

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2021

Members of the Vestry Present

Roosevelt Carter

Andrew (Andy) D'Antonio

Curt Germundson, Treasurer

Charles McGee, Co-Sr. Warden

Holly Puckett (Sr. Petra)

Kathryn (Katy) Unbehaun

David Waldow, Jr. Warden

Kevin Walsh, Co-Sr. Warden

Clergy Present

The Rev. Martin Elfert

The Rev. Jeanne Kaliszewski

Others Present

Nora McLaughlin, Clerk *pro-tem*

Members of the Vestry Absent

Sammi Harvey

Daniel Jones

Bindhu Newell

1. Formation

1.1 Opening Prayers

- The meeting began at 6:05pm with an opening prayer from Martin, followed by a reading from the fourth chapter of Ruth in an abbreviated form of *lectio divina*.

2. Items

2.1 Consent Agenda

- No changes or further discussion were requested for any of the Consent Agenda items (minutes of the March 2021 Vestry Meeting, Rector's Report, and Junior Warden's Report). Roosevelt moved to accept the Consent Agenda items as presented, and Katy seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Martin highlighted items in the rector's report, including time away, moving the June vestry meeting, and canceling the July vestry meeting. The vestry agreed to move the June meeting to June 1, cancel the July meeting, and move the August meeting to August 3.

David highlighted items from the Junior Warden's report.

2.2 Equity and Inclusion Committee Updates

- Kevin noted the committee tested the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) survey and found it simple to complete. Gwen's suggestions were implemented. Daniel wants input on when to launch the survey. The vestry agreed that launching it in May is prudent. Having the survey open for two weeks seems sufficient to allow for responses. Martin suggested it be announced April 30 with a deadline of May 14.
- The diocese is asking for updates from parishes on their work in DEI. Jeanne asked that someone from the committee assist with providing information about our progress. The committee will provide Jeanne with an update, which should include mention of both the development project and the scholarship efforts in the Grace Institute.
- Martin suggested we ask some members to look at the website to provide feedback on navigating and updating our website.

2.3 Mutual Ministry Review Update

- Kevin reminded the vestry that May 8 from 10am-12noon is the time scheduled for the mutual ministry review.

2.4 Moment of Grace

- Sister Petra read Shelley Blooms's poem *A Fragile Bend of the Heart*.

2.5 Treasurer's Report

- Curt did not send out financial statements because they were not completed. March statements will be sent in an email. He believes the financials look fine.
- Curt reviewed highlights from his report. There was not a specific Easter appeal this year. We did receive the Haynes Trust money, which is now in our Schwab account. Grace's PPP loan was forgiven today. (There was much rejoicing.) Jackie will begin to transition back to the office. Curt did an analysis of our stock portfolio, which is diversified. He doesn't believe we should liquidate stocks we receive.

- Martin wondered whether there a strategic way to use the Haynes gift as part of our launch of a planned giving campaign and indicated he would appreciate knowing of members of vestry and the parish who would serve on a sub-committee for planned giving. Charles and Andy have volunteered. Martin suggested George Fleming would have valuable insights to offer.

2.6 Plans to Resume in-Person Worship

- There is concern that we have parish members who are not engaging our remote services and so resuming in-person offerings will be important. Perhaps in nice weather we can look at a hybrid model with some in-person in the courtyard, appropriately distanced, and many online. Jeanne will be researching effective hybrid models in church.
- We will continue streaming church and there are aspects we should retain, but there are details we'll need to work through such as monitoring the chat (effectively an online greeter). A sub-committee of the vestry (Andy, Curt, and Kevin) will continue to explore how to retain the richness of our online offering but return to in-person services safely.

2.7 Grace Institute Report

- Charles highlighted items from the report regarding hiring, scholarship outreach, complying with safety protocols related to COVID, and development and planning.
- Sharon would like to attend the May vestry meeting to provide an update from the Grace Institute.

2.8 New Business

- A parish workday is scheduled for Saturday, May 15.

2.9 Closing Prayer

- Martin offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora McLaughlin, Clerk *pro-tem*