

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2021

Members of the Vestry Present

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

Clergy Present

The Rev. Martin Elfert
The Rev. Jeanne Kaliszewski

Others Present

Bindhu Newell
Sammi Harvey
Andrew (Andy) D'Antonio
Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk

Members of the Vestry Absent

Charles McGee
Kathryn (Katy) Unbehaun

1. Formation

1.1 Opening Prayers

- The meeting began at 6:02pm with a reading from the second chapter of Ruth in an abbreviated form of lectio divina followed by an opening prayer from Martin.

2. Items

2.1 Consent Agenda

- No changes were requested for the December minutes, and it was accepted as presented.

2.2 Rector's Report

- Martin noted many comments have been received about the wonderful Christmas celebration, and thanks are due to all who made it possible.
- The relationship of Grace Memorial with Grace Institute will be explored further with a joint board meeting with a proposed date of Tuesday, March 2nd. A spreadsheet with proposed room allocations has been prepared by Rick Gustafson, and it was asked if this document could be shared with the Vestry, hopefully in advance of the joint board meeting.
- A question was raised if there will be a Mutual Ministry Review this year. It was generally agreed it is a good practice to continue but the timing of it is uncertain.
- In e-mail discussions prior to the Vestry Meeting, possible recipients for the two awards to be presented during the Annual Meeting were suggested and reviewed. After a brief discussion, Louise moved that the Angeline Berry Award be presented to Evelyn Prater, and the Hale McMahan Award presented to Demetria Keck. Roosevelt seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

2.3 Jr. Warden's Report

- David reported he met with a lock expert at church and is now waiting for suggestions and a quote to address the issues with several door locks.
- Mold testing has been done in the Sacristy where problems were discovered. David is waiting for the results and recommendations for fixing the problems. It is already known some dry wall repair is needed, and Martin said he may be able to help with that and will coordinate his efforts with David.
- Andrew has an old furnace which might possibly be used to replace the faulty one in the Halsey House if it meets the necessary specifications. David will talk further with Andrew about the feasibility of this plan.

2.4 Grace Commons Project

- The report on the campus project is included in the Rector's Report.

2.5 Moment of Grace

- Robin shared a poem by Billy Collins titled "Questions About Angels".

2.6 Treasurer's Report

- Curt will send out a report to the Vestry via e-mail within the next few days. He said he was working closely with Jackie on year-end reporting and added the overall picture is good.
- The trust distribution he reported about in prior Vestry meetings should be received soon.
- After some discussion, it was agreed the current state of the budget can be reviewed this coming Sunday in advance of the Annual Meeting on the 31st.

- A suggestion was made to push the date of future Annual Meetings out a little to allow for year-end reporting to be completed. The first Sunday in March was mentioned a possibility for next year. Martin was encouraged to send out a separate e-mail to the parish for the budget review meeting and Annual Meeting. The budget review take place on Sunday, January 24th, and the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 31st. Both will follow an abbreviated coffee hour after church.

2.7 Memorandum of Agreement Between GMEC and GI

- The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was distributed via e-mail prior to the Vestry meeting. Martin commented that inflationary increases were included in the MOA as well as a few other minor financial arrangements. He recommends ratifying the MOA. Andrew moved to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement, and Kevin seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

2.8 Grace Institute Report

- In Charles' absence, Martin reported the GI Board would like to add a new member, Alysson Enriquez. He reviewed her resume briefly for the Vestry, and Roosevelt moved to accept the nomination of Allison to the GI Board. Daniel seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- It was also noted GI is anticipating holding Summer Art Camp this summer.

2.9 Report on Equity & Inclusion Committee

- Daniel said the committee is working towards a survey and census to share with the parish and thanked Cameron and Andrew for their participation on the committee. Daniel reviewed the Program Roadmap with the Vestry. The importance of ensuring responses to the survey being both anonymous and secure was discussed. Possible next steps were also outlined briefly.
- The committee, and especially Daniel, were complimented for their work. A suggestion was made to move the committee from being a Vestry committee to a committee with broader parish and community membership.

2.10 Report on Vestry Candidates

- Louise reported the Vestry guests this evening, Bindhu, Sammi and Andy, are potential new Vestry members. She noted the recruitment was more challenging this year without person to person contact. She is hoping to receive applications for Vestry membership from all 3 guests after the Vestry meeting.
- Bindhu, Sammi and Andy were given the opportunity to introduce themselves and ask questions about Vestry membership. Martin reviewed the characteristics for Vestry members including the need of the Vestry to represent all aspects of Grace's community, and testimonials were offered by a number of Vestry members as to the benefits of serving on the Vestry.
- The nominating committee asked to have the Vestry accept the slate of new Vestry members once it is finalized, and all agreed.

2.11 New Business

- Martin said Convention delegates will be discussed via e-mail.
- Reviewing the by-laws again this year was suggested.

2.12 Closing Prayer

- Jeanne offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk