

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2019

Members of the Vestry

Elyssa de la Cruz
Andrew Eshleman, Sr. Warden
Robin Gault
Curt Germundson, Treasurer
Phillip Koop
Charles McGee
Nora McLaughlin
Louise Tippens
David Waldow

Clergy

The Rev. Martin Elfert
The Rev. Jeanne Kaliszewski

Others

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk
Ross Cornelius

Members of the Vestry Absent

Cameron Denney
Peyton Snead
Ben Snead, Youth Representative

Prior to September 17, 2019 Vestry Meeting

Approval of the Minutes

- The minutes from the August 20, 2019 Vestry meeting were distributed and discussed via e-mail prior to the September meeting. Robin moved to accept the minutes as amended, and Elyssa seconded the motion. The motion passed with an e-mail vote on September 11, 2019.

1. Formation

1.1 Opening Prayers

- The meeting began 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 Development Updates

- Martin and Curt reported 4 potential new developers were identified with the help of Brian Carleton and Ross. All 4 were interviewed, and all 4 could bring their own set of strengths to the project. Further interviews with the top 2 candidates are expected to take place later this month. It was noted all are great candidates, and the Vestry anticipates receiving a recommendation soon from the Grace Commons Planning Group and possibly a visit from some of the candidates.
- Ross noted the next step after a new developer is chosen will likely be a Memorandum of Understanding. He briefly explained to the Vestry some of the considerations of an MOU and the next steps in a project when a developer is chosen.
- A request was made to have more information included on the website regarding the status of the project.
- There was additional discussion and questions raised about the feasibility of having the house at 1608 Halsey Street available for use by Grace at some point in the future. It may or may not be cost effective to adapt the house for Grace's use and possibly to have Parish offices located there. The pros and cons of having the offices in a separate location from the church itself were briefly discussed. There is no further information available at this time about potential investors in the property.

2.2 Auction Check-in

- Phillip reported approximately 100 tickets have been sold to date, and a healthy number of volunteers have been recruited. Phillip is finalizing the catering and asked the Vestry if local businesses have been contacted for contributions. Some Vestry members reported success with their business donation requests.
- There was a discussion regarding possible ways to ward off a reoccurrence of the computer crash of last year. Having a hot spot up and running or using a square were suggested, and Phillip will explore some options. He was also asked if there is a diagram for the set-up, which there is, and Phillip will make sure James Smith receives it in time for the set-up on Friday the 27th.

2.3 Moment of Grace

- As his Moment of Grace, Curt asked the question "Where do people find God in their day?" This led to a thoughtful discussion.

2.4 Welcoming and Name Tags

- Jeanne noted welcoming, including name tags, is a powerful sacramental moment to recognize parishioners. She said Grace now has a mobile wireless printer for instantly making name tags. She is working on getting it set up so it can be used. She noted the whole parish needs to re-engage with name tags and ways to do this were discussed. Adding preferred pronouns to the name tags and redesigning them are possibilities. However, it was suggested there needs to be storytelling and understanding around pronouns as they are more than just words on a tag. Many questions were raised, and it was suggested an outside educator might be brought in to talk about the pronoun issue and diversity

inclusion. Also, a separate committee to explore name tags as part of the welcoming practice was suggested.

- On another note, Jeanne was commended by the Vestry for her work on Get Onboard Sunday, which was well attended. As a follow-up, it was suggested Vestry members could be paired with a Ministry to act as a liaison between each Ministry and the Vestry. This proposal will be discussed at the next Vestry meeting.

2.5 Financial Stewardship Fall Campaign

- Martin reported a team has been formed, and the ingathering will take place on the second Sunday in November, possibly with a speaker from outside the parish. He hopes to have good energy surrounding the campaign. Martin and Jeanne are considering implementing an idea from one of their mentors, whereby everyone at Grace is invited to tithe with the following guarantee: if making a tithe does not prove to be a spiritual gift that deepens your relationship with God, you can have a full refund. There seemed to be sufficient interest to explore this idea further.

2.6 Reports

- Grace Institute (GI) Liaison
 - Elyssa shared a GI report prepared by Sharon Loomis-Malin regarding Art Camp and GI development. A consultant is being hired to help GI create a roadmap of next steps. The plan is to take things slowly and develop a thoughtful timeline.
- Rector
 - Martin spoke of a happy and amazing visit with a retired parishioner recovering from radical surgery.
 - The Get Onboard Sunday was wonderful, and the recent weekend parish workday was great!
 - Martin and Jeanne will be attending the Climate Strike on Friday at 10:30am at City Hall and urged parishioners to join them.
 - Martin concluded by asking for a head count for lunch with the Bishop's on October 13th.
- Treasurer
 - Curt distributed a financial report and noted Grace is right on budget with less than a \$1,000 difference for the year between budgeted and actual amounts. He still has work to do on cleaning up the restricted funds and will have further discussions with the Vestry about them.
 - Curt and Jackie have restarted their regular check-ins, and he noted one reason the budget is in such good shape is due to the careful overseeing of it by Jackie and others in the office.
- Jr. Warden
 - David distributed a printed report and described portions of it. In the future, he will e-mail the report to Vestry members.

- A question was raised as to whether there might be grants available to help with some needed repairs. Curt will ask someone in his office who might have information about the appropriate grant applications.

2.7 Other Business

- Louise needs another Vestry member to be on the nominating committee for election at the Annual Meeting, and Charles volunteered.
- Robin and Andrew will provide the monthly update to the Parish on Sunday.

2.8 Closing Prayer

- Martin offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk