Grace Memorial Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2025

Members of the Vestry Present

Xander Almeider (2028)

Roosevelt Carter (2026)

Martha Humphrey (2027)

Yetunde Laniran (2026) Jr. Warden

Nora McLaughlin (2027)

Jennifer Traeger (2028)

Kevin Walsh (2026) Co-Sr. Warden, Rector's Advisor

Stephen Weeks (2027)

Jennifer Yeast (2026)

Clergy Present

The Rev. Martin Elfert

The Rev. Liz Klein

The Rev. Lara Halsey

Others Present

Charles McGee, Co-Sr. Warden, Meeting Chair

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk

Members of the Vestry and Clergy Absent

Zane Barlow (2028)

Marissa Cheplick (2028)

1. Formation

1.1 Opening Prayers

- The meeting began at 12:05 pm with the Song of Solomon, Canticle 8, read in an abbreviated form of lectio divina.
- Martin presented Yetunde with her Hale McMahon award, which was a handsome clock, and Liz with her Angeline Berry award, which was a beautiful meditation bowl.

- Yetunde shared a Rose with her gratitude for the mural on the west wall which is being done by Grace Art Camp participants this summer
- Nora was happy to witness the warmth by participants leaving an AA meeting at Grace and is thankful for all Grace does to help community groups.
- Liz thanked Nick for his great help in the parking lot during Art Camp and noted what a good role model he is providing for the kids. Following the Rose and Thorn sharing, Martin offered a prayer.

2. Items

2.1 Consent Agenda

- Charles asked if there were any corrections to the Consent Agenda. There were no corrections, and Nora made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Martha seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the Consent Agenda was approved as presented.
- Martin did not have additions to the Rector's Report but noted the possibility of elected officials becoming involved in the development project and the challenges with moving forward. There was some discussion about the abrupt change in plans by NHA, and Martin will send a letter to the parish about the decision made by NHA. It will also be a topic for the next State of Grace.
- Yetunde outlined the decisions made regarding the appliances chosen for the kitchen. There will be further discussion with the vendor as well as having reviews by both a plumber and electrician. She also noted that Art Camp staff needs to be reminded to clean the kitchen and Mason Burnham room when they are done as both have been left dirty. Liz said she will send a message to the camp director, Ashley Klump, with a reminder about the cleaning.

2.2 Finance Committee Report

- Roosevelt said Marissa was going to present the report, but she is currently traveling. He noted he, Marissa, Yetunde, Louise and Nick met last week. A quarterly report is being created, which will be very usable. He also spoke about the reporting and needs for a capital campaign.

2.3 Grace Safety, Security and Health Committee Report

- Liz offered a thank you for the crash bars that have now been installed as well as the increased awareness of safety. She urged everyone to read the latest minutes from the committee. Accessibility is the next issue the committee will address. She also recently attended a forum for trauma informed community care and has included information about it in her report.

2.4 Equity and Inclusion and By-Laws Annual Review

- Charles said the documents are being reviewed, and there should be a report at the next Vestry meeting. He also noted bussing was now being provided for the first time for Art Camp so campers with transportation issues can attend.

2.5 Grace Gala 2025

- Yetunde is gathering committee members and is looking for a software expert to run the system used for the Gala. Martha offered to find out which system St. Mary's uses for their Gala and will let Yetunde know what she finds out. The need for a more entertaining children's program was raised. A date for the Gala will be chosen soon.
- Charles raised the question of a gift from the Vestry for the Gala. Money was donated last year ahead of the Gala, which was matched by parishioner. A book basket was another suggestion, and Jennifer Y. offered to coordinate the book basket. Charles will send an email to Vestry members asking to contribute to the book basket to be given to the Gala from the Vestry.

2.6 Reports and Updates

- Martha distributed a handout focused on logistics for social media improvement. She discovered some passwords to existing platforms are missing and asked for anyone able to help with passwords to email her. She noted that social media should have daily posts to be most effective and is gathering a group to help with posts. She also provided some goals for social media. She will send her document to Nick for archiving. The Grace website also needs updates, but that is a separate project.
- Jennifer Y. is working on a report on the cleaning needed at Grace and will share it with the Vestry at the September Vestry meeting.
- Charles said only one or two more individuals need to complete the Safe Church Training to reach the goal of 100% participation.
- Lara is working on ideas for welcoming and incorporating new members and will have more to share at the next Vestry meeting.

2.7 Moment of Grace

- Xander shared a recent experience at the Tulip Festival, which he reluctantly attended at his wife's urging. A display at the Tulip Festival had glasses that allow some people with color blindness to see vivid colors. Xander, who has red-green color blindness, tried the glasses and said he had never known colors were so vivid – it was an amazing revelation of color for him and caused tears of joy. His wife gifted him with a pair of the glasses, and he continues to revel in a world of color!

2.8 New Business

- Yetunde urged everyone to come to the community dinner that evening!

2.9 Closing Prayer

- Liz offered a closing prayer, and Charles adjourned the meeting at 1:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk