

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

May 16, 2017

Minutes

Members of the Vestry

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

Members of the Vestry Absent

Robin Gault
Avril Johnson, Treasurer
Charlene McGee
Judy Prosper, Sr. Warden

Clergy

The Rev. Martin Elfert
Ken Powell

Others

Cole Merkel
Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk

1. Formation

1.1 Opening Prayers

- The meeting was called to order by Steve at 6:03pm, and Martin began with the sad announcement of the death of Avril's granddaughter Kelly following a motorcycle accident. He read from the Rite of Burial in the Prayer Book as an opening prayer.

2. Minutes

2.1 Approval of the Minutes

- Corrections to the minutes of the April meeting were noted, and Nora moved the minutes be approved as amended. Elyssa seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Items

3.1 Street Roots Presentation

- Martin introduced Cole Merkel who is the Vendor Program Director of Street Roots. Street Roots is a weekly, award-winning newspaper addressing issues of homelessness and poverty as well as environmental and immigrant concerns. Cole distributed information about Street Roots and the Church Partnership Program, and he explained the Street Roots mission to provide income opportunities for people experiencing homelessness and poverty. Approximately 10,000 copies of the paper are printed weekly, and there is also a bi-annual magazine issue. Cole spoke of the spirituality of the homeless but the lack of opportunity for church membership. He is seeking to have congregations provide space for vendors and has already established a partnership with several churches in the area. Typically, the vendor is at the church's coffee hour with the same vendor coming every week. Clarifying questions about the program were asked, and Cole added the paper is part of an international street paper movement. It is funded through foundations and individual donors, and it is designated as a 501 3C non-profit. The retention rate of vendors varies widely from a couple of weeks to years. Cole left after his presentation, and the vestry discussed the possibility of a Street Roots vendor at coffee hour. It was suggested there be a gradual roll-out of the program with items in the newsletter and copies of the paper available during coffee hour. The set-up for a vendor might be a table by the back door. Steve made a motion to allow a 3-month trial period for a Street Roots vendor at coffee hour, and David seconded. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

3.2 Building Use Policy Draft

- Martin reported there are many requests for building use at Grace, and the number of requests has been catalysts to adopting a building use policy so all requests do not have to be reviewed by the vestry for approval or denial. He distributed a first draft of the policy, and discussion took place regarding the items the policy should contain. It was noted all of the groups using the facilities at Grace do not have to be non-profits. For example, a Weight Watchers group might request space or a music teacher for lessons. However, the preponderance of groups should be non-profit to allow Grace to keep its current tax status. The discussion included keeping Grace's mission statement in mind when considering requests for building use. Martin said is still some space available although not enough to allow use by a major partner. Addressing parking lot use and special event at the church was suggested as additions to the policy. Caution was raised about keeping control of the space at Grace as was adequate levels of insurance by groups using space. Some groups, such as 12-step groups and possibly concerts, do not need additional insurance. Clarification of rates was also discussed and the importance of matching the rate to the group. Martin will edit the draft and present it, again, to the vestry.

3.3 Statement of Welcome

- It had been previously brought to Martin's attention the current Statement of Welcome is not as inclusive as many feel it should be. With this in mind, Martin presented a revised Statement of Welcome for the vestry to consider. Some suggested edits were made as well as moving its placement on the website to a more prominent position. After Martin read out the revised statement, Nora moved to accept the revised Statement of Welcome, and Gale seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

3.4 Moment of Grace

- Nora read to the vestry a portion of a chapter on Vespers from the book Music of Silence.

3.5 College for Congregational Development

- Martin reported a team from Grace will be attending the College for Congregational Development next month in Olympia. He hopes the team will number 5, and he and Ken will be part of the team. The total cost is \$5,000, and the program is 2 years long. A portion of the cost has been given by the Bishop, and Martin and Ken have educational funds to contribute, too. The aim of the program is to both revive parishes and strengthen those already doing well. Growth and conflict resolution are also elements of the program. Martin showed a short video about the program, and the church featured was one Ken was associated with in California. Ken spoke highly of the success of the program and how it benefited his former church. A possible focus for the Grace team is improving welcoming at Grace. Martin added the program is very much recommended by his colleagues.

3.6 Rector's Report

- Martin reported the theft of audio equipment from the sacristy. It is not known who took the items or if the sacristy was locked or unlocked at the time of the theft. Equipment will be more securely stored in the future and greater diligence will be exercised with putting equipment away after use.
- The catechumenate proved to be a very great gift and was co-lead by Myra Clark. Many of those who participated will be confirmed by the Bishop during his visit in July.
- The Bishop would like to have time with the congregation after services on July 2 and would also like some time with the vestry. As there will not be enough time on that Sunday, Martin proposed Thursday, July 6th at 6pm for a meeting between the vestry and Bishop. This was agreeable to all, and Martin will contact the Bishop's office to schedule the time.
- Martin said Jackie is working out very well in the office and is pleased with her progress. She is very keen to learn.

3.7 Jr. Warden's Report

- Gale will install a new toilet and sink in the nursery, both of which are under the \$500 allowance. He is also working on having the photos of past rectors trimmed to the same size and reframed in anticipation of reinstalling them.

3.8 Treasurer's Report

- No report as Avril was absent.

3.9 Grace Institute

- Becky reported the scholarships are up to 7% for Art Camp. Some children will be coming from an agency, and small donations will be asked to provide these children with a lunch while attending camp.
- Security is needed for Art Camp. There are two shifts each day with plenty of time for visiting, reading, etc.
- There will be a fund raiser on June 11th from 4 to 6pm. The event will be a wine tasting at a local wine shop. The cost is \$30 for one and \$50 for a couple.

As an additional note, Ken suggested adding New Business as a regular agenda item.

After a closing prayer by Martin, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectively submitted,

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk