

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting
January 21, 2018
Minutes

Members of Vestry Present:

Elyssa de la Cruz
Andrew Eshleman
Robin Gault
Dave Goodrich
Phillip Koop
Steve Lovett, Sr. Warden
Peyton Snead

Members of Vestry Absent:

Gale Beagle, Jr. Warden
Nora McLaughlin
Becky Wong

Clergy Present:

The Rev. Martin Elfert

Others:

Curt Germundson, Treasurer
Matthew David Morris, Field Education Student

A special Vestry meeting was held to discuss input from the congregation collected over four meetings (January 14, 17, 18, and 21, 2018).

The meeting was called to order by Steve Lovett, Sr. Warden, at about 1:15 p.m. The Rev. Martin Elfert delivered an opening prayer.

Dave Goodrich opened the conversation by repeating concerns articulated in at least two groups regarding a perceived focus on outreach ministries over internal parish ministry and worship. Discussion followed regarding specifics conveyed by congregants, in particular concerns over the fate of the Chapel.

Discussion then turned to the generally enthusiastic reception to potential campus development by many who attended the meetings. There is a wide recognition of the need to markedly improve facilities. There is also some reticence about the operation of the parish during construction, how the project would be funded and the extent of Grace's control over the project.

The plan is to provide all of the questions from the small group meetings and from the questionnaires to the entire parish.

Andrew Eshleman emphasized the need for a specific timeline that can be conveyed to the parish soon including each step in the process, to the extent we know that currently.

Members also discussed the need to communicate clearly the distinct roles of the Vestry, the Campus Planning Committee, and the diocese. It was agreed that the Vestry must be as explicit as it can be and provide communications in multiple forms and venues, in order to reach as many parishioners as possible.

The conversation turned to the need to provide responses to the most frequently asked questions. There was a general recognition that some responses would consist of “we do not yet know,” but some information can be provided on many of the questions.

Among the topics most in need of attention is collecting information for and providing a written description of the alternatives to redeveloping the campus. In particular, what would a parish hall remodel look like and cost, and what would it cost to renovate Halsey House and Grace House to improve structural integrity and functions.

There was discussion regarding the involvement with the Committee of Ross Cornelius of Walsh Construction. Nancy Entrikin is a long-time friend of the owner of Walsh Construction, and that is how Mr. Cornelius came to assist Grace Memorial. It was pointed out that any project involving the City would go out to bid, and selection of the contractor would not be made based on Walsh’s assistance to us. It was noted that Walsh is one of the leading low-income housing contractors in Portland, and is therefore well qualified to advise the Committee, as Mr. Cornelius generously had done.

A comment was made that one parishioner expressed concerned that the Vestry minutes posted outside the office were from October. The consensus of the group is that the most recently approved Vestry minutes (as of now, November) must be posted monthly outside the office, and many thought that is precisely what was occurring. There was also discussion of posting the Vestry minutes to the website.

Action Items:

The Vestry agreed on the following timeline:

Date	Action
January 23, 2018	All collected questions emailed to parish members and posted on website
January 27, 2018	Answers to frequently asked questions emailed and posted on website
January 28, 2018	Annual Meeting

Date	Action
January 30, 2018	Vestry meeting to discuss whether to ask the Committee to meet with the Housing Bureau to explore the possibility of partnering in redeveloping the campus, in lieu of raising capital to renovate the current facilities

Additional Parish Meetings:

There was a discussion regarding when to schedule additional parish meetings. It was decided to revisit that question after the Committee had an opportunity to meet with the City, should that be the Vestry's direction.

Vestry Slate:

There was discussion regarding the need to provide the slate of Vestry candidates to the parish in advance of the Annual Meeting. Fr. Martin will see to that.

Vestry Liaison to Grace Institute:

There was a motion made by Dave Goodrich to appoint Elyssa de la Cruz as Vestry representative to the Grace Institute Board, replacing outgoing Vestry member Becky Wong. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Steven T. Lovett
Clerk *Pro Tem*