

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2020

Members of the Vestry Present

Roosevelt Carter
Andrew Eshleman
Robin Gault, Co-Sr. Warden
Curt Germundson, Treasurer
Charles McGee
Kathryn (Katy) Unbehaun
David Waldow
Kevin Walsh

Clergy Present

The Rev. Martin Elfert
The Rev. Jeanne Kaliszewski

Others Present

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk

Members of the Vestry Absent

Cameron Denney
Daniel Jones
Holly Puckett
Louise Tippens, Co-Sr. Warden

1. Formation

1.1 Opening Prayers

- The meeting began at 6:03pm with a reading from Ruth in an abbreviated form of lectio divina followed by an opening prayer from Martin.

2. Items

2.1 Consent Agenda

- No changes were requested for the November minutes, and it was accepted as presented.

2.2 Rector's Report

- Martin reported on the recent meeting with the case review committee, which he said was an energizing and affirming conversation. He said brochures about both the project and the organizations involved will be drafted to aid with the fund raising, and he feels confident the fund-raising goal will be

reached. Once the magic of this coming together of all the entities is seen, enthusiasm will be created, which in turn will aid the fund raising. He noted it is challenging to be succinct in explaining why these organizations (PHAME, GMEC, GI plus NHA) are coming together for the project, as well as to focus on the goals of the project.

- Establishing a consortium was discussed, and Curt explained a consortium is necessary for clarity of communication and the administration of campus operations. It is better to start working together now rather than later in the project, and a consortium in the form of a 501(c)3 will add substance to the project. The process for creating a 501(c)3 was estimated to take about 6 months, and, as part of the 501(c)3 process, a board with representatives from GMEC, GI and PHAME will need to be formed and bylaws written. After some additional discussion, Katy moved to pursue the creation of a 501(c)3 for the Grace Campus Development project, and Robin seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

2.3 Jr. Warden's Report

- David noted a new item on his report, which is what appears to be leak in the Sacristry roof. A temporary repair has been made, but a more permanent solution is needed.
- After the holidays, David will be following up with locksmiths regarding the door hardware and locks in the church, and he will also have a professional evaluation done of what appears to be mold in the loft over the Sanctuary.

2.4 Moment of Grace

- David shared a timely Advent reading by Margaret Anne Huffman called "For Those Who Live Alone".

2.5 Treasurer's Report

- Curt reported the deficit is slightly larger because revenue is down, but added expenses are also down. He is done with the parochial report, which needs to be sent to the Diocese soon. He said there is a trust distribution coming soon, but he has been unable to determine the exact amount coming to Grace. He will reach out for clarification.
- There is a corporate resolution statement that needs to be signed by Martin to prove he has the power and authority to sign trust documents, such as the one Curt has said will soon be benefiting Grace. The Vestry need to agree to adopt the resolution and grant Martin these powers. This document will likely be needed in the future as well during the development project. He said the resolution does not need to be notarized. After some discussion, Keith moved that Grace move forward with the corporate resolution, and David seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Curt will be helping Jackie close out the books for 2020. He noted the financial markets are doing well for Grace's investments, and pledges are also in good shape. He concluded by saying he and Jackie are waiting for additional rules regarding the forgiveness of the PPP loan.

2.6 Grace Institute Report

- Charles reported classes have been postponed due to the governor's recent mandate. Art classes are planned for later this winter and spring, and smaller 3-day camps are planned for later in the year as well as the regular summer Art Camps. The budget will be reviewed with these plans in mind and discussed at the upcoming GI Board meeting.
- A position will be posted soon for a Development Manager for GI. The actual hire date is anticipated to occur in January.

2.7 Vestry Candidates

- It was reported in Louise's absence that the Vestry Skills Matrix has been completed, and more information will follow at next month's Vestry meeting.
- A question has been raised about legal representation for the Vestry regarding the campus development project. Pro bono counsel may be available, and legal counsel options are being explored.

2.8 New Business

- The first sessions of Sacred Ground have been completed, and a second set of sessions is coming in the New Year. A group of no more than 14 is the goal for optimum discussion.
- The Annual Meeting will be the last Sunday in January. A question was raised if the by-laws allow for an online Annual Meeting, and the by-laws will be reviewed to find out if there are any provisions restricting an online meeting.
- The new bishop will be consecrated at the end of January.

2.9 Closing Prayer

- Martin offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk