**Grace Church in the Mountains**

**Vestry Meeting via Zoom**

**August 18, 2020**

**Minutes**

Vestry and Clergy Present: Mary Hartman, Dale McDonald, Crystal Clary, Michael Lodico, Mary Lockey, Pat Robinson, Rev. Joslyn Schaefer, Lauri SoJourner, Dan Linker

Guests: Sandy Curtis, Karen Morris

Absent: Laurel Destry

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Communication guidelines were reviewed.

Dale led the devotional.

Pastoral updates were given and Joslyn led us in prayer.

The July Meeting Minutes were amended and approved as amended by unanimous vote.

**Finance** - Sandy Curtis gave an overview of the financials focusing on the balance sheet and operational income statement.

* The accounts are in balance.
* There were corrections made which resulted in the following balances in the line items below:
  + 3.109 - $3089
  + 3.101 - $49,622
* Income is 14% over budget as of the date of the statements.
* Expenses are 85% of budget.
* We have received some new pledges.
* Outreach has more money to distribute/spend this year and should review their plan for those monies.
* Marlene Hyatt will work as co-chair with Harry Jamieson on the Audit Committee as Harry is out of state and she can provide a local presence.
* Inventory update: Excel spreadsheets are being compiled. Most work has been done with the exception of the kitchen, Thatcher Hall and the lower floor.

**Ministry Planning for 2021**

Joslyn shared a list of her thoughts for the group to review prior to the meeting next week. The goal will be to look at the organizational structure, enhance our digital presence, develop a theme and the steps that will be taken.

Other feedback included:

* Orion leading a workshop in September for Vestry members and stewardship team members
* Focus on small groups for worship and study
* Considering holding neighborhood services/activities

**Committee Reports (in addition to minutes)**

**Building and Grounds -**

* A motion was made and seconded to make funds up to $1500 available from the Vestry Reserve Fund to purchase a play set to be placed in the fenced area of the rectory. The motion passed unanimously. The money obtained by the sale of the land to St. Johns is being applied to this expense.
* We have been approached by Haywood Waterways and the Climate Coalition to place a rain garden in the area behind the garage. There is one at HCC. The concept is to plant water absorbing plants to reduce run off. This could be a Scout project.
* Discussion was held about how to address the broken HVAC in the narthex. There is no money allocated to address this in the budget and discussion was tabled.

**Education -**

* Joslyn helped recruit additional teachers for Children’s Formation and we are scheduled through October 2nd using the StoryMakers Flood series.
* There was discussion around building a strategy for Adult Formation going forward. We will explore options and interests during an upcoming Zoom Coffee Hour.
* Youth Group is going well. Joslyn plans an in person event every other Sunday.
* A family story time around the fire pit is in the development phase.

**Parish Life -**

* Next meeting is the first week of September.
* The exercise under the tent is going well,
* The Arts committee is moving forward with ideas and there is the potential for hosting the Chamber Music Series in our sanctuary in 2021 assuming no moreSocial distancing requirements.

**Outreach -**

* A vote was taken to proceed with the construction of a 24/7 pantry box/station somewhere on the driveway area in back of the church. Total cost range is $600 to $1000. This will be stocked with non-perishable foods. We will be using monies from the WND Bridges grant. Approved unanimously.
* Two 10 ft signs for distributing food boxes have been purchased and are used for different events in the community.
* Pathways dinners are back on but there is a limit of 3 people in the kitchen which means meals should be simple. Vicky Gribble and Natalie Bayless are coordinating. Grace has responsibility for the 1st and 5th Sundays of the month.
* $100 was donated to the Fines Creek Pantry Drive for fresh produce.
* The Warming Ways application to provide new items focusing on gloves, moisture wicking socks and blankets was approved unanimously. This will likely occur in November.

**Planning for Fall**

We can now have up to 50 people under the tent for worship. Joslyn is going to divide up the directory so 1/2 can attend on alternating weeks. The 8 a.m. service will remain the same.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 25.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted,

Karen Morris

Clerk