

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2019

Members of the Vestry

Elyssa de la Cruz

Cameron Denney

Andrew Eshleman, Sr. Warden

Robin Gault

Curt Germundsen, Treasurer

Phillip Koop

Charles McGee

Nora McLaughlin

David Waldow

Ben Snead, Youth Representative

Clergy

The Rev. Martin Elfert

Others

Holly Puckett

Sharon Loomis-Malin

Sarah Faux

LeRoy Patton

Cecile McGee

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk

Members of the Vestry Absent

Peyton Snead

Louise Tippens

Prior to January 15, 2019 Vestry Meeting

Approval of the Minutes

- The minutes from the January 15, 2019 Vestry meeting were distributed and discussed via e-mail prior to the current meeting. Curt moved to accept the minutes as amended, and Andrew seconded the motion. The motion passed with an e-mail vote on January 24, 2019.

1. Formation

1.1 Introductions

- Andrew called the meeting to order at 6:04pm and asked, for the benefit of the new Vestry member, for everyone present to briefly introduce themselves by giving their name and an interesting fact about themselves.

1.2 Opening Prayers

- The meeting continued with a reading from Acts in an abbreviated form of lectio divina, followed by an opening prayer from Martin.

2. Items

2.1 Ratification of Senior Warden

- Martin noted Andrew's appointment as Sr. Warden needs to be ratified by the Vestry. Phillip moved to ratify the appointment of Andrew as Sr. Warden, and Elyssa seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

2.2 Discussion and Election of Junior Warden

- Martin explained the Building and Grounds Steward portion of the Jr. Warden's role has been filled by Rick Malin acting as the in consultation with the Jr. Warden, a position that has now become vacant. This format has been working well and makes the position of Jr. Warden much easier. Rick is authorized to complete repairs up to an amount previously approved by the Vestry without further approval. Costlier undertakings require he liaise with the Jr. Warden. Additionally, the Jr. Warden fills in for the Sr. Warden, if the Sr. Warden is absent. The Sr. Warden is appointed by the Rector, but the Jr. Warden is elected by the Vestry. It was decided to table the election of the Jr. Warden until March to give Vestry members an opportunity to consider whether or not they would like to serve in this capacity.

2.3 Recommendation of Holly Puckett for the Vocational Diaconate

- Holly explained to the Vestry she has been in the discernment process for quite some time, and she shared some of her background and how she arrived at her decision. She asked four members of Grace, Sally Fraser, Sarah Faux, LeRoy Patton and Cecile McGee, to act as a discernment committee for her, and they have been working together for a year. The committee submitted a letter to the Vestry outlining their full and enthusiastic support for Holly's decision to become a deacon. Martin explained the process for becoming a deacon and added he is pleased with the outcome of the discernment committee. He noted a vocational deacon remains a deacon while those seeking ordination as a priest are transitional deacons for a time after seminary. Holly will continue with her law career, and she will be able to study locally for the diaconate. She added the part time course will take about two years. Holly hopes to serve as a deacon at Grace after she is ordained, but, since deacons are placed in parishes at the Bishop's discretion, she realizes she may be asked to serve elsewhere. After the Vestry asked Holly several questions, Curt made a motion to accept and affirm the recommendation of the discernment committee for Holly to pursue the vocational diaconate. Elyssa seconded the motion; there was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

2.4 Orientation of New Vestry Members

- Louise, who is absent this evening, previously provided ideas regarding ways to orient new Vestry members, which included a Vestry Handbook. Last year's Vestry packet was very lengthy, and the proposed new packet will be much shorter. Andrew noted the project may need a subcommittee to work with Louise. The goal is to shorten the time new Vestry members feel new. A separate time for orientation outside of regular Vestry meetings is a possibility. Team building with new members was suggested, possibly following the 10am service one Sunday. After some discussion, Nora and Sharon volunteered to work with Louise on the Vestry orientation and handbook. Nora made a motion to have the Vestry pursue Vestry member orientation and a Vestry handbook, and Elyssa seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

2.5 Moment of Grace

- Andrew shared the poem "To be of use" by Marge Piercy.

2.6 Curt Germundsen's Disclosure and Grace's Conflict of Interest Policy

- Andrew explained the history of Curt's involvement with QUAD, Inc. and the relationship to the campus development project. GMEC's conflict of interest policy dictates, in part, that Curt will not vote on Vestry issues if there is a conflict of interest. Curt added he will not vote on any Vestry decisions regarding QUAD, Inc.
- There was a discussion regarding possible conflicts, including Curt's role as treasurer. It was noted Curt has served multiple terms as treasurer. A question was raised as to whether or not Curt should resign as treasurer. Further discussion highlighted this may not be necessary due to the controls already in place for the treasurer's position. Additionally, there will be continual awareness of Curt's roles and the various hats he wears.
- Additional discussion pointed out the benefit of having a known person involved in the development process with the experience Curt brings to the table. Curt briefly explained what non-profit developers do for the benefit of new Vestry members. He added Housing Development Center, also a non-profit, would likely be involved the day-to-day workings of the project.
- The need for clear and concise communication to the parish was discussed. Information will be shared via Grace emails, a meeting, and announcements. Additionally, the Conflict of Interest Policy should be made accessible on Grace's website. Phillip and Robin will work on a statement reflecting the information discussed to distribute to the parish.

2.7 Letter of Agreement with PHAME and QUAD, Inc.

- The Letter of Agreement allows Grace to enter into an exploratory stage regarding campus development with QUAD, Inc.; a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), will come at a later date, if all parties agree it is appropriate to pursue a project together. It was noted the Letter of Agreement needs a few corrections. After some discussion, Cameron made a motion to accept the Letter of Agreement as it will be amended, along with the accompanying rationale proved by the Development Committee, and Nora seconded the motion. The motion passed with Curt abstaining.

2.8 Reports

- Grace Institute (GI) Liaison
 - Elyssa reported the GI Board passed a motion recommending Cathy Gibson join the GI Board and asked for the Vestry's approval. She provided information about Cathy with the history and talent she brings to the GI Board. Phillip moved to accept the recommendation to elect Cathy as a GI Board member, and Charles seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.
 - Elyssa also noted the GI Board held a retreat, and that Martin and Andrew will be talking to GI Board about renting Halsey House and the development project.
- Rector
 - Martin reported his continuing education has included a micro-aggression workshop, an intercultural relations class, and an introductory course in ethics taught by Andrew at the University of Portland.
 - The catechumenate is coming up in Lent and will be held on Wednesdays and possibly a Saturday or two. It is open to all.
- Jr. Warden
 - No report.
- Treasurer
 - Curt distributed the financial report, which he reviewed with the Vestry, and noted the productive meetings and training are continuing with Jackie. He will soon be looking into the restricted funds to determine their status.

2.9 Other Business

- Phillip asked if anyone was interested in chairing the auction for this year. There were no immediate volunteers, and the question will be revisited at the next Vestry meeting.
- Curt is looking for a creative person to help with Grace's dashboard. After a brief discussion, Curt said he would discuss this with Ben with the possibility in mind of involving the youth group in the project.

2.10 Designating Vestry members for update to parish

- Andrew asked for volunteers to provide the monthly update to the parish during announcements on Sunday. After a brief discussion, Elyssa and Andrew agreed to provide the update.

2.11 Closing Prayer

- Martin offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk