

**Grace Memorial Episcopal Church**

**Vestry Meeting Minutes**

**June 16, 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  
Kathryn (Katy) Unbehaun  
David Waldow  
Kevin Walsh

**Clergy Present**

The Rev. Martin Elfert  
The Rev. Jeanne Kaliszewski

**Others Present**

Nancy Entrikin  
Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk

**Members of the Vestry Absent**

**1. Formation**

1.1 Opening Prayers

- The meeting began at 6:01pm with a reading of Acts 26 in an abbreviated form of lectio divina, followed by a prayer from Martin.

**2. Items**

2.1 Grace Commons Update

- Nancy reported the project is continuing to move forward and the May/June newsletter will be out by the end of the month. She outlined some relevant items, which will be in the newsletter:
  - The architect, Brian Carlson, has talked to the Sullivan's Gulch land use coordinator about submitting an article.

- Nan Stark from the City has reported all zoning requests have been approved and maps will be revised by the 18<sup>th</sup>. The rezoning lifts many uncertainties from the project.
- The floor plan will be revised with Grace's building separate from the apartments. It will be located behind the church on Halsey and will go up 3 stories; details will be in the newsletter. The finished project will be completely accessible. There was some discussion about holding Zoom meetings to share the plans with the parish, possibly by the end of the summer.
- Dianne Alves, the capital campaign advisor, has counselled to have the parish, PHAME and Grace Institute work together on raising money rather than separately. A brochure will be drafted to present the case with donors being identified who can help refine the case. Additionally, a grant for \$1.5 million has been requested from the State of Oregon.
- Ownership discussions have been started and collective ownership of the building is a possibility. Louise added she has a contact who might be able to help with the structure of ownership and finances and will work pro bono for the Grace Commons Project. Martin added ownership can mean multiple things, and, in this case, ownership means the buildings but not the land.
- It was also noted it is important to be realistic about Grace's participation in the capital campaign and budget for it.

## 2.2 Consent Agenda Items

- The May Vestry Meeting Minutes 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. Curt moved to accept the reports as presented, and Charles seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

## 2.3 Rector's Report

- Martin reviewed the report with the Vestry. Jeanne added the candidates for bishop are coming to Oregon and will meet with the delegates and clergy in person. There will also be Zoom presentations, and the election will be held at the end of August. The Diocese has information about the candidates and upcoming visit on the Diocesan website with an opportunity to submit questions. Questions may also be sent to the delegates: Christine Swanson, Charles, Holly and Robin.
- Martin noted he has taken membership in the Pacific NW Union of Black Episcopalians and that Daniel has a leadership role in the organization.

## 2.4 Treasurer's Report

- Curt noted receipts are higher than shown in his report, and some special gifts are not shown. He said the problem stemmed from Jackie's lack of access to the internet for a time with some checks written on the incorrect platform. He added stocks are rebounding and, overall, thinks we are doing well.
- Martin said Grace might institute a COVID contract for those who are onsite. He will explore this and discuss it with Jeanne. The question was raised if groups have been asking to meet again at the church, but Multnomah County is not yet open, so this is not a possibility.

## 2.5 Grace Institute Report

- Charles reviewed the report with the Vestry and noted the grant will be \$10,000, not \$5,000.

## 2.6 Moment of Grace

- From a book by Esther de Waal, Robin shared a passage quoting a sermon by St. Augustine.

## 2.7 Equity and Inclusion

- Jeanne and Martin would like to organize a parish team to engage the parish on issues around race. A forum might be held on Zoom and then available on YouTube. There are numerous questions regarding how to facilitate such a forum, what are the goals, as well as what is appropriate and what is not.
- It was agreed the Equity and Inclusion Statement should be mailed soon, and Martin, Katy and Cameron will draft a cover letter to send out with the statement. Jeanne, who is on the Diocesan committee to address racism, said Grace's Equity and Inclusion Statement has been offered as a template to the Diocese. Martin, Katy, Jeanne and others will be working on the Diocesan committee to address racism.

## 2.8 Vestry Liaisons Report

- Charles asked to have input regarding the report sent to him, and it was suggested there be 2 liaisons for each ministry. The liaisons will be a point of contact between the ministry and Vestry. There will be additional discussion at the next Vestry meeting.

## 2.9 Update on Grace Auction

- Martin reported Phillip and Mariann are looking into an online auction with Stokes Auction House to be held, possibly, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Friday in September. There might be watch parties of 10 or 12 in backyards with food delivered. It was noted the auction is not only a part of the budget but a celebration. Suzy Jefferies was mentioned as someone who might have additional information regarding an online auction. The date will be decided soon and communicated to the parish.

## 2.10 Other Business

- Martin said we will continue with online services with the possibility of parking lot services in the future but only when all may be included.
- The Vestry decided not to meet in July but reports, if necessary, can be submitted. August 18 is the date for the next Vestry meeting.
- In response to an e-mail discussion prior to the Vestry meeting, Vestry members voted unanimously to fund the cost of a cell phone for Martin.
- Robin and Louise will present the Vestry update during the service on the last Sunday of the month.

## 2.11 Closing Prayer

- Martin offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk