

## Grace Memorial Episcopal Church

### Vestry Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2026

#### Members of the Vestry Present

Kirstin Greene (2029)

Martha Humphrey (2027)

Shannon Jones (2-year, 2028)

Yetunde Laniran (2029)

Nora McLaughlin (2027) Co-Sr. Warden, Rector's Advisor

Kathleen Park-Lindsay (2029)

André Pruitt (2029)

Stephen Weeks (2027) Co-Sr. Warden, Meeting Chair

#### Clergy Present

The Rev. Martin Elfert

The Rev. Lara Halsey

#### Others Present

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk

#### Members of the Vestry and Clergy Absent

Marissa Cheplick (2028), Treasurer

Jennifer Traeger (2028)

The Rev. Liz Klein

### 1. Formation

#### 1.1 Opening

- The meeting was called to order at 12:05pm by Stephen. He urged all to attend Vestry meetings in person or let the Sr. Wardens know in advance if attending online so the correct technical support can be provided.
- As Martha missed the last meeting and the initial introductions, she briefly introduced herself.

## **2. Items**

### 2.1 Moment of Grace

- Lara shared a wonderful story about one of the regular Community Dinner guests who has found a home within the Grace community and is participating in the Catechumenate.

### 2.2 Roses

- Kirstin commended Martin on the amount of work he has done finding business partners for the two campus houses. Martin thanked the community for the thoughtful response to the individual who shows up at Grace at all hours. Kathleen appreciated learning Grace's response as a friend of hers at another church told her their church is having the same experience but did not have a good response for the individual. Stephen thanked Liz for the recent wonderful vigil she organized.

### 2.3 Consent Agenda

- Before addressing the Consent Agenda, a question was raised as to when the Parochial Report is due. Martin was not sure, but he will find out and email the Vestry. The Vestry will need to approve the Report.
- The February Minutes, Deacon's Report, Kitchen Upgrade Report, Finance Report, and Rector's Report are the Consent Agenda items. Yetunde moved the Consent Agenda be approved as presented, and André seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion was approved.

### 2.4 Rector's Supplemental Report

- Stephen stressed that the decision the Vestry makes on the use of the 2 campus houses will be the most important one it makes this year. Martin reviewed the report he submitted about the possible use of the 2 houses by an organization called Family Promise, which provides transitional housing for families moving out of homelessness into a permanent home. The Memorandum Of Understanding will be reviewed by the Vestry when it is drafted. He noted contractors are eager to be involved with the project and the scope of the work is evolving. The goal is to have the houses habitable sooner rather than later even if additional work remains to be completed on the houses. The City of Portland, as well as all the other entities involved, are onboard with the project being successful.
- There was discussion about exactly what Family Promise does and how the program has worked in other parishes. It was noted the basements of both houses will continue to be used by Art Camp, and it is expected any children living in the houses during Art Camp will be provided scholarships to attend. Contacting people in parishes where Family Promise is working to find out their experiences was suggested, and Shannon offered to make phone calls and investigate.

- It was suggested that the Vestry meet first with Seth Truby, the executive director of Family Promise, and then have Seth do a presentation for the parish. Martin suggested Vestry members provide a list of questions for Seth, and a meeting will be arranged for the Vestry and Seth. A special Vestry meeting may be needed before the next regular Vestry meeting so as not to delay a Vestry decision unnecessarily.

## 2.5 Communications Team

- Martha provided an update on the work the Communications Team has been doing for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Grace Sanctuary. She would like a committee dedicated to the Celebration, and Charles McGee offered to form a committee. He will be invited to the next Communications Team meeting to share ideas on aspects of the Celebration.

## 2.6 Housekeeping

- Jr. Warden: This position needs to be filled, and Stephen asked Vestry members to consider volunteering for the position.
- Finance Committee Chair: Stephen said Louise Tippens has stepped up to head the Committee.
- Moment of Grace: There were gaps in the calendar, and Stephen was able to fill in some of the missing dates.
- Conflict of Interest forms: Stephen is collecting the completed forms.
- Safe Church Training: Stephen noted some new Vestry members have already completed the training. The training is required to be completed by all Vestry members.
- Next Vestry meeting: Stephen said the next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, March 29, and on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month thereafter.
- Vestry Coffee Hour: Nora noted the Vestry is hosting Coffee Hour on March 15 and also on June 7, August 30, and November 22.
- Ramp Project: Nora said there will be information about Ramp Project options at the next Vestry meeting.

## 2.7 New Business

- A question was raised about an updated photo directory, and Martin said photos could be added to the directory. It would take sweat equity but was doable.
- Gala updates and a discussion about fundraising beyond the Gala will be moved to next month's agenda.

## 2.8 Adjournment

- Before adjourning, Stephen offered a belated Rose to Martin for all his work with Family Promise as well as seeking an organization to use the Parish Hall in PHAME's absence.

Martin noted research is being done regarding the zoning codes for the Parish Hall use by the realtor Grace is using to help with the search.

- Martin offered a closing meditation, and Stephen adjourned the meeting at 1:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk