

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

November 27, 2018

Minutes

Members of the Vestry

Elyssa de la Cruz
Cameron Denney
Andrew Eshleman
Robin Gault
Curt Germundsen, Treasurer
Phillip Koop
Steve Lovett, Sr. Warden
Nora McLaughlin
Peyton Snead

Clergy

The Rev. Martin Elfert

Others

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk
Jeanne Kaliszewski, Curate

Members of the Vestry Absent

David Goodrich, Jr. Warden
Louise Tippens

Prior to November 27, 2018 Vestry Meeting

Approval of the Minutes

- The minutes from the October 16, 2018 Vestry meeting were distributed and discussed via e-mail prior to the current meeting. Nora moved to accept the minutes as amended, and Robin seconded the motion. The motion passed with an e-mail vote on October 30, 2018.

1. Formation

1.1 Opening Prayers

- The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm with a reading from Acts in an abbreviated form of lectio divina, followed by an opening prayer from Martin.

2. Items

2.1 Meet Prospective Curate Jeanne Kaliszewski

- Martin introduced Jeanne, who is a transitional deacon. At the General Convention, Martin found out there are grants available to assist a parish in affording a curate. A grant is typically \$25,000 per year for 3 years, which funds about a 1/3 position for a curate. It was explained a curate is a newly ordained priest who is serving in their first position or “cure”. Martin and Jeanne have been discussing the idea of approaching the bishop to request Jeanne become a curate at Grace, effective in April or May of 2019. A curate can provide recent seminarian energy while learning at a parish before going off to serve the wider body of Christ. Martin asked if the Vestry thought the parish could come up with the additional money needed for provide benefits and to raise the salary to a reasonable amount, which is about \$35,000. Might there be some parishioners willing to increase their monthly pledge on a temporary basis? Also, we might ask the Diocese to exclude money received for a curate from Grace’s apportionment.
- If Jeanne comes to Grace, Martin would like her to focus on the welcoming ministry. He noted it would be great to have a colleague. He often finds a pastoral need requiring him to work on his day off, which he understands as sometimes necessary but, as a result, he is tired and would welcome the assistance and support of a curate.
- Jeanne said she is excited with the prospect of being a curate at Grace, and said she is a former Grace parishioner. She was ordained about a month ago and is currently serving at St. Phillip the Deacon as a parish administrator as well as at the altar. She will be there about 6 more months. She was also a member in the past of St. David of Wales. She has 3 children ranging in ages from 11 to 18. Her graduation from CDSP (Church Divinity School of the Pacific) is scheduled for next Spring.
- When asked what she is passionate about, she said she loves to bring what happens in church to the world and to open up the neighborhood to what we do. She also loves to preach and is passionate about the liturgy of the word. She wants the church to be welcoming in an accessible way; looking at the neighborhood to see what would work and be welcoming. She noted St. David’s, which is near a bike trail, had a bike blessing in June, which attracted a number of cyclists who were not church members. Also, while she was at Grace in the past, she very much enjoyed the catechumenate.

2.2 Development Alternatives

- Andrew spoke about a small group of parishioners who are opposed to the development project under discussion. The group approached the neighborhood association and reported they felt resistance from the association to the proposed Grace development project. However, Nancy has also spoken with the neighborhood association and did not have the same impression. Nancy offered to provide the neighborhood association with regular updates but was told by the association this is not necessary until Grace’s plans begin to take more definite shape.
- The large white house on the corner across from the parking lot may soon be sold, and Andrew reported the group of parishioners is proposing Grace purchase the house possibly in lieu of an extensive development project. The group has been encouraged to attend a Vestry meeting to present their

suggestions but no one was able to attend the November meeting. Grace Institute and Grace Foundation, when asked, did not think the white house would be suitable for their needs.

- After some discussion, it was suggested the group be given several targeted questions to consider regarding the use of the white house and the overall vision for Grace. It would be ideal to have the written suggestions received by the Vestry for consideration before the next Vestry meeting but not absolutely necessary. Andrew will extend the invitation for representatives of the group to attend the next Vestry meeting and will offer prompts for consideration.

2.3 Invite, Greet, Orient, Incorporate

- The Vestry has distilled previously discussed ideas into 3 goals, and, after discussion of the ideas, Martin said he would draft the goals and e-mail them to the Vestry for edits. The goals discussed were as follows:
 - Wear nametags. Knowing who is being served at Eucharist could be the impetus for people to wear their nametags. It was thought the greeters could help guide everyone towards wearing their nametags, issuing a temporary one or helping with a request for a permanent nametag.
 - Ministry menu with contacts. Provide a list of the ministries at Grace along with contact names. Possibly this could be included in a newcomers packet and distributed to identified newcomers during the service by children.
 - Small group ministry. Due to the wide-spread locations of parishioners, this might be more effective if groups were organized on a regional basis as Trinity does. It was noted small groups are good for building community.

2.4 Preview Mutual Ministry Review

- The Mutual Ministry Review (MMR) will take place on December 15th at Cameron's home near Sandy. All are requested to send discussion suggestions to Steve by December 10th. The MMR is an annual review of how the parish is working together and is done when the parish is not a crisis situation. The proposed format will use questions from the last review plus additional questions surrounding development. One of the goals from the last MMR was to improve communication between the Vestry and the rest of the parish, and it was noted communication has, indeed, improved.
- After a brief discussion, it was decided to have Vestry members serve as scribes for the MMR meeting, and Peyton and Nora volunteered to be the scribes. It was decided to meet at the church early to share rides to Cameron's and also to have lunch brought in.
- Whether or not to attribute questions to individuals was discussed, and, after a brief discussion, it was decided to use the initials of the contributor at the end of the question in the printed document.

2.5 Moment of Grace

- Cameron read from Brian Doyle's Book of Uncommon Prayer.

2.6 GCDC Update

- The Vestry GCDC liaisons, Robin and Phillip, reported the GCDC has put together a program for the architect Brian Carlton to devise a preliminary plan for developing the campus space including shared spaces. It is hoped the plan will be ready in January. There will be a smaller GCDC group meeting next week with a larger group meeting on the 18th. The Housing Development Center and Quad Inc. may be asked for proposals in the future.
- Robin and Andrew offered to give a Vestry update in church on Sunday as it is the first Sunday of the month.
- Recently, there was a housing development forum held at Grace, and it was reported there was a great deal of energy in the room. Oregon Children's Theater has expressed interest in space at Grace as well as the Diocese. Additionally, grants may be available, and Nancy is working on grant requests.
- After further discussion, Nora moved to provide that the Vestry has tasked architect Brian Carlton with the creation of a preliminary space concept plan, which will include all aspects of the church property other than the church building, and guided by our conversations regarding our North Star principles. Phillip seconded the motion, which passed with one abstention.

2.7 Building and Grounds Steward/Jr. Warden

- A new Jr. Warden is needed, and it may be possible to continue the current model of having a Jr. Warden working in conjunction with a building and grounds steward. Currently, Dave is the Jr. Warden and Nancy is the building and grounds steward. Both will be stepping away from their roles in the near future. After some discussion, it was decided to wait and see who is on the Vestry nomination list are before filling either the Jr. Warden or building and grounds steward positions.

2.8 Reports

- Rector
 - Martin reported Grace Foundation has proposed several new board members: Barbara Brecht, Deb Pratt and Phillip Barasch. Andrew moved the new board members for Grace Foundation be approved, and Cameron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Martin asked that his housing allowance of \$30,000 be approved for 2019. Robin moved to approve the rector's housing allowance of \$30,000, and Peyton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
 - Grace's sexton, Keaka, has lost 2 family members in the Camp Fire, and he is currently in California with his family. Grace has sent a gift card to him to help with expenses.
 - Martin spoke of several parish members who are very ill and asked they be kept in our prayers.
 - About 60 pledges have been received so far with about 60% of those increasing their pledges. He hopes more will be received and noted follow-up letters have been sent out.
- Jr. Warden
 - Dave was absent, and there was no report

- Treasurer
 - Curt distributed financial reports, including one to be shared with the parish, which summarizes the financial situation. He noted pledges are still behind a little. There was some discussion regarding pledges, but Curt is not overly concerned at this point.

2.9 Other Business

- None.

3.9 Closing Prayer

- Martin offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk