

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

August 15, 2017

Minutes

Members of the Vestry

Gale Beagle, Jr. Warden
Elyssa de la Cruz
Robin Gault
David Goodrich
Phillip Koop
Steve Lovett, Sr. Warden
Nora McLaughlin
Rebecca Wong

Members of the Vestry Absent

Charlene McGee
Peyton Snead

Clergy

The Rev. Martin Elfert
Ken Powell

Others

Curt Germundsen, Treasurer
Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk

1. Formation

1.1 Opening Prayers

- The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm, and Martin read from Acts in an abbreviated form of lectio divina, following with an opening prayer.

2. Minutes

2.1 Approval of the Minutes

- There were no corrections to the minutes of the May meeting. Nora moved the minutes be approved as presented and Becky seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Items

3.1 Affirm or Elect Andrew Eshelman as Vestry Member

- Andrew was not able to be present this evening as he is with his mom who is ill, but he expects to be at the September vestry meeting. A motion was made by Becky to elect Andrew to the vestry for the remainder of the year. David seconded the motion; there was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously. It is anticipated Andrew will also be asked to be part of the new slate of vestry members for 2018.

3.2 Money Counting Policy

- The money counting policy of Trinity was shared and reviewed as an example of an effective policy for the protection of all who handle the monies received during services. Currently, the money received is counted by Dan on Monday or Tuesday in the office with Jackie present after it has been locked in the safe on Sunday. After some discussion, it was decided some revisions were needed to adapt it for use by Grace, and Curt and Jackie will revise the Trinity document after verifying the current procedure with Dan and the Altar Guild. A drop box in the sacristy was suggested as a possibility for safely storing the offerings until counted and deposited without concern for access to the safe as the safe combination is known only to a few people. Gale moved to have two people present for counting the Sunday offerings while the new policy is being created, and Dave seconded the motion. Jackie will be asked to notify all concerned with counting the monies and will follow-up with Trinity regarding the details of their policy. There was no additional discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

3.3 Pledging/Stewardship Campaign

- Concerns have been raised by some parishioners regarding the thank you notes from Martin sent out after the last pledge drive which noted the amount of the pledge. It was a concern as Martin might feel differently towards individuals with the knowledge of their pledge amounts. Martin said he had been considering making his family's pledge amount known during the upcoming pledge drive along with background information as to how his family arrived at that amount. After hearing of the concerns, he discussed this issue with his mentors and received several different responses but all agreed they were aware of the amounts of pledges in their respective churches. Concern had also been raised that vestry members knew the amounts of pledges. After some discussion, it was decided it would be beneficial if it was made clear to the congregation the limited number of people who know the amount of pledges. Martin feels he should know pledge amounts and pointed out the 3 parts of stewardship are time/talent/treasure. He felt it doesn't make sense to have one of them a secret. However, it will be made clear to the parish the limited number of people with pledge amount information.

3.4 Update on Research into Campus Renos

- Ross Cornelius called in to the meeting to report on the search for a development partner. Holladay Park is now thinking the scope of the project may be too large, but there is room for discussion. He named Andrew Clark and Jonathan Trenton as others to whom the proposal can be submitted. There was discussion on possibly tightening the criteria of the proposal, and it was agreed all developers should receive the same proposal and what the proposal should include. Steve asked for more information

about developers and their approaches to the project, and Becky asked if we had contacted Prosper Portland, formerly known as Portland City Development. Ross noted the current zoning is high density housing, and a zoning change, if housing is not part of the project. After more was heard from Ross about the zoning change process, it was deemed not ideal to seek a change in the zoning.

- Next steps were asked of Ross. He encouraged more discussion with Holladay Park and approaching market rate developers. The solicitation should be tightened up, and a due date given for proposals. He stressed discernment to select the correct partner, keeping ethics and values in mind. Steve suggested another meeting with the committee and vestry after proposals are received. It was noted the parish's list of "wants" is good but priorities have not been set, and an appraisal of the land value should be part of the proposal. Curt suggested contacting Quad, which is a non-profit developer, and he offered to set up a meeting with the committee and Quad.
- After Ross ended his call, there was further discussion as to what the proposal should entail. The current thinking is to leave the sanctuary but redo all other parts of the campus. Ross may be asked to do a forum for the parish concerning development options, possibly to take place in the fall after meeting with the vestry first. A vestry liaison will be needed for the parish regarding development. Martin will talk with Ross about a time for a meeting and subsequent forum. An update in the newsletter was suggested to keep the parish informed.

3.5 Auction Prizes – What We Have and What We Need

- Martin reported on behalf of Charles and also Peyton, who is out of town. The feeling is we're in a good place with many arrangements made or in progress and a number of auction items received. Karen is also helping in Peyton's absence.

3.6 Daniel Granias – GI Artist in Residence

- The suggestion to have Daniel temporarily stay in the Halsey House was made with the possibility he could barter for a portion of the rent by teaching classes. This idea is fully endorsed by the GI Board. The vestry was not opposed to the idea and acknowledged his presence could provide a certain amount of security for the campus. Concerns over the language of the rental agreement were raised, and Steve said we need someone to draw up a lease agreement. Martin will contact Peggy and send the information via e-mail to the vestry.

3.9 Rector's Report

- Martin reported the College for Congregational Development was great, and the team will return in one year for the next session. In the meantime, 2 projects need to be initiated, and the team has already decided to build on the strength we have in place with a ministry of welcoming. They are still deciding on the second project.
- Nora and Martin contacted Daniel Martin at the diocese regarding the mutual ministry review (a review of both the community and Martin's ministry). Martin's review will likely be separate from the community review.

3.10 Jr. Warden's Report

- Gale reported Peter Fleming rebuilt the gate to the courtyard, which took him 3 days and is much appreciated.
- Monthly help has been found for Frank, and Gale has performed a variety of repairs.
- He suggested making the campus a non-smoking area. After some discussion, Gale moved and Phillip seconded to have the Grace campus become non-smoking after timely notification of user groups. A vote will be held at the next vestry meeting after Martin has contacted all the groups.
- Nora solicited a bid by the framer she uses for a price on resizing and framing the photos of past rectors. The bid was \$800, which was less than the bid Gale received. The new photos will likely be hung in the hallway, and Gale will work with Martin to determine how to fund the project.

3.11 Treasurer's Report

- Curt reported a surplus for July of approximately \$3,800, and, overall, the budget looks to be in good shape. He is working well with Jackie, and Martin added some cost-saving measures have been made.
- Becky brought up a concern regarding the Alaska trip from the last auction. Due to the length of time it took to book the trip, some of the mileage points expired, which resulted in an additional cost to the bidder of \$300. It was decided this amount should be paid as no expiration date had been put on the trip. In the future, an expiration date will be included.

After a closing prayer by Martin, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectively submitted,

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk