

Grace Church in the Mountains
Vestry Minutes
December 19, 2017

Approved

Present: Rev. Joslyn Ogden Schaefer, Jim Moore, Bill Collins, Donna Buckner, Lisa Hardeman, Paula Welling, Linda Sexton, Linda Deeb

Guests: Rev. Dn. Ray Escott; Peter Welling, Treasurer; Mary Lockey, Vestry Clerk; Fred Deeb, Finance Committee Chair; New Vestry Members: Crystal Clary, Mary Hartman, Kenneth Ratcliffe

Absent: Louisa Lunt, Rob Viau

Joslyn called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Outgoing Vestry members Lisa Hardeman, Donna Buckner, and Jim Moore shared reflections and advice for the new Vestry.

Joslyn provided a pastoral update on church members, then closed with prayer.

Review of Smart Goals

Goal 1: "To Hold Quarterly, Vestry-led meetings during Adult Forum." - The first meeting occurred on December 3 (annual parish meeting). The next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2018.

Goal 2: "To identify a baseline number of children for each class by December 2017."- Mary Hartman reported that the average attendance for Rite 13 is 3. Bill reported that the average attendance for Godly Play is 2.

Goal 3: "To contact personally by year's end everyone who submits a Time and Talent card."

- Personal telephone calls or face-to-face communication is encouraged.
- A roster of who is involved with each ministry can be developed.
- Wardens will not have liaison assignments.
- Time frame for contact Time and Talent responders will be extended until the January Vestry meeting.

What does it mean to be a Vestry Liaison?

- There are questions regarding organizational structure of committees: How does one join a committee? Who chooses membership?
- By-Laws state that Vestry will appoint Building and Grounds, Finance and Memorials Committees
- All agreed that By-Laws need to be updated to reflect a guiding principle for appointing committee members
- Joslyn will include further discussion at the Vestry retreat in January.

Jim will talk with Sara Tyburski about becoming Finance Committee Chair.

Approval of November Vestry Minutes

Missional Priorities were mistakenly listed as Smart Goals in the November minutes. Mary will edit. Joslyn called a vote for minutes to be approved with amendment. **Passed unanimously.**

Discussion of Special Gifts for Members Leaving Grace

- What is an appropriate gift to thank long-time members of Grace who move from the area?
- What is the concern for setting a precedent?
- How do we decide who receives a gift?
- Is \$25 an acceptable limit?
- Ideas: photo of church in a nice frame; post card picture of church, signed by Vestry.

Donna will gather information on options and report to Vestry.

Defibrillator Gift

Donna moved that we accept the defibrillator gift from Men of Grace; Bill seconded.

Discussion: Men of Grace will be responsible for organizing training and for maintaining operation of the defibrillator (including inspections). Bill will convey to them the Vestry's concern about the cost of the battery used in the defibrillator. Joslyn called the question:

Vote to accept defibrillator = 7; Opposed = 1. **Motion passed.**

Proposed By-Laws Amendment re: Absentee Ballots

The proposed amendment states: The Diocesan Canons state: "It is the tradition in the Church that eligible voters must be physically present to vote at the Annual Meeting." However, with due cause and when advanced arrangements are made with and approved by the Rector, absentee ballots may be distributed by mail. These must be returned to the parish office in an envelope provided by the Rector and clearly marked so that it can be counted with the initial ballots. No provision is made for run-off elections, that is, it is impossible for absentee voters to vote in instances of ties.

Jim moved that the amendment be adopted; Lisa seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Outreach Motion to Approve Giving Returned "Fair Money" to Other Non-profit Organizations

Lisa stated that \$1,500 awarded from Fair Money has been returned. After discussion, Lisa moved that \$750 be awarded to Mountain Projects (bringing their total award to \$3,750) and \$750 be awarded to the Pigeon Center (bringing their total award to \$1750). Linda Sexton seconded the motion. **Passed unanimously.**

Diaconal Covenant

Deacon Ray reviewed the Diaconal Covenant, noting that a change has been made to include Vestry approval. Paula moved that Jim, as Senior Warden, be given authority to sign Diaconal Covenant. Bill seconded the motion. **Passed unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report

Peter stated that the rector's housing allowance needs to be approved. This will be included in budget discussion at this meeting.

Finance Committee report

The Finance Committee recommends that the Vestry approve taking 50% of the gross growth (dividends, interest, and growth) out of the Morehead Trust as of 12/31/17, and on that day every year thereafter, over the minimum balance of \$145,000.00 to be placed in the undesignated Outreach account.

Jim moved that the recommendation be accepted. Donna seconded the motion. **Passed unanimously.**

2018 Budget Proposal

Fred led the discussion of the 2018 proposed budget. There are still financial pledges not yet returned. Alyson Nelson recommended that pledges accepted after the budget has been adopted be listed as "miscellaneous". After discussion, it was decided that post-budget pledges should be listed with "loose plate" offering.

Joslyn called a vote on the adoption of the 2018 budget.

The Vestry voted unanimously to approve the 2018 budget which includes a \$15,000 housing allowance for the rector.

Bill will send a separate letter to Joslyn on behalf of the Vestry notifying her of the approved housing allowance.

Other Discussion

- An ad hoc committee will be appointed to provide structure for the Young Adult Internship program.
- 175th anniversary of Grace Church is nearing. How can church history be researched? Who will be responsible?
- The Bishop will visit on January 28.
- Donald Romanik, President of Episcopal Church Foundation, will visit Grace Church on February 5.

- Open House for children's formation program will be February 10, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

The next Vestry meeting will be Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 6:10 p.m.

There being no further business, Ray closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lockey
Clerk to the Vestry