

Grace Church in the Mountains  
Vestry Minutes April 17, 2018

Approved

Present: Rev. Joslyn Ogden Schaefer, Rev. Dn. Ray Escott, Bill Collins, Paula Welling, Louisa Lunt, Linda Deeb, Linda Sexton, Rob Viau, Crystal Clary, Mary Hartman, Kenneth Ratcliffe

Guests: Fred Deeb, Treasure; Mary Lockey, Vestry Clerk; Jim Moore

Joslyn called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm. Louisa led a devotional followed by the Lord's prayer.

### **Pastoral Care**

Joslyn offered a pastoral care update on parishioners.

Regarding charges against Howdy White, the following points were discussed:

- The church is not just about the priest.
- The Diocese is the official voice of the church and has given a pastoral response.
- The Diocese has provided pastoral care and support to victims.
- Joslyn is available to meet with individuals.
- The legal process could take a long time and keep Grace Church in the news.
- Could this be our call to do regular work in healing sexual violence?

### **Mission and Vision**

#### **Finance**

The Financial Visioning *ad hoc* committee has met three times with three additional meetings to occur. Crystal stated that the committee is looking at the following:

- Priorities and processes for fund raising
- Paying down the debt
- Examining line items to see what can be combined

A separate intentional Vestry meeting will be scheduled to hear the findings of the *ad hoc* committee.

#### **Playground Task Force**

Two playground builders, Play Nation and Asheville Playgrounds, were researched. Play Nation does not offer a lifetime warranty to churches and will not be considered further. Asheville Playgrounds designed and built the playground at All Soul's Cathedral.

The following points are being considered during the initial planning stages:

- The playground will be in the front yard of the church.
- It will preferably be constructed of wood and the design compatible with the architecture of the church.
- Appropriate fencing and safety features (including mulch) will be included in the design.

- The playground will be ADA compatible.
- We need to talk with our insurance company about coverage especially if the playground is open to the public.
- Estimated cost is \$30,000, which includes the actual playground structure, design, landscaping, fencing, and mulching.
- Target date for completion is Pentecost, 2019.
- The playground will be appropriate for ages toddler through twelve years old.

Considerations going forward:

- The Task Force will talk to the Financial Visioning *ad hoc* committee about funding (Diocesan grants? Fair proceeds?).
- How to communicate to parish?
- Assure aesthetic compatibility.
- Present findings to parish at Pentecost celebration (2018) through power point and/or initial design renderings.
- Include article in the church newsletter.
- Discuss at Vestry-led adult forum on May 20.

Mary moved that the Vestry approve the Task Force's continuing investigation of the preliminary design study for the playground. Louisa seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

#### SMART Goals

Goal #2: "Between now and when school starts again in the Fall, have three intentionally inter-generational events not typically during the education hour.

- An end of school celebration is planned for June 3 at the Sexton Farm. It will include a pot luck meal, games, face painting.
- A Rogation procession will be held May 6.

Goal #3: "Between now and Pentecost, develop a spiritual gifts/skills/interests survey for all members. Offer at least one adult forum on Christian teachings regarding spiritual gifts. (This way our stewardship "time and talent" can be more about an offering for the coming year by serving on a committee, helping with specific ministries or events.)

- Paula, Joslyn, and Sue Shirley are working on this.

#### Business

Rob moved that the March 2018 Vestry minutes be approved. Linda Deeb seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

A copy of the agreement letter with the Episcopal Economic Development Fund was distributed. A copy will be included in the newsletter.

### **Ministry Areas**

Liturgy: Two Eucharistic Minister training sessions are scheduled for May 6 and May 12. Trainings are mandatory.

Education: By end of May, Joslyn and Children's Education representatives plan to talk with families about children's chapel on Sunday and Bible camp/Bible School during the summer.

Holy Week: The Easter Vigil and Tenebrae services were well received. Possible time change for the vigil (held at 6:00 a.m.) will be considered.

Hospitality: Seven people attended the first Noontime Noshing gathering. This will be a monthly occurrence.

### **Staff Transitions**

- Joslyn will interview a candidate for the Communications Director position.
- The second candidate for Director of Music will be interviewed on April 21 and 22. The goal is to hire someone by end of April.

### **Sacristy Roof Repair**

Four bids were received for the sacristy roof replacement project. Bob Vogt requested conditional approval to have the work done by AD Builders, subject to the following:

1. Three or four satisfactory referenced.
2. Presentation of necessary 1099 and insurance certification.
3. Approval by the Building and Grounds Committee on April 20.
4. Review by B&G Vestry Liaison, Louisa Lunt.

Paula moved that the Vestry give said conditional approval. Kenneth seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

### **Finance Committee**

At least five people are needed to serve on the Audit Committee. The following names were suggested: Paula Eachus, Martha Bradley, Bill Pace, Dan Atterholt, Marlene Hyatt, Ann Rothermel, and Chas Lawrence. Rob moved that these individuals be contacted to serve on the Audit Committee. Linda Sexton seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Bill and Fred will make the contacts.

Treasurer's Report – Fred Deeb

For March 31, 2018:

1. All bank accounts and investment accounts have been reconciled.
2. All payroll taxes for 03/31/2018 have been paid.
3. The \$5,410.26 Approved Outreach from the Moorhead Trust has been paid out.
4. Residual Operating Fund balance of \$6,538.19 from 2017 has been applied to the Building Improvement Loan. In 2018 we have pre-paid, in addition to the regular monthly payment, a total of \$6,538.19 of the proposed \$17,344.73 payable in August of each year leaving \$10,806.54 to pay in 2018 to stay on track to pay off the loan in five years. We have paid a total of \$33,684.27 on the principal of the 7/1/2016 original loan of \$129,00.

Discussion about the use of funds in the Red Cross budget line **was tabled until the May Vestry meeting.**

Leadership Development

Joslyn provided a list of new or active members in the last three years. The Welcoming Committee will call each person and invite him or her to participate in the Summer Dinner Bunch groups and invite them to the Pentecost potluck dinner.

Other

Linda Deeb suggested having an "In memoriam" board in Thatcher Hall with pictures of parishioners who have died. Discussion **was tabled until the May Vestry meeting.**

The possibility of having "Foyer Groups" will be explored in September.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Ray closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lockey  
Clerk to the Vestry