

GRACE GRACE MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1535 NE 17TH AVENUE, PORTLAND, OREGON 97232 503.287.0418 WWW.GRACE-MEMORIAL.ORG

117th Annual Meeting
of the
Parish
The 2025 Annual Report



January 25, 2026

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church

Portland, Oregon

Annual Meeting of the Parish



AGENDA

January 25, 2026

Chaired by Charles A McGee II

Opening Prayer	The Rev. Martin Elfert
Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting [Vote required]	Alicia Lehrle
Amended Bylaws [Vote required]	
Report of the Vestry & Convention Nominating Committee and election of person to serve on the Vestry & Delegates to Convention [Vote required]	Charles A. McGee II and Kevin Walsh
Rector's Report	The Rev. Martin Elfert
Financial Report and Presentation of the 2025 Budget	The Rev. Martin Elfert and Marissa Cheplick
Acceptance of reports as printed [Vote required]	The Rev. Martin Elfert
Recognitions	The Rev. Martin Elfert
Other business	
Trivia Questions	
Blessing and adjournment	The Rev. Martin Elfert



The image is printed with permission:

© 1994, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, art by Steve Ersamer, SM.

GRACE MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Table of Contents

Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting	4-5
Amended Bylaws	6-10
Rector's Report	11-12
Curate's Report	13
Deacon's Report	14-15
Vestry Nominations	16-19
From the Senior Wardens	20-21
Safety, Security & Health Committee Report	21-22
Music at Grace	23-25
Weekday Sack Lunch Ministry	25-26
Welcoming Ministry: Coffee Hour	26
Ushers – Ministers of Hospitality	27
The Guild of St. Mary	27-28
Church School	28
Holy Land Ministry	29
Grace Community Center Gala	29
Grace Garden Club	30
Altar Guild	30
Grace Racial Justice & Environmental Action Team	31
Grace Institute	32-35
PHAME	36
Grace Campus Usage	36-37
Grace 2026 Budget	38-39
Board Members (Vestry, Grace Institute, Foundation Trustees)	40

* * *

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church

116th Annual Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2025

Opening

Fr. Martin Elfert opened the 116th Annual Meeting with a prayer in song at 11:59am.

Minutes of the 115th Annual Meeting

Co-Sr. Warden Charles McGee declared the Annual Meeting open and asked for any corrections to the minutes of the 115th Annual Meeting. There were none, and Roosevelt Carter moved to accept the minutes of the 115th Annual Meeting as presented. Nik Grimsby seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion passed to accept the minutes as presented.

Report of the Vestry and election of persons to serve on the Vestry

Charles and Fr. Martin presented the proposed slate of new Vestry members and a brief description of the recruitment process for Vestry members. The following candidates were proposed for 3-year terms: Xander Almeida, Zane Barlow, Marissa Cheplick, and Jennifer Traeger. Martha Humphries was proposed for a 2-year term. All the candidates were introduced except for Xander who was traveling. James Smith moved the slate of new Vestry members be accepted as presented, and Louise Tippens seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion was passed to accept the slate as presented.

Rector's Report

Fr. Martin thanked Keri Beck and Cameron Denney who have completed their terms on the Vestry. He related a recent conversation he had with Bishop Diana Akiyama about the exciting slate of new Vestry members at Grace as well as how much he appreciates the collegiate atmosphere of the Vestry. He has served in the past on dysfunctional boards and is grateful to the Vestry for working together so well. He also noted he neglected in his printed report to include his thanks to Jo Wiersma for all her work in the nursery. He concluded his report with a humorous summary of Grace's year to the tune of "Come Labor On".

Financial Report

Warren Burkholder reported that there will be a budget meeting in 4 weeks, and the Annual Report shows outcomes of the 2024 budget. A few typos were noted, and Warren said he was aware of them and the errors will be corrected. He added he is happy to respond to questions via email. Fr. Martin added his thanks to the Finance Committee and all those working on the 2025 budget. He said the stewardship campaign was very successful with 193 pledges received for a total of approximately \$235,000. He is hoping a few more pledges will be received to bring the totals up to 200 pledges and \$250,000.

Reports

Reports from each ministry are in the Annual Meeting Report, and Fr. Martin invited a motion to accept the reports as presented. Roosevelt Carter moved to accept the reports as presented in the Annual Meeting Report, and Mary Ann McClure seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion to accept the reports as presented passed.

Recognitions

The Hale McMahon Award honors service in the greater community, and Fr. Martin shared the story of the first community dinner prepared by Hale McMahon and friends. No one came when the meal was ready, so Hale rode his bike through the neighborhood and rounded up dinner guests! This year's recipient of the Hale McMahon Award is Yetunde Laniran for all that she does at Grace. Yetunde said the church is her home and community and she does all she does because she enjoys it. She encouraged more people to become involved and added she does not hesitate to call on friends to help, which we should all do.

The Angeline Berry Award is presented for service to the Grace community, and Fr. Martin shared briefly about the gift Angeline Berry gave approximately 115 years ago to help make Grace possible. He also spoke about some of the wonderful people who were past recipients and went on to outline just some of the many works by this year's recipient, the Rev. Dr. Liz Klein. Deacon Liz said she was thankful for everyone at Grace who is doing God's work.

Fr. Martin thanked the Vestry, the clergy, his colleagues and especially the Co-Senior Wardens of the Vestry, Charles McGee and Kevin Walsh.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Trivia Questions

The ever-popular trivia quiz was presented by Fr. Martin and enjoyed by all participants. The quiz was followed by a slide show with scenes of activities from the past year at Grace. Sue Jensen played hymns on the piano to accompany the slide show.

Blessing and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:39pm with a prayer recited by all and a blessing delivered by Deacon Liz Klein.

*Respectfully submitted,
Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk*

AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS OF GRACE MEMORIAL PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF PORTLAND, OREGON

Revised 4/21/2020: The corporation intends for these Amended and Restated Bylaws to replace all other previously executed Bylaws in their entirety.

ARTICLE 1 NAME

The name of this corporation is Grace Memorial Protestant Episcopal Church of Portland, Oregon commonly known as Grace Memorial Episcopal Church (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "**the Parish**"), 1535 NE 17th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232.

ARTICLE 2 RECOGNITION OF AUTHORITY OF THE CHURCH

This Parish, as a constituent part of the Church in the Diocese of Oregon, expressly accedes to the Constitution, Canons, Doctrine, and Worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and the Constitution and Canons of the Church in the Diocese of Oregon and recognizes the authority of the General Convention and of the Convention of this Diocese.

ARTICLE 3 PARISH GOVERNANCE

1. VESTRY.

The governing body of the Parish shall be the Vestry, which shall have control of the business and temporal affairs of the Parish, subject to the restrictions, regulations, and guidelines of the Episcopal Church, the Diocese of Oregon and the laws of the State of Oregon and the United States. The Vestry shall consist of no fewer than nine (9) nor more than twelve (12) members of the Parish and the Rector. ~~However, no Rector shall have a vote in the election of a successor. The Treasurer or Clerk may also be elected as Vestry members at the Annual Meeting.~~

One third of the members of the Vestry shall be elected each year at the Annual Meeting of the Parish for a term of three years. To be elected, a nominee must be a layperson who is a pledging member of the Parish, at least 18 years of age, and qualified to vote at an Annual Meeting of the Parish. Members of the Vestry are eligible for nomination to serve one additional consecutive three-year term.

No two members of the Vestry may be members of the same household. The Vestry may, by resolution, establish expectations and attendance requirements for members of the Vestry.

Members of the Vestry serve without compensation. The Parish may not make a loan to or guarantee an obligation of or for the benefit of a member of the Vestry.

A quorum of the Vestry shall consist of the presence of: a) a majority of its members then in office, and b) the Rector or one of the Wardens. If a quorum is present when a vote is taken, the affirmative vote of majority of the Vestry members present is the act of the Vestry unless Canon law or these Bylaws require the vote of a greater number of Vestry members.

Vacancies occurring between elections shall be filled by persons qualified for Vestry membership

chosen by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Vestry. The person chosen shall serve the unexpired term. A person so chosen may, if nominated, stand for election for a full term at the next Annual Meeting of the Parish.

The Vestry shall establish a regular meeting date and time. Special meetings may be called by the Rector, or ~~Senior both the~~ the Warden(s), or by any three members of the Vestry, by giving *advance notice* to each member of the Vestry, ~~at least two days in advance of the meeting, a written notice of the date, time, and place of the meeting.~~ A special meeting of the Vestry may be held *in person by telephone or other through any* form of electronic communication, ~~as long as provided~~ all Vestry members can communicate with each other. The rules contained in the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, will ~~govern~~ *inform* all Vestry meetings.

All Vestry meetings are open to members of the Parish unless there is a vote to go into executive session.

The Vestry may establish one or more committees which may exercise the authority of the Vestry within the limits of ORS 65.354. The committees will regularly report their activities to the Vestry. The Vestry shall approve of all committee actions that are in the best interests of the Parish as determined in the Vestry's sole discretion.

2. RECTOR.

Subject to the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer, the Canons of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Oregon, and the counsel of the Bishop, the Rector shall be responsible for and have control of the spiritual matters of the Parish and the worship of the congregation. The Rector shall, at all times, have access to the church, buildings and custody of the keys of the same. Any assisting clergy shall be recommended by the Rector and approved by the Vestry prior to appointment and shall serve under the direction and control of the Rector.

In the case of a vacancy in the Office of the Rector, the Rector shall be chosen by a majority vote of the Vestry, with the counsel of the Bishop. The process for electing and removing the Rector shall be as prescribed by the Bishop and Canons of the Diocese of Oregon. No Rector shall have a vote in the election of the Rector's successor.

3. OFFICERS.

Senior Warden. The Senior Warden shall be nominated by the Rector and elected ~~by the Vestry at the Annual Meeting~~ from among the members of the Vestry, ~~at the first meeting of the Vestry following the Annual Meeting.~~ When the Rector and Vestry jointly determine that it is in the best interests of the Parish two (2) or more co-Senior Wardens may be elected to share the responsibilities of the Senior Warden position. The Senior Warden or co-Senior Wardens (hereinafter referred to as "Senior Warden(s)") ~~shall~~ *may* serve for a term of ~~one year or until a successor is chosen~~ *two or three years*. A member of the Vestry may serve no more than two consecutive terms as Senior Warden. The Senior Warden shall, in the absence or at the request of the Rector, preside at all meetings of the Vestry and the Parish and shall have such duties as assigned by the Rector and set forth in the Canons of the Diocese of Oregon.

Junior Warden. *The Junior Warden shall be nominated by the Rector and elected at At the first meeting of the Vestry following the Annual Meeting., the Vestry shall elect one of their members to be Junior Warden for the term of one year. In the absence of the Rector and Senior Warden, the Junior Warden shall preside at the meetings of the Vestry and the Parish.* *The Junior Warden*

reports to the Vestry on the condition of church property including deficiencies and future needs and recommendations, works with the Buildings and Grounds Committee, and shall have such duties and responsibilities as are assigned from time to time by the Vestry, and shall share in those duties of Wardens set forth in the Canons of the Diocese of Oregon.

Treasurer. At the first meeting of the Vestry following the Annual Meeting, the Vestry shall elect a Treasurer, who may be a member of the Vestry or any other member of the congregation eligible to serve on the Vestry. The Treasurer shall continue in office until a successor is elected. The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining adequate records of the Parish finances and shall submit monthly statements of these to the Vestry, shall assure payment of all expenses of the Parish authorized by the Vestry promptly when due, and shall ensure compliance with Canons of the Diocese of Oregon relating to Parish finances. The books and accounts of the Treasurer shall be open at all times to the inspection of the Rector, Wardens, and Members of the Vestry.

Clerk. At the first meeting of the Vestry following the Annual Meeting, the Vestry shall elect a Clerk, who may be a member of the Vestry or any other member of the congregation eligible to serve on the Vestry. The Clerk shall continue in office until a successor is elected. The Clerk shall attend all meetings of the Vestry and of the Parish, take minutes of their proceedings, and provide copies of such minutes to all members of the Vestry. When such minutes have been approved, the Clerk shall enter and attest them in the Book of the Minutes of the Vestry and shall post the minutes where they may be read by members of the Parish. The Clerk of the Vestry is also the Clerk of the Parish and shall perform the duties assigned to such by Canon Law and those assigned by Oregon state law to a Secretary of a nonprofit corporation.

Any officer who is not a member of the Vestry shall not be eligible to vote at meetings of the Vestry. *Each officer shall hold office at the pleasure of the Vestry and may be removed by a majority vote of the Vestry.*

4. STANDARD OF CONDUCT.

All Members of the Vestry and Officers of the Parish shall carry out their responsibilities according to these general principles:

- **Due Care and Loyalty.** Vestry members and Parish Officers with discretionary authority will discharge their duties under that authority:
 - In good faith.
 - With the care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances; and
 - In a manner they reasonably believe to be in the best interests of the corporation.
- **Right to Rely on Experts.** In performing their duties, Vestry members and Parish Officers may rely on information, opinions, reports, or statements, including financial statements and other financial data prepared or presented by:
 - Themselves or employees of the corporation whom they reasonably believe to be reliable and competent in the matters presented; or
 - Legal counsel, public accountants, or other persons concerning matters they reasonably believe to be within their professional or expert competence.
- **Failure to Act in Good Faith.** A Vestry member or Parish Officer fails to act in good faith if they rely on information provided by the above persons even though they have knowledge that makes reliance on the information unwarranted.

ARTICLE 4 PARISH MEETINGS

1. ANNUAL MEETING. The Parish shall hold an Annual Meeting on a day and hour determined by the Vestry, for purpose of electing members of the Vestry and delegates to Diocesan Convention, hearing reports, and transacting of other business. Notice of the Annual Meeting, signed by the Rector or one of the Wardens, shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the church and announced at regular church services at least one week prior to the meeting.

At the Annual Meeting, the Rector shall make a full report of the work of the Parish during the preceding year. The Treasurer shall make a full report of all receipts and disbursements for the preceding year, the proposed budget for the coming year, and the financial condition of the Parish. The report of the Church School, the Auditing Committee and other guilds, commissions and committees of the Parish shall also be presented to the meeting.

2. SPECIAL MEETINGS. The Rector or the Vestry may call special meetings of the Parish at any time. Notice of a special meeting must be given in the same manner as for an Annual Meeting and must contain the agenda for the special meeting. Only matters on the agenda for that meeting may be acted on at any special meeting.

3. PRESIDING OFFICER. The Rector, or in his or her absence, the Senior Warden, or, in his or her absence, the Junior Warden, shall preside at all Annual and special meetings of the Parish. The Clerk shall act as Clerk of such meetings. In case of the Clerk's absence, the meeting shall elect a temporary Clerk.

4. QUORUM. A quorum for any Parish meeting shall be 10% of the Voting Members of the Parish.

5. VOTING MEMBERS. Persons eligible to vote at any Meeting of the Parish are all communicants of the Church over 16 years of age who have either: (i) been enrolled on the Parish Register for six months and have communicated in the Parish within the year immediately preceding the Meeting, or (ii) been contributors in their own names to the support of the Parish for at least six months preceding the Meeting. Voting shall be limited to those eligible voters present at the meeting, and voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

6. ELECTIONS. The election of nominees to the Vestry shall take place in the following manner. The sitting Vestry shall appoint a nominating committee to recruit members for the coming year. No less than two months prior to the annual general meeting, said committee shall publicly announce its charge in a prominent manner (e.g., announcements in church, in the electronic newsletter, in the bulletin, and so on), inviting parish members who may be called to serve on the Vestry to apply to do so. The period for accepting applications shall close two weeks prior to the annual meeting. The committee shall review the applications and identify a slate of candidates equal in number to the number of vacancies expected on the Vestry and shall present this slate to the sitting Vestry. The sitting Vestry shall vote to approve, reject, or amend the slate. If approved, the slate shall be shared with the parish in advance of the annual meeting. At the annual meeting, the parish shall vote to accept, reject, or amend the slate of candidates.

ARTICLE 5 BUSINESS METHODS IN CHURCH FINANCES

Books and Records of Account. Together with the Treasurer, the Parish will maintain correct and complete books, financial statements, and records of account. The Parish will keep its books and records of account and prepare its financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, which shall be applied on a consistent basis from period to period.

Loans. The Parish may not borrow money or issue evidences of indebtedness unless the Vestry authorizes the action.

Fiscal Year. The Parish will use a calendar year fiscal year unless the Board expressly determines otherwise.

Deposits. The Parish will cause all funds of the Parish not otherwise employed to be deposited to the credit of the Parish in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as the Parish or Treasurer may select.

Banking. Banking Trust and permanent funds and all securities shall be deposited with an FDIC insured bank or credit union, or with some other agency approved in writing by the Vestry. These deposits shall be under a trust or an agency agreement and provide for at least two signatures on an order of withdrawal.

Insurance. All buildings and their contents shall be kept adequately insured.

Transparency. As part of its annual report, the Treasurer shall present information on the administration of, and compliance with, this Section.

ARTICLE 6 CONFLICTING INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

The Parish has adopted a Conflict of Interest Policy dated January 24, 2019, which is incorporated herein by reference.

ARTICLE 7 ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

These Bylaws shall become effective upon approval by a majority of those present at the *Annual Meeting of the Parish Vestry* meeting dealing with these Bylaws described herein.

~~The Bylaws may be amended. Amendments to the Bylaws must be approved~~ by a majority vote of the Vestry at any regularly scheduled Vestry meeting or any special meeting properly called for that purpose ~~and must be approved by a majority vote of the Parish at the Annual Meeting.~~

CERTIFICATION OF PARISH ADOPTION

The undersigned, Clerk of the Vestry of Grace Memorial Episcopal Parish, certifies that the foregoing Amended and Restated Bylaws were adopted by the ~~Vestry~~ Parish on this _____ day of _____, 2020~~6~~. The Clerk was empowered to authenticate these Bylaws by their signature below.

Clerk:

RECTOR'S REPORT

This year, I am grateful for:

A faithful and deeply engaged Vestry. Your Vestry brings prayerfulness and wisdom to the work of leading our church. If you've been part of a Board that doesn't work so well – a Board on which there is a bunch of grandstanding, mutual suspicion, or (maybe even worse) indifference – you will know what a big deal it is that our Vestry asks thoughtful questions, offers generous suggestions, and encourages one another. It's a strong group of people cycling off (thank you Kevin Walsh, Charles McGee II, Jennifer Yeast, and Roosevelt Carter) and a strong group of people cycling on (see their names in this booklet).

Our Intergenerational Service. Begun at the suggestion of Charles McGee II, this monthly service began partway through last year. Its goals are to have fun, to invite a breadth of people (including the very young) into leadership, and to encounter our tradition in ways both ancient and new. We're in a cultural moment in which it's not unusual to visit a church and never set eyes on a child: it's a gift to worship and serve with our families every week and, in particular, to witness their leadership at this service.

Everyone who invited a friend to church. Websites, banners, and mailouts matter. And they are all a distant second in evangelism to a personal invitation to our church from you. That invitation is what inspires people to give Grace a try. To borrow a line from David Dark: *My love language is you have to check this out.* Thank you for telling the people whom you love about your love for Grace.

Our Garden Club. Every time I come by the church the grounds look just a little more beautiful. They are an outward and visible sign of the life in our community. Thank you to everyone who comes to mow and prune and plant.

My colleagues on the church staff. It's a big deal to like and to trust the people with whom you work. And I like and trust our team so much. As Peyton Snead said during a financial stewardship reflection a few years ago, Grace runs on a shoestring. Thank you to Nick Fox, Lukas Sherman, Sue Jensen, Evelyn Prater, Jo Wiersma, and Demetria Keck for getting so much good and holy work out of that shoestring.

My clergy colleagues. Grace is a mid-sized congregation with a stable of clergy that would be the envy of a lot of cathedrals. Thank you Liz Klein, Dick Toll, Corbet Clark, Lara Halsey, and Jonah Kogo. I keep learning from all of you about the hard and strange and beautiful work that is ordained ministry.

Art Camp. We like camp,
 we like camp,
 we like going to Grace Art Camp.

The Sunday Meal and the Sack Lunch Ministry. Jesus says: *I was hungry and you fed me. I was a stranger and you welcomed me.* Thank you for listening to him.

Our Finance Committee. As Corbet said at the conclusion of the budget meeting a couple of weeks ago, this year's budget is the clearest and easiest to understand that we've had in years. Thank you to our whole committee, our outgoing Financial Chair, Roosevelt Carter, and our Treasurer, Marissa Cheplick, in particular, for their excellent work.

Everyone who showed up with an idea and energy to get it started. The aforementioned Garden Club exists because Nancy Entrikin said, *we should have a garden club!* Andre Pruitt's wonderful book group happened because he said to me *I'd like to start a book group!* What holy idea is percolating within you? I'd love to collaborate with you and with the Holy Spirit to make it happen.

Coffee Hour. It's not called Happy Hour for no reason.

Sue Jensen and the choir. Augustine got it right: those who sing pray twice. Thank you musicians! Thank you, in particular, to Kevin Walsh, Phoebe MacRae, Debbie McDuffee, LeRoy Patton, and Cameron Denney who kept our choir going through the depths of pandemic. Thank you to our dedicated choir and choral scholars now.

You. I mentioned a few paragraphs ago what a gift it is to like and trust your colleagues. It is a similar gift to get to like and trust – to love – all of you. Being the Body of Christ together isn't always easy. Grace is made up of other people and, therefore, we test each other's patience sometimes. But we keep showing up for and with each other and for our neighbors. As the news keeps on showing us painful and confusing and dissonant things, our choice to show up together matters. It might be what saves us.

Jesus. Jesus Christ keeps on inspiring, disarming, and confusing everyone who hears his voice. I am duly amazed to sit beside you at his feet.

That isn't an exhaustive list: we could keep on going for pages yet. There are so, so many good things happening at our parish for all people in the heart of the city. I'm grateful for all these things, now and always.

*Yours in the Love of Christ,
Martin Elfert*

CURATE'S REPORT

This last year has been a whirlwind. Many ups and downs. It has particularly a gift to be a part of this community as I experienced two rather rare and dramatic pregnancy losses. I bring this up first and foremost to offer my gratitude and to highlight one small way that this community has a positive impact on the world. If not for the commitment to ethical labor practices I could not have made it through this year intact. I was able to receive excellent care because this church values its commitments and cares for its people. I cannot overstate my gratitude. A special thanks to my lay support team: Andre Pruitt, Nora McLaughlin and PJ Herring.

Community dinner transitioned to weekly dinners which had an enormous impact on the amount of people who came and were fed. In a very if you build it they will come turn of events the number of guests quadrupled and the number of volunteers followed suit soon after. We now have teams that operate the dinner without direct need for my management. This means it will survive and sustain itself once I am gone. This has been made possible by the commitment of Yetunde Laniran, Brother Andrew, Anne Crockett, Deb Pratt, Nora McLaughlin, Deacon Liz, and many many others.

I have grown enormously in my preaching, what I once thought was impossible, preaching extemporaneously, I now do regularly. I have also grown in confidence in chanting the Eucharist. It is an important part of my role here to grow and learn as a pastor and I have been able to do so. I am particularly grateful for the Thursday morning service, which has also grown, and their support of my experimentation.

To that end I also engaged in online courses with Duke Divinity school on Church Administration and Finances. This was significantly illuminating and gave me the confidence to participate more fully in stewardship and budgeting.

The garden I worked on with the camp provided spaghetti squash for multiple church dinners. I am grateful to the ways the camp leaders worked with me on this endeavor.

Coffee hour is now a more equitably shared labor amongst parishioners. Nora McLaughlin, Evelyn Prater, and Yetunde Laniran have helped sustain this ministry and learn to make it more sustainable. We now have eight teams out of the twelve that are needed. This is good news!

Here is to another year of devotion, care and most importantly Grace!

*Respectfully Submitted,
Rev Lara Halsey*

DEACON'S REPORT

2025 was a challenging year for me. My Mother died in January and my Mother-in-Law died in December. In addition, I have been particularly saddened by the frightening things happening in Palestine, Ukraine, Sudan, and the USA.

Principal Duties: The Deacon will form and illuminate the diaconal dimension of the congregation's ministry and mission as the Church. She will engage, enlist, and encourage the laity to live into their baptismal gifts and help us respond to the needs, hopes and concerns of the world.

My pastoral work as a Deacon at Grace Memorial includes pastoral visits, preaching, outreach and advocacy work for the homeless, gun safety, Palestine and care of Mother Earth. I helped lead *Love God, Love God's World*, a 9-session course emphasizing care of God's creation. We collaborated with St John the Evangelist in Milwaukie and had 12 steady participants. We concluded with a fun potluck at my house. We continue to meet on the 4th Tuesdays of the month.

I continue to support the Grace Racial Justice and Environmental Action Team. This group is made up of individuals that care deeply about racism and creation care. We have promoted reduce, reuse and recycle at Grace Memorial. We have signed many petitions. I helped plan and promote an incredibly informative presentation on Climate Adaptation at Grace Memorial in September 2025. This was a fun collaboration with 350 PDX and Citizens' Climate Lobby.

I am on our Diocese Task Force for Palestinian Human Rights. I pray for peace and advocate for peace with our senators and representatives. I helped write and present our resolution at our Diocesan Convention. Thankfully it passed. We are reaching out to different churches in our diocese to educate and advocate for Palestinian Human Rights. I helped organize an informative presentation by Jonathon Kutab in November 2025 *Peace and Ceasefire in Gaza? What's Happening? What's next?* We had 65 participants.

I continue to help lead the Grace Safety, Security and Health Team, which is a wonderful collaboration between the church and our partners. This team has improved our ability to work together and support each other. Our goal is to make Grace Memorial a safe place for all. We got the crash bars installed. We plan to have Narcan available by the AED in the hallway. We will do another Narcan training. We have worked on a better lock up system for Grace Memorial. We are advocating for a better camera system. We hope to further develop the Grace Memorial Emergency Response Team in 2026. Niki Moquist, my husband and I put on an Emergency Prep presentation in December.

I have enjoyed working with the Prayers of the People Team, promoting prayer and peace at Grace Memorial. This has been quite challenging with all the issues in our world. I have also enjoyed supporting Gwen Harvey, a lay leader with a passion for Bible study, especially with women.

I enjoy preaching, pastoral visits and trying to help build community at Grace Memorial.

I pray for peace and advocate for peace with our senators and representatives. I continue my advocacy work with Moms Demand Action and the Alliance for Safe Oregon to reduce gun violence, especially in Oregon.

I continue to encourage regular clergy meetings to discuss liturgy, projects, collaboration, and pastoral needs in our congregation.

My husband and I continue to volunteer with our Neighborhood Emergency Team and care for our neighbors and friends. I have assisted with many of the Grace community dinners making delicious nutritious salads and playing piano for our guests.

My gifts are appreciating others' gifts and encouraging them to use their gifts. I am especially interested in helping people know the love of God, the power of prayer and the power of beloved community. I will always seek and discern ways to bring the hopes, concerns and needs of the world into the church and assist the people of the church to go out and meet those needs and concerns. There are so many needs.

*Praying for Peace,
Elizabeth Klein, Deacon at Grace Memorial*

RECOMMENDATION FOR NEW VESTRY MEMBERS

Nomination Process

The 2026 slate for the Vestry and Diocesan Convention comes after several months of work by the Nominating Committee.

The committee consists of two current Vestry members, one or two parish members who currently are not on the Vestry, and the Rector. Outreach began in the fall through announcements encouraging people to apply. These were made on Zoom, in the Grace Notes, in the Sunday bulletin, and by telephone.

Each person completed a short application indicating why they want to serve and what skills and background they can offer.

As a result of this process, the Nominating Committee recommended the following Slates to the Vestry. The Vestry approved the proposed slates, which will be voted on by the full parish at the Annual Meeting.

Recommendations

The Vestry recommends that the following parish members be elected to the Vestry by the Congregation:

Vestry, 3-year term

- Kirsten Greene
- Yetunde Laniran
- Kathleen Park-Lindsay
- Andre Pruitt

Vestry, 2-year term:

- Shannon Jones

Diocesan Representatives:

- Zahnga Peabody
- Andre Pruitt
- Jennifer Traeger

Vestry Candidate Information



Kirsten Greene

It's a great honor to be considered for the Grace Vestry. The skills I would bring are in facilitation and project coordination. I'm enthusiastic to help Grace meet their campus planning goals, albeit a long range project. I am trained as a land use planner, and am currently the Deputy Director of the Department of Land Conservation and Development for the State. From age 12, I grew up in the Episcopalean tradition - at St. John the Baptist, then followed Father Stephen to Grace Memorial. I'm supported and delighted by my husband Rob Manning and teens Ariel and Nate Manning.

Yetunde Laniran



I came to Grace Memorial in 1999 with my two sons, Mayowa and Yinka, and the church's strong sense of community and commitment to service have been integral to our lives ever since. I am a cradle Episcopalian, and St. Paul's Anglican Church in Ibadan remains my family's home church in Nigeria. Finding a congregation rooted in the Anglican tradition was central to my search, and that shared heritage—together with the deep friendships I have formed over more than two decades—continues to make Grace my spiritual home.

My first love and professional foundation are in teaching and linguistics. When opportunities arise, I continue to teach Yorùbá, my mother tongue, to those interested in the language, culture, and traditions of my heritage. Professionally, I work remotely for Kaiser Permanente in the Information Technology department, supporting electronic health record systems. While my work is not at the bedside, I take great pride in supporting the clinicians and caregivers who provide high-quality care to our patients each day.

Grace Memorial has always been a vibrant and welcoming community, and I am continually inspired by the faithfulness of its members and the richness of its shared life. The art camps and annual fair, in particular, reflect the creativity and diversity that make Grace exceptional. I believe strongly in active participation in the life of the church and have found vestry service to be a meaningful way to contribute.

I recently completed a term on the vestry from 2024 to 2026 and am volunteering to serve again in order to help carry forward initiatives begun during that term, particularly in collaboration with the Finance Committee. I hope to continue serving as a bridge—supporting continuity, strengthening stewardship, and sustaining the good work underway—so that Grace Memorial remains a thriving and faithful community for generations to come.

Kathleen Park-Lindsay



I grew up in Portland working in health care in a non-clinical role until I retired in 2008. This gave me the opportunity to spend time with my grandchildren and build close relationships with them.

For the last nine years I have been a member of a national social justice movement, Be Present, Inc. This group has helped me to live in community using effective communication to build sustaining relationships.

I found the Episcopal Church, or it found me, in 2015. It continues to be a central part of my life. I have volunteered with the Sack Lunch ministry, and for a time, dishwashing. I put intentional energy into welcoming new people and I have participated in many of the offered events.

The Grace community is a special group of caring people who inspire me every day. It is a blessing to be a part of this congregation and I look forward to supporting its mission.

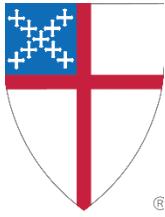
Andre Pruitt



I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker providing culturally responsive therapy through my private practice at Rustic Sage LLC. Additionally, I serve as an Adjunct Professor at the Portland State School of Social Work. My life has been an incredible spiritual journey that began with my baptism as a baby at St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church. I have participated in a variety of spiritual practices. Throughout my life, I attended Episcopal churches sporadically, but during the COVID-19 pandemic, I began attending Grace Memorial Church regularly.

During my time at Grace, I became increasingly aware of the remarkable journey I have had with God. In 2020, I decided to strengthen my connection with God by making Grace Memorial my home church. While participating in a catechumen class, I recognized the need for a deeper understanding of the Episcopal faith and committed to becoming more involved at Grace.

To act on this commitment, I lead a book group focused on “Your Faith, Your Life: An Invitation to the Episcopal Church,” and participating in the Education for Ministry. Additionally, I have served as a Diocesan Delegate. I feel that my participation in the church has brought me many blessings, and now, I hope to give back as a vestry member.



Zahnga Peabody

Zahnga E. Peabody has been a member of Grace Memorial Episcopal Church since 2021. He has served as a Lector and Intercessor at the 8:00 a.m. service since 2024 and also participates regularly in the Thursday morning service. Zahnga is honored to stand for election as a Diocesan Delegate and looks forward to continuing to serve the church and the wider diocese.



Jennifer Traeger

I was fortunate to find Grace Memorial last year after the closure of Sts Peter and Paul, where I had been a member since 2015. I came to the Episcopal church later in my life as a sort of refugee from the Catholic church. At Sts Peter and Paul, I was buoyed by the liturgy, the community, and the opportunities to serve the neighborhood around us. I continue to volunteer most Sunday nights with the Hope & Bread church, and Episcopal City Mission that meets in the Montavilla Park to feed, worship, and build community with our houseless neighbors. I served on the vestry at Sts Peter and Paul.

I was born in Portland, but most of my growing up happened in Montana. I have degrees in history and social work, and have spent most of my career as a clinical social worker in end of life care. Currently I'm the director of a large home hospice program. As a social worker, I have most enjoyed working with children and families, and one of my most fulfilling experiences was running a camp for bereaved children, called Camp Erin. I am a lover of books, walking, knitting, cooking, animals, movies, and I am especially grateful for the friends and family in my life.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nominating Committee Members:
Charles A. McGee II, Kevin Walsh, and Fr. Martin*

FROM YOUR SENIOR WARDENS

Greetings everyone. Your Vestry meets every first Sunday in a hybrid in-person/zoom meeting, in the Mason-Burnham Room from noon – 1:30PM. Anyone is welcome to attend. Just let me know and we can welcome you.

Thank you to everyone who continues to help keep Grace Memorial Church a vibrant community of worship and ministry. Father Martin Elfert, Reverend Lara Halsey, Deacon Dr. Liz Klein, Sue Jensen, Evelyn Prater, our amazing Altar and Flower Guilds, Ushers, Crucifers, Acolytes, Sacristans, Readers, Healing Ministries, and more! Each of us contribute to our continued growth.

We continue to reach people through our In-Person/Hybrid worship services. Many people have learned about Grace through our hybrid services and now attend in-person on Sundays. I just checked and we continue to have between 30 and 50+ views each week!

We continue to offer our State of Grace meetings, the last Sunday of nearly every month. We inform, educate, ask and answer questions of those gathered, following the 10AM service.

Thank you to Deacon Liz and the rest of the Safety Team, who continue to strive to make our campus a safe and secure place. We finally got our three crash bars on the doors to Weidler St., 17th Ave. and the Opdenweyer/Vestry. The doors are safer now because the locks are more secure and much easier to exit through quickly.

Grace Institute put on another successful camp for 1,300+ campers this summer. The campers created the beautiful salmon mural on the west side of the church building. It is colorful and the salmon are seen swimming toward the entrance to our courtyard and church. The Garden Club (Nancy Entrikin mostly) planted nandina and spirea which will grow into a delightful stream of yellow, red and green under the swimming salmon.

Many thanks to everyone who participated in leading us in another successful in-person Gala in September. It was a great success! Well-done to everyone who helped in this amazing opportunity to celebrate. We couldn't do it without you!!

Thanks to Sue Jensen, our Organist/Choirmaster, for her continued work toward keeping our worship at a high level with her liturgical music expertise, our wonderful bulletins and keeping our home page and website fresh and current! Thanks to our choral scholars. It's nice to hear their voices in our talented choir.

Special thanks to Yetunde Laniran for coordinating the Coffee Hour and thanks to those who volunteer to host and clean up every Sunday!

As we finish our final years as your Senior Wardens, we want to thank our fellow Vestry members for 2025: Xander Almeida, Roosevelt Carter, Marissa Cheplick – Treasurer, Martha

Humphrey, Yetunde Laniran - Junior Warden, Nora McLaughlin, Jennifer Traeger, Stephen Weeks and Jennifer Yeast. Thanks also to Rev. Martin, Rev. Lara, Deacon Liz and our Vestry Clerk Alicia Lehrle whose diligent notetaking makes our work understandable for future generations. For more information about Vestry activities, see the minutes posted on the Grace Memorial website.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Walsh (Rector's Advisor) and
Charles A. McGee II (Vestry Chair)
Co-Senior Wardens*

SAFETY, SECURITY & HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT

Grace Safety Security and Health Team was formed in 2022 to improve the safety, security and health of Grace Memorial Campus. It has been a very collaborative team. One of the major accomplishments of this team is that it has brought together different groups that use the Grace Memorial campus in a common mission to improve the safety of Grace Memorial Campus. We have seen increased collaboration between groups as well.

2025 was a challenging year. We lost Phame and Jeff Ewen but we gained Robin Gault, Marian Koop-McMahon and Ray Apthorp. The other members of the team include Nick Fox, Demetria Keck, Niki Moquist, Robin Gault and Ashley Klump and Deacon Liz. We meet monthly on the 3rd Wednesday of each month on Zoom. We are seeking a lay leader to help lead this group.

- 1) Panic bars were approved by vestry and installed. This took a lot of collaboration with vestry. Very much appreciate the vestry prioritizing safety.
- 2) We updated the instructions for non-life-threatening emergencies and posted them. These need to be updated at least yearly.
- 3) We did a CPR class together in April.
- 4) We worked with Robin to create a plan to improve access for all. This is a work in progress. A ramp is an expensive investment. Wonder about outside resources.
- 5) We talked about Emergency Preparedness. Niki, Arnie and Liz put on an Emergency Prep presentation in December 2025. This was poorly attended and could be offered at State of Grace, perhaps during Lent.

6) We reviewed the situation where a man respiratory arrested in our chapel on Christmas Eve. Martin did great chest compressions. We worked well together as a team. We did not have Narcan. We now have 4 vials, one box (2 vials) on the sack lunch cart and 2 vials in the AED cabinet. Liz instructed staff on use. Liz also sent a signed card of appreciation to the EMTs who came quickly and were kind and professional.

7) We addressed the issues surrounding locking up and turning off the lights. Ashley made signs and put them up in each room to help people know what windows and doors need to be locked and what lights need to be turned off. Thank you, Ashley.

8) Lighting, especially at night, continues to be a regular issue. We are thankful for the people that tell us when it is not working properly.

9) We are working on a process for when threats are made against someone involved with the Grace Campus. This is a serious situation and we would appreciate some expertise on this subject.

10) Need for better camera system- Nick wrote up a great piece and got a reasonable bid. It was presented at Vestry January meeting. This is an investment in safety that should not be delayed.

11) We have worked each summer to assist with making Grace safe for all the Grace Art Camp staff and students. We may need more volunteers to assist with this.

12) We still want to form an Emergency Response Team at Grace with special training in De-escalation, medical emergency response and possibly active shooter.

This is an active group working together to make the Grace Memorial Campus more secure and safer for all. Let us know if you have questions or concerns or would like to join our team.

*Blessings,
Deacon Liz*

MUSIC MINISTRY AT GRACE

I would like to extend a note of gratitude to all at Grace who have loyally contributed their gifts of time, talent, and financial support to our Music Ministry for the Glory of God in our worship services, special events and concerts.

I am most grateful to our Grace Choir members, the Choral Scholars and our guest singers & instrumentalists for their steady and unwavering support in contributing to the musical life of our worship services throughout the entire year. Special thanks to Cameron Denney for coordinating our vestments for everyone.

Special thanks to the Grace Choir & friends who sang with the choir, January 2025 – December 2025:

<i>Sopranos</i>	<i>Altos</i>	<i>Tenors</i>	<i>Basses</i>
Shannon Jones	Cameron	Jack Ryan*	Elijah Brown*
Phoebe MacRae	Denney [♡]	Rowan Clark**	Kirin Cowell-
Christy Guinan	Debbie	Soren Cowell-	Shah*
Tonantzin	McDuffee	Shah**	Peter David*
Ramirez**	Kinnari Shah	William Gao**	Pablo Riffel*
Debbie McDuffee	Sherrie Vacarella	Andy D'Antonio	Dustin Berck**
	Louise Tippens	Jake Vacarella	Malcolm
	Sam Cooper-	Kevin Walsh	Grant**
	Gross	Miles Thoming-	Br. Andrew
		Gale	Robert Hansler
		John Cox	

* Sept 2025 – June 2025 Choral Scholar – current

** Choral Scholar alumni

♡Vestment coordinator

- **Contributed financial gifts – Thank you!**

In 2025, several significant gifts contributed to the support of our Choral Scholar Program and to the Music Program. We are very proud of the choir student involvement and their commitment at Grace, and we are very grateful for our donors who give financial support to this important program and to the musical life at Grace in our worship services.

- **Choral Scholar highlights**

Thank you to our current Choral Scholars: Kirin Cowell-Shah, Jack Ryan, Pablo Riffel, Peter David, and Elijah Brown for being enthusiastic, solid, weekly participants in the GCS program.

Special thanks to Soren Cowell-Shah, Malcolm Grant, William Gao, Dustin Berck, Rowan Clark (our former Choral Scholar alums currently attending Harvard, Yale, University of Washington, Lewis and Clark College, Carnegie Mellon), and Tonantzin Ramirez (a sophomore in the Opera Program at Oberlin College), who have returned and jumped into every opportunity to sing at Grace over the summer or on their Christmas/holiday break – from the Pageant to Advent Lessons & Carols, Christmas Eve services, Christmas Lessons and Carols and Epiphany Evensong.

- **Number of Students to Participate in the Program over three years: 13**

Soren Cowell-Shah	currently a junior at Harvard Univ.
*Kirin Cowell-Shah	currently a senior at Lincoln High School
Malcolm Grant	currently a junior at Yale University
Rowan Clark	currently a freshman at Carnegie-Mellon
William Gao	currently a junior at Univ. of Washington
Rylan Copperman	currently a junior at Univ of Oregon
Astrid Libby	graduate of Lincoln High School; gap year
Dustin Berck	currently a freshman of Lewis and Clark College
*Peter David	currently at sophomore at Lincoln High School
Tonantzin Ramirez	currently a junior at Oberlin College
*Pablo Riffel	gap year between Grant high school and college
*Jack Ryan	Junior year at Grant High school; in several choirs
*Elijah Brown	organ student

*current Choral Scholar

- **Guest performance at Willamette View**

In June, 2025, several Choral Scholars, Phoebe MacRae and I gave an hour concert to Don & Carol Anne Brown & friends at Willamette View. It was a joy-filled and wonderful event to celebrate a special birthday and to give thanks.

- **Friends of the choir & guest musicians – *Thank you!***

Special thanks to guest musicians *Kevin Walsh, Andy D'Antonio, John Cox, Miles Thoming-Gale, Br. Andrew, Bob Hansler, Matt Smith, Adam LaMotte, Adaiha MacAdam-Somer, Jonathan Johnson, Dan Schulz, Matthew Gilligan, Bruce & Gwyneth Van-Buskirk and all others who have brought their instrumental and vocal music to our services.*

- **Amadeus Chamber Orchestra – *Artist in Residence at Grace, Sept. 2025 – June 2026***

This past fall, Amadeus Chamber Orchestra, under the Artistic Direction of Adam LaMotte, became Artist-in-Residence at Grace, presenting a weekly one-hour concert in our beautiful sanctuary on Tuesday evenings with the ambience of 700 LED lights. Musicians from the Oregon Symphony, Portland Baroque Orchestra and Portland Opera Orchestra regularly are part of this extraordinary series at Grace.

- **Beautiful solos!**

A huge shout-out to Phoebe MacRae, soprano & Kevin Walsh, (emeritus baritone from our Trinity Cathedral), for their lovely solos throughout the year! Thank you to Phoebe for her help at our Celtic Services. We are so blessed by your beautiful voices & gift of service.

- **I heard the bells on Christmas Day!**

Did you hear bells ringing from the organ? ***Yes, you did!***

This past December, The Bond Organ Company installed our long-awaited Zimbelstern (nine-bell organ stop). We have been talking about this for many years, and now, this wonderful sound has brought a new sound of merriment to the organ and to our joyful services. This came from a significant financial gift dedicated to the Organ. The Zimbelstern bells come from the dismantled organ from St. Peter & Paul's Episcopal Church which closed this past year – and this is particularly fun for Christy Guinan, a new member of the choir, who comes from St. P&Ps.



- **Thank you!**

Thank you all for your wonderful, kind and generous support of the music ministry at Grace. If one common thread among our services can be identified, ...it is that Grace loves to sing God's praises, and we are blessed to carry God's joy in our hearts with praises and song.

I can easily say that we at Grace are the very best singing congregation in the Diocese of Western Oregon!

Music blessings to you!
Susan Jensen, Choir Director/Organist

WEEKDAY SACK LUNCH MINISTRY

Grace Memorial provides healthy carryout meals, water, socks, gloves, and hats to those in need, and provides information for other known support services.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome" (Matthew 25:35)

Volunteers provide support in 2-hour shifts, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 11-1. There is a schedule of regular volunteers and a list of those available to serve as substitutes. We would benefit from additional members willing to serve 1-3 times per month.

In 2025, we distributed an average of 64 meals per month to guests who came through our doors. This varies from day to day and week to week. We saw an increase in demand when SNAP benefits were in jeopardy.

In addition, in late September we established a partnership with Weidler Commons, an affordable senior housing community in our neighborhood. We provided 15-20 meals per week for their residents in addition to our walk-in guests. One of their residents is now a regular volunteer once a week.

We gave out over 740 lunches at Grace and another 275 lunches to residents of Weidler Commons. Our free food 'pantry' on the corner of 17th and Weidler was destroyed in fall and has yet to be replaced.

Members and friends of Grace donate approximately 1/3 of the food, water, hats, gloves, toiletries, and other items that are used for this ministry. We list in the bulletin each week the current needs. The remainder of the lunch contents and supplies are purchased by Grace, the cost of which is included in the annual budget.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nora McLaughlin*

WELCOMING MINISTRY: COFFEE HOUR

Following Sunday services, Coffee Hour continues to draw a steady and welcoming gathering of parishioners who value the opportunity to connect and socialize. Coffee Hour was sustained in 2025 through the generosity of members who voluntarily bring snacks to share, along with occasional hosts who step in as they are able.

To reduce reliance on disposable plates and utensils, several dedicated members have consistently taken responsibility of washing dishes. We are grateful for this commitment and remain optimistic that the planned purchase of a new dishwasher and stove will significantly improve efficiency. With hope and anticipation, 2026 is the year.

A heartfelt thank you is extended to **Nora McLaughlin** and **Cameron Denney**, who stepped into the role of co-hosts for Coffee Hour in 2025. We are also deeply appreciative of everyone who contributes by bringing food, setting up tables, and helping with cleanup afterward. These collective efforts are essential to the success of this ministry.

We are excited to share that **Lara, Nora, and Evelyn** have assumed leadership in organizing parishioners into small groups that will host Coffee Hour four times a year. This new structure promises to strengthen shared responsibility and community engagement.

Black History Month in 2025 was particularly meaningful, enriched by shared stories and materials. As we look ahead to Black History Month in 2026, we hope to see even broader participation, with more members bringing resources and reflections to help us celebrate, learn, and grow together.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Yetunde Laniran, organizer*

USHERS – MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

“I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.” (Matthew 25:35)

The usher team participates in the life of Grace by greeting and welcoming people to the service. This hospitality strengthens our worship community and connects parishioners.

Many thanks to our committed group of ushers, who are incredibly flexible and practical.

Please consider joining this wonderful group! New volunteers are paired with an experienced usher to learn the responsibilities, and written guidelines also provide detailed instructions. Teens and families are encouraged to be part of this ministry.

In addition to welcoming and seating all comers to the service, ushers provide bulletins so all can follow and participate in the service. They present the elements of bread and wine, take and gather the collection and present this offering of the people in the name of the congregation. Ushers guide those who wish to participate in the Holy Eucharist, which brings us into the presence of Christ and the presence of Christ in one another. They arrange for communion in the pew for those unable to come to the altar rail. A few simple security, set up and clean up responsibilities are also included.

If you are interested in serving or have questions about this ministry, please contact Louise Tippens, Father Martin or other clergy, or leave your name and contact information at the office, letting them know you have questions or would like to serve. A copy of the guidelines is available to anyone interested.

*Respectfully submitted,
Louise Tippens*

THE GUILD OF ST. MARY

There are several components that make the Guild of St. Mary integral to the life of Grace as well as an example of the many different and creative ways we do ministry and outreach.

Since 2003, we have been making quilts and blankets to give to Rose Haven – which assists women and children with insecure or no housing, Hopewell House – a residential hospice care facility, and Community Warehouse.

In 2025, St. Mary’s Guild made and delivered approximately 80 small quilts and crocheted yarn or polar fleece blankets.

St. Mary’s Guild also makes an ambitious “Opportunity Quilt” for the annual Grace Art Faire and Holiday Bazaar. This project is a multi-faceted work of art involving collaboration and creative challenge. In 2025, we exceeded our 2024 record of \$1000 in ticket sales! An improvisational

wall quilt featuring birds and habitats of the Pacific Northwest reimagined in geometric forms, the 2025 annual quilt was titled "Not one sparrow can fall to the ground without the Father knowing." (Matthew 10:29). In 2025 we also made new paraments, including the altar frontal, in blues for Advent.

As members of St. Mary's Guild, we treasure our relationships with one another. Now in our 23rd year, we find that getting together to work in the company of others from a range of age groups is a great blessing and joy! We meet most Thursdays and the second Saturday of each month in the Mason Burnham Room to sew, quilt, crochet and knit projects for those who need them. We also gather to work on individual projects and to learn new skills, and we welcome those of all ages and skill levels to join us. (If you are a beginner, we will teach you what you need to know!)

Since 2003, our work has been greatly assisted by donated materials. St. Mary's Guild has very limited storage, much of which is in our own homes. We can only accept donations on a case by case basis if they are 100% quilt weight cotton or 100% cotton flannel with at least half a yard of usable fabric. We do welcome donations of Homespun yarn by Lion Brand for prayer shawls. Cash donations, including a generous \$1000 from the 2025 Art Faire and Bazaar, will be used to purchase necessary supplies such as thread, quilt batting, backing and finishing fabrics.

*Respectfully submitted,
Mariann Koop-McMahon*

CHURCH SCHOOL

In May 2023, we re-launched church school with vibrant success. There are approximately 35 children who participate in our church school. Each week, there are about 5-12 children in attendance. Many of you, our Grace Memorial church family, have volunteered in our church school, and we are so thankful for you! Your service enables us to build community and minister to the children of Grace. With the help of our adult volunteers, our children in church school reflect on the week's reading through Illustrated Ministry lessons. We sing, dance, pray, paint, build, and ponder. We have also had the opportunity to engage in Grace's ministry to the hungry as the children helped prepare sack lunches. We look forward to the continued growth of this ministry in the upcoming year.

*Respectfully submitted,
Church School Volunteers*

HOLY LAND MINISTRY

The Holy Land Ministry has asked the parishioners to pray for Rami. He is a Christian Palestinian that has been detained without charges for the past two years in an Israeli Military Prison. His family lives in Palestine. Muna, his mother, has been denied a travel permit. The only visitor Rami has seen in the past year is his attorney. In December, Rami's has been detained for another four months. We are praying for his release.

The Holy Land Ministry held an Episcopal Technological Vocational Training Center Scholarship Fundraiser in June/July. We raised enough money to give five students' a one thousand dollars scholarship (each).

Rev. Dick Toll, Rev. Liz Klein, and Jo Bronson attended the Western Oregon Episcopal Diocese Convention in October. They spoke in support of the Palestinians Resolution. The Resolution was asking for an immediate and permanent cease fire in Gaza. And Israel was to allow humanitarian aid to enter Gaza. The Resolution passed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jo Bronson*

GRACE GALA 2025 ACCESS FOR ALL

This year, the focus of the fundraising portion of the Gala was to create a new ramp to the red doors on 17th Avenue. Through the generous contributions from our Grace community, a net total of **\$28,059.13** was raised at the Gala.

Many thanks to all who contributed the beautiful baskets and artwork for our silent auction, arranged events for which people could sign up, and offered the special events, services and experiences through the live auction. A special thanks goes to all the volunteers who offered their time, expertise and sense of fun that made the gala a very special event for all.

GRACE GARDEN CLUB

The Grace Garden Club started in earnest last Spring. We have been working nearly every week in two-hour increments, filling all four of the green yard debris carts nearly every time. That is a lot of yard debris. We've had a great time working to make the Grace grounds what we think they could and should be. Many gardeners have come before us and planted some lovely plants with beautiful foliage and blossoms. If you look on 17th St you can see that the fragrant, white bell-shaped flowers of white andromeda are beginning to bloom. They are also known as the Lily-of-the-Valley Shrub!

We have fun ideas for the future and will continue to let you know what is blooming. Anyone who wants to join us speak up. It's fun to work together and get our regular dosage of vitamin D.

You do not need to be a Master Gardener to join. We all learn as we go!

*Your devoted Garden Club,
Tamara Boyd, Laura
Cunningham, Nancy Entrikin,
Cathy Gibson, Susan Jensen,
Alicia Lehrle, Nancy
McCusker, Niki Moquist,
Kevin Walsh*

ALTAR GUILD

In 2023, Altar Guild continued to emerge from pandemic conditions and welcomed new members.

Altar Guild responsibilities on a weekly basis entail preparing the sanctuary for Sunday services, setting up the items and elements for celebration of the Eucharist, clearing the altar after Sunday services, cleaning the vessels and linens, and storing everything appropriately for the next week. In addition to the two Sunday services and the Thursday service we also occasionally serve at other times including holidays and special services.

We are thankful for the continued commitment of Demetria Keck, who primarily serves the 8AM Sunday service and the Thursday service in the Chapel. The other altar guild members currently include Cathy Gibson, Carol Maroten, Folake Akande, Gillian and Wolf Weisgram-Sieveking; and Jennifer, Genevieve, and Xavier Yeast.

GRACE RACIAL JUSTICE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION TEAM

The Grace Racial Justice and Environmental Action Team was formed to promote a healthy environment and social justice. The team established connections with other parishes in the diocese, St. Michael and All Angels and St Johns, as part of our environmental work. Now, we are pursuing the environmental part of the work as a new team, the Diocesan Creation Care Working Group.

To join us in ensuring a healthy environment for ourselves and for future generations, please talk to me, Bill Cassidy, or email me at bill.cassidy.on.earth@gmail.com.

Here are some of the projects the GRJ+EAT accomplished last year.

Climate and Environment

- We completed the new course from the national Episcopal Church, “Love God, Love God’s World”
- We helped plan, and hosted a Climate Adaptation Workshop with Prof. Philip Mote
- Experienced birder Dan Strong led Monthly nature walks. (These still happen every month)
- We encouraged Creation Care content in services throughout the year, especially in sermons and the Prayer of the Faithful
- We instituted in a letter-writing campaign to make the CEI Hub (Zenith Terminal) safer and healthier for its neighbors

Social Justice

- We hosted a speaker, Jonathan Kuttal on the subject, “Peace & Ceasefire in Gaza”
- We hosted a panel discussion, “Eyes on the Children in Gaza”

*Respectfully submitted,
Bill Cassidy*

2025 ANNUAL REPORT: GRACE INSTITUTE

Change in our Mission Statement

Grace Institute is an ever-evolving organization. In the spring of 2025, our year-round staff and executive board members came together over two days to create a strategic plan for our future. A couple of seemingly small changes in our mission statement shifts how we view the multicultural work we do. We changed the word “appreciation” to “humility”, and the word “understanding” to “learning”.

Grace Institute’s mission is to nurture the human spirit through the arts, fostering intercultural humility and learning in an open and inclusive community.

We believe that this shift emphasizes our need to be respectful and thoughtful as we immerse ourselves in the art, music, stories, and food of all cultures. We are continuously learning, and we acknowledge that we don’t leave with a full understanding of the cultures we study. There is always more work to do to achieve understanding.

2025 Highlights

Scholarships

We exceeded our annual goal of providing full and partial scholarships over 10% of our campers for the first time! This was achieved by removing transportation barriers that have made it challenging for some of our scholarship campers to attend. This year, we provided buses to and from two separate locations: Chapman Elementary School in Northwest Portland and Alder Elementary School in the Reynolds School District, 10 miles to the east. We partnered with schools and local organizations to make sure campers arrived safely at Grace Art Camp on school district busses.

Grace Art Camp 2014 - 2025 Summer Scholarship Comparison Report											
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Summer Scholarships Awarded											
Holy Cross School	8	9	14	8	8						
PPS Chapman School	30	3	8								
Alder School / Greater Than	44	9	12	5	1	3		4	3		
ODHS (Oregon Department of Human Services)	2	9	6	11	8	14	5				
Other Partnerships	1	13	7	22	13	12	14	19	3	4	
Total Partnership Scholarships	85	43	47	46	30	29	19	23	3	3	
Need-based Scholarship Applications	63	62	67	71	77	69	61	48	34	41	
Total Summer Scholarships	148	105	114	117	107	98	80	71	37	37	
Full Scholarships	138	92	99	102	88	71	48	43	24	24	
Partial Scholarships	10	13	15	15	19	27	32	28	13	13	
Summer Camp Enrollees	1,335	1,360	1,285	1,193	1,100	1,207	1,204	1,207	1,204	1,253	
% Enrolled with scholarship	11.1%	7.7%	8.9%	9.8%	9.7%	8.1%	6.6%	5.9%	3.1%	3.0%	
Grace Art Camp Tuition	\$ 425	\$ 415	\$ 390	\$ 385	\$ 375	\$ 375	\$ 345	\$ 335	\$ 295	\$ 285	

Diversifying Staff

By partnering with Greater-Than, a local non-profit that supports immigrant families with children in the Reynolds School District, we were able to hire counselors from the same community as our Greater-Than scholarship campers. After hearing that some campers felt that they were the only person of color, it became very important to us that we offer more support

and diversify our staff as well. We offered counselor positions to Reynolds High School students working with Greater-Than. These new counselors and CITs were a terrific addition to our team, offering new perspectives, and being able to support young campers who spoke English as a second language.

2025 Programming Spring Break Camp 2025

Dates March 24-26, 2025

Campers 104

Scholarships 16

Studios Fibre Arts, Mixed Media, Photography, Podcasting, Sculpture (Studio Fungi),
Songwriting, Visual Arts

During Spring Break Camp, we journeyed through Mayan myths, Native American legends, and European folktales in honor of characters small in size but bold in spirit. Storyteller Will Hornyak engaged campers with tales and participation stories featuring memorable characters and unforgettable twists of plot and fate.

Summer 2025: People, Salmon, Land, Big River

Dates 9 sessions: June 16 – August 15

Campers 1335 total

Scholarships 148 total

Studios Animation, Beatmaking, Celilo Falls Studio, Ceramics, Culinary Arts, Fibre Arts, Glass, Headwaters Studio, Illustration, Mixed Media, Mural, Photography, Podcasting, Puppets, Sweetgrass Studio, Theatre, Torch Printing, T-Shirts, Urban Gardening, Visual Arts, Weaving, Zines

The theme for GI's signature summer program this year, "People, Salmon, Land, Big River," was especially meaningful as we explored the Indigenous cultures and landscapes of the Pacific Northwest. Campers engaged with Traditional Ecological Knowledge, using their creativity to reflect on our natural world. This was done with guidance from Culture Keepers who generously shared their knowledge, traditions, and lived experiences: Becca Kirk, Chenoa Landry, Emma Johnson, Eva Angus, Joe Cantrell, Kitana Connelly, Lindsey Perez, Rodolfo Serna (also known as Medicine Bear), Turquoise Pride (a three person drum circle), and Confluence Project. We employed 40 seasonal teaching artists and 130 counselors and CITs.

This year campers contributed to a new mural on the parking-lot side of the building, featuring a run of salmon returning home, much like our community of campers return to Grace year after year. We were fortunate to have a rich culinary arts program every week this summer, where campers learned to make food and drinks with locally sourced ingredients. Campers also learned weaving and beading, painted using water from the Columbia, participated in a drum circle with Turquoise Pride, printed with natural materials, and learned about local flora and fauna.

Gathering & Giving Camp 2025

Dates November 24-26, 2025

Campers 64

Scholarships 12

Studios Animation, Ceramics, Culinary Arts, Fibre Arts, Glass, Visual Arts

GI's 2nd Annual Gathering & Giving Camp is a special Autumn Break program centered on creativity, connection, and thankfulness. During Thanksgiving Break, campers focus on creating meaningful, shareable projects across a range of creative disciplines.

Will Hornyak returned to tell the Russian tale of *Vasalisa and Baba Yaga*, about facing fear and finding courage and compassion from within.

2025 Grace Art Faire & Bazaar

This year GI took over the operations of the Grace Art Faire & Bazaar, formerly led by the Women of Grace. Held on December 6th, we hosted 16 vendor artists, plus St. Mary's Guild, Women of Grace wreaths, and the ever-popular food booth. We also raised money for scholarships by selling glass rings and pendants made by Grace Art Campers. Inspired by GAC's summer theme, St. Mary's Guild created their beautiful Opportunity Quilt of birds indigenous to the Pacific Northwest.

St. Mary's Guild raised \$1,000 in raffle tickets for their quilt. This funds the work of the Guild, who makes quilts and blankets for those who need them. The food booth's jams, chutneys, fudge, and breads made over \$3,000. Susan Germundson and Connie Sullivan graciously donated all their profits to the GI scholarship fund. 20% of vendor's sales also went towards scholarships, totaling over \$5,500.

Winter Peace Camp 2025

Dates December 29-31, 2025

Campers 67

Scholarships 9

Studios Glass, Photography, Printmaking, Puppets

This is the first year we offered both Gathering & Giving Camp and Winter Peace Camp, covering more of the school breaks.

We traveled across the night skies, exploring constellations and planets. Will Hornyak told stories of winged horses, giant scorpions, and legendary hunters. This visually inspiring theme motivated artists to develop exceptional projects and performances about stars and the legends of the constellations. The camp concluded with a wonderful shadow performance from the Puppet Studio.

Staffing Transitions in 2025

This summer was Amy Gray's last as Executive Director. Joining GI in the spring of 2022, Amy facilitated new connections with organizations and artists. We went from hosting one Culture Keeper each summer to partnering with several, bringing in a diverse range of perspectives and

lived experiences. Amy moved to White Salmon and is now the Director of Arts in Education of the Gorge.

After Amy's departure, Ashley Klump, who has been involved with Grace Art Camp since 2018 in many roles, has now stepped into the Executive Director/Art Camp Director role in August 2025.

Bo Schroeder served as a GAC artist, musician and MC from 2019 to 2024. In September 2024, they became Registrar & Social Media Manager. Their work with GI over the years is greatly appreciated.

After being a GAC teaching artist, Ray Apthorp took over as Registrar and Operations Manager in September 2025. They have been a valuable addition to the year-round team, diving into the role by strengthening our safety and emergency policies, developing our new birthday party program, and bringing fresh insight to help strengthen our training and management processes. We are so fortunate to have Susan Gray continue in her role as Business Manager & Bookkeeper. Susan has supported Grace Art Camp through a demanding year and a half and is an invaluable part of the team.

Financial Challenges

Economic uncertainty has meant that GAC's full tuition enrollment has drastically decreased. This was the first year we had empty spaces in our summer camps. Tuition provides almost 90% of GI's revenue. In 2026 we will raise tuition to \$450, which is the true cost per camper.

GI is so proud to have granted a record number of scholarships in 2025. This also meant that we depleted our scholarship fund and provided beyond what we had saved. There is an increase in need for this financial assistance that we strive to deliver. Still, we anticipate needing for nearly \$57,000 to reach 10% scholarships again. Our budget falls \$21,000 short of this goal.

GI's payrates have been below market rate for many years, and with the cost of living rapidly increasing, we are falling further behind. Not only are we providing job opportunities for fewer artists and counselors due to low enrollment, but our year-round team has also shrunk, with three staff members carrying the weight of four.

Looking Forward to 2026

2026 will bring some exciting changes in addition to returning to some of our old traditions. Our cultural focus will be on Cuba. In 2025, we did not have storytellers most sessions because our indigenous Culture Keepers informed us that storytelling is traditionally reserved for the colder months in the year, not the summer. We wanted to respect and honor that custom. This summer we will return to our story-based programming, which will support artists' studio development. We're excited to see what the future holds!

A huge thank you to our Board of Directors: Susan Germundson (President), Karena Bennett (Treasurer), Alysson Enriquez (Secretary), Martin Elfert (Rector), Kevin Walsh (Outgoing Vestry Liaison), Nora McLaughlin (Incoming Vestry Liaison), Dulcinea Myeres-Newcomb, Mariann Koop-McMahon, and our 2025 Artist Representatives James Houghton, Sam Schrott, and Sharyn Smith.

We also are deeply appreciative of Gail Sutton who volunteered making staff breakfast snacks in the mornings for every camp. She retired from this role at the end of Summer 2025.

PHAME

PHAME cultivates a thriving community through high-quality arts education and performance opportunities; empowering adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live abundant, creative, connected lives. We offer nearly 40 creative learning opportunities per week in theatre, dance, music, visual arts, film production and have grown to serving up to 120 students per term.

As PHAME continues to expand our service to more students, we've found the need for a larger home that can centralize our programs. After successful fundraising efforts, and the sale of some property earlier in the 2025, we were ready to find a new long-term home. In September we moved into our new building at 2446 SE Ladd in Ladd's Addition. We began holding our fall term classes in our new space but maintained our administrative offices out the house next to Grace Memorial. At the end of February, we will sadly be fully moved into our new office space and out of Grace.

For the past 15 years, we've enjoyed and deeply appreciated our partnership with Grace Memorial and all the wonderful people of the congregation and on staff who have supported our students. We are so grateful to you! We hope not to lose touch and invite you to visit our new space, we'd also like to continue to welcome you to events where our students perform. This was not an easy decision for our team to make, simply because we care so deeply about our partnership. We truly hope we're able to maintain our partnership with Grace, wishing you well.

*"This new home is more than walls and windows — it's a place where creativity and community thrive. It's where students walk in and say, "**I belong here.**"* - Lea Mulligan, PHAME Student, Teaching Artist, and Classroom Assistant

*Respectfully Submitted,
Carrie Siahpush, Executive Director for PHAME*

GRACE CAMPUS USAGE

2025 was a year of transition and growth for Grace Memorial Parish, marked by several significant changes in how our campus is used and shared with the broader community. One of the most notable shifts was the transition of PHAME into their own independent space, as well as Universal Taekwondo moving on to pursue new opportunities elsewhere. While their presence will be greatly missed, we are grateful for the time they spent on our campus and wish both organizations continued success in their next chapters.

Despite these changes, the Grace Memorial campus remains a vibrant and active place throughout the week. Our shared spaces continue to host support group meetings (currently on Sundays, Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays) offering connection, care, and community to many who rely on these gatherings. In addition, the monthly Friends of Mystery Book Club remains a

popular and engaging event, bringing people together through shared conversation and a love of reading. Concerts and special events throughout the year have also helped ensure that the campus remains a welcoming and lively presence in the neighborhood.

A particularly exciting addition in 2025 was the arrival of the Amadeus Chamber Orchestra, which began hosting weekly candlelight concerts in the Sanctuary. These performances have brought new energy to the space, creating a warm and intimate atmosphere that highlights both the beauty of the music and the sacred setting of our beloved Sanctuary. The concerts have been well received and have drawn new visitors to Grace Memorial, further strengthening our connection to the wider community.

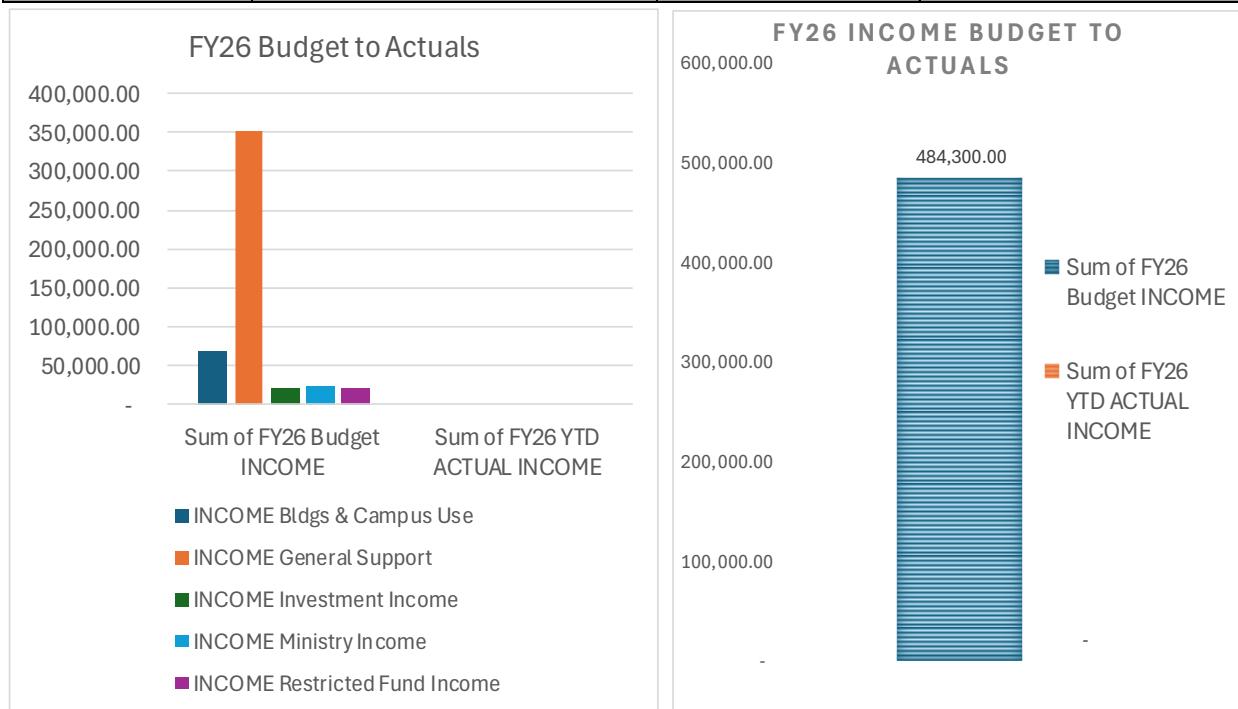
Looking ahead to 2026, we anticipate welcoming new renters into the two houses that currently serve as the former PHAME office and the rectory. As we move forward, our goal is to partner with organizations that share our values and support our mission to be a parish for all people in the heart of the city. We remain committed to using our campus as a place of hospitality, creativity, and service, and we look forward with hope and excitement to what the coming year will bring.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nick Fox, Parish Manager*

2026 BUDGET

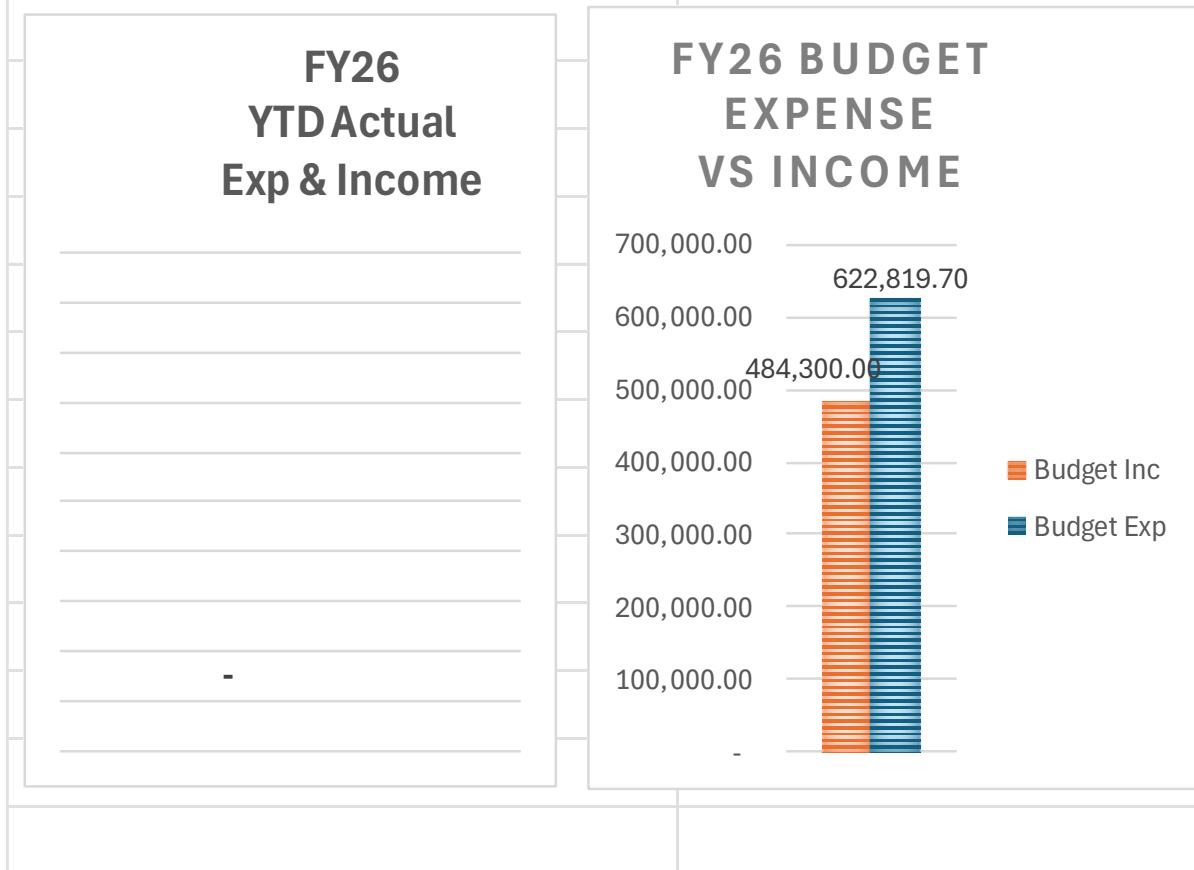
Projected Income

INCOME / EXPENSES	COST CENTER /CATEGORY	Sum of FY26 Budget INCOME	Sum of FY26 YTD ACTUAL INCOME
INCOME	Bldgs & Campus Use	68,400.00	-
	General Support	352,300.00	-
	Investment Income	20,100.00	-
	Ministry Income	22,600.00	-
	Restricted Fund Income	20,900.00	-
Grand Total		484,300.00	-



Projected Expenses

TOTALS	Sum of 2026 Budget Expen
Buildings & Grounds (Occupancy)	94,004.00
Diocese	50,000.00
General & Administrative	25,650.00
Human Resources	395,930.70
Ministry: Worship, Outreach Expen	45,400.00
Restricted Fund Expenses	11,835.00
Grand Total	622,819.70



BOARD MEMBERS

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church Vestry:

Kevin Walsh (2026), Co-Senior Warden,
Charles A. McGee II Co-Senior Warden, Chair
Yetunde Laniran (2026), Junior Warden
Alicia Lehrle, Clerk
Marissa Cheplick (2028), Treasurer
Xander Almeida (2028)
Roosevelt Carter (2026)
Martha Humphrey (2027)
Nora McLaughlin (2027)
Jennifer Traeger (2028)
Stephen Weeks (2027)
Jennifer Yeast, (2026)

Grace Institute:

Susan Germundson, President
Alysson Enriquez, Secretary
The Rev. Martin Elfert, ex-officio
Kevin Walsh, Vestry Liaison
Karena Bennet
Dulcinea Myers-Newcomb
Sharyn Smith
Mariann Koop-McMahon

Foundation Trustees:

Yetunde Laniran, President
Deb Pratt, Secretary
Warren Burkholder, Treasurer
Barbara Brecht, Vice President
The Rev. Martin Elfert, ex officio
Curt Germundson

