

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2020

Members of the Vestry Present

Roosevelt Carter
Cameron Denney
Andrew Eshleman
Robin Gault, Co-Sr. Warden
Curt Germundson, Treasurer
Daniel Jones
Charles McGee
Holly Puckett
Louise Tippens, Co-Sr. Warden
David Waldow
Kevin Walsh

Clergy Present

The Rev. Martin Elfert
The Rev. Jeanne Kaliszewski

Others Present

Diane Alves
Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk

Members of the Vestry Absent

Kathryn (Katy) Unbehaun

1. Items

1.1 Dianne Alves, Capital Campaign Advisor

- Dianne was introduced to the Vestry and invited to talk about what is a capital campaign and how that looks for the Grace Commons project. She summarized the definition of a capital campaign by saying it is an effort to raise funds for building costs. She noted the capital campaign committees for Grace Commons (fund raising and architects/builders) are meeting regularly now. She expects to have information about the campaign case ready to share at the end of June or first part of July. The case will explain the project to potential investors and donors, and Dianne will have conversations to test the information in the case.
- She said it is exciting to have all the development partners come together, and the project will change not only the block but the neighborhood. She estimates the capital campaign will need to raise about 9 to 11 million dollars and expects half or less will come from individuals. The strength of the campaign is in the leadership, and all the boards involved need to be “all in”. She wants everyone to be excited and

comfortable about the project. She added that donations can include items such as paint and interior items as well as cash.

- When asked about success stories, she said she has worked with all size organizations doing fund raising for many years. Portland State University is a past success, and, more recently, Portland Homeless Family Solutions, which used the same architect and builders who are now working with Grace. She has also done many smaller projects.
- Dianne said the timeline for the campaign has been adjusted due to the pandemic but is still moving forward, and she hopes to begin community conversations in August. She anticipates the capital campaign will take about 2 years, and community education is a large part of the process. There will be donor bases for her to review for different types and sizes of past donations. All types of fund raising will be used and may include dinners and house parties. She added campaigns normally begin to really take off when 30% to 40% of the goal is reached.
- She noted the need to regenerate internal excitement about the development and that it is important to bring people on every step of the way during the campaign. Possibly sharing the next design pieces and drawings was suggested as well as a campaign website to share information.

1.2 Consent Agenda Items

- The April Vestry Meeting Minutes, Rector's Report and Jr. Warden's Report were included in the Consent Agenda Items distributed to the Vestry prior to the meeting. No items were requested to be removed from the Consent Agenda. Louise moved to accept the reports as presented, and Kevin seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

1.3 Moment of Grace

- Holly shared a moving poem entitled Long Bench, which was written by Glasgow's Poet Laureate Jim Carruth.

1.4 Treasurer's Report and Discussion of Finances

- Curt noted the market has been recovering so funds are going up as a result. Revenues have dropped some, but expenses are down as well. Grace received a PPE Loan award of \$36,500 from the Small Business Administration. Curt explained the following about the loan: the length of the loan is 2 years with an interest rate of 1%; the loan, along with the interest, is forgivable for maintaining staffing at the same level; 75% of the loan is to be used for payroll and the remaining 25% for utilities and other expenses; payments will start in 6 months; there are 56 days to come up with the calculation for the forgivable portion; and money not used may returned or kept and repaid.
- After some discussion regarding the overall ramifications of the loan and its effect on the parish expenses, Charles moved to reduce the building use fee for Grace Institute by \$10,000. Roosevelt seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

1.5 Coronavirus and GMEC

- Martin discussed the e-mail from Bishop Michael regarding phased re-entry and raised the question as to the guiding principles for re-opening. The list of restrictions for re-opening are too restricting in Martin's view. The church building should re-open when all are welcome.
- Alternatives for church services were discussed including services in the parking lot or in a backyard. Jeanne noted the need for all to feel welcome, and we should be open to hybrid situations and fluid spaces. Pentecost is a particularly good opportunity to imagine birthing the church in a new way with all decisions coming from a place of love and safety.
- Adding subtitles to hymns and readings for the online services was suggested, and Jeanne will talk to Evelyn about the possibility. Additionally, reinstating regular updates by the Vestry and integrated into the service was also suggested. Louise and Robin agreed to record a message to be part of the service.

1.6 Other Business

- A question was raised as to when Eucharist will become available again. The short answer from Martin is "not immediately", but it's an ongoing conversation, and he is theologically wrestling with it. He might add information about it to the Grace Notes, and there may be more guidance coming from the Presiding Bishop to aid the discussion.

1.7 Closing Prayer

- Martin offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk