the campaign planning. Diane will explain the Vestry's role and how the campaign should progress. It would be a collective effort rather than separate efforts by Grace, GI and PHAME.

#### 2.5 Moment of Grace

- Louise shared a timely poem entitled Shelter in Place by Oregon's Poet Laureate, Kim Stafford.

#### 2.6 Treasurer's Report

- Curt noted revenue was down for March a little but added some pledges were still in the cash box at the church.
- The organ repair expense on the Treasurer's Report comes out of the organ fund. Investments overall have dropped, but he said the market has recovered some. He reported Jackie said there have been some special donations made, but these are not yet on the books.
- He went on to talk about what happens after the pandemic and the need to balance grief with thanksgiving. We need to celebrate the loss of life we used to know and hope some good comes from it all.

## 2.7 Fund Raising for Curate Salary

- Martin said he is planning to reach out to last year's donors and ask for a renewal of their donation to the Curate's salary. He noted the Diocese has renewed their grant. He thinks it's a good plan to acknowledge the current situation but not assume people will not want to give right now.
- Martin will write a letter for the second-year funding and noted there are many positive things to report about Jeanne's curacy. A suggestion was made to ask everyone and not just past donors.

## 2.8 Coronavirus and GMEC

- Jeanne reported the Circles of Care are ongoing and doing well. Pastoral care has shifted and Facetime is being used. She and Martin are keeping close tabs on some parishioners, which is more difficult with social distancing. She appreciates how people have stepped in to help in so many ways. She is working on methods to engage visitors at online services.
- A banner will be added to the west wall of the church with information about the services being streamed. She is also working on improving Grace's social media presence. Jeanne concluded by mentioning the book study, which will be starting next month, and how it ties into changes at the end of the pandemic.

## 2.9 Bylaws Committee Report

- Andrew said he has not received any substantive revisions from last month's presentation. Curt moved to accept the Bylaws as presented, and Cameron seconded the motion. After a brief discussion it was decided to change the reference to note Roberts Rules of Order would be the guide rather than govern. Louise made a motion to accept the amendment to the Bylaws, and Daniel seconded the motion. The motion to amend passed unanimously, and the original motion to accept the Bylaws then passed unanimously as well.
- Martin and Andrew noted the formatting of the document needs some edits but that it was not overly important. However, a volunteer to make the edits would be welcome.

## 2.10 Vestry Liaison Report

- The Vestry Liaison Report will be tabled until the next Vestry meeting as Charles is absent this evening.

## 2.11 Equity and Inclusion Report

- There was much praise for the Equity and Inclusion Statement and discussion as to how it will work for Grace and be incorporated in the actions of Grace. It was suggested comments be invited by the Parish and to have historical information provided when the Statement is shared with the Parish to provide

context. It could be used as an educational tool and give people an opportunity to understand the reasons why it exists.

- A few grammatical suggestions were made for the Equity and Inclusion Statement, and Curt moved to accept the document as revised. Holly seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

#### 2.12 Other Business

- None.

#### 2.13 Closing Prayer

- Martin offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk