

## Grace Church Vestry Minutes January 2024

(Includes notes from Annual Meeting Jan. 21, 2024, Vestry Meeting Jan. 23 and Vestry Retreat Jan. 26-28, 2024)

*Celebrating that Christ is all and in all by seeking, inviting, belonging, serving & reverencing God's creation.*

Jan. 23, 2024

**DEVOTIONAL** Mary leading a meditation for Vestry members

**PRAYER & [COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES](#)** (Barbara Rowe on #1)

**PASTORAL Check-in**

**Attendees:** Barbara Rowe, Mary Lockey, John Turley, Joyce Brooks, Tracy Baum, Mariah Nehus, Betty Bradley, Georgia Raines, Jesse Nelson, Rev. Joslyn, Deacon Carter, Gary & Mike (Treasurers)

**Absent:** Suzie Leclaire, David Ferguson, clerk

### WARDEN'S REPORT

RenewalWorks Report presentation (~ 20 min)

*Susan Williams, John Raines, & Lorelei Yerse presented their findings and next steps for the parish. These findings will be shared with the parish at an upcoming Sunday morning Forum.*

### \*CONSENT AGENDA

- Approve December [minutes](#)
- Receive ? A, report for [November](#) (~10min)
  - o **Need to approve the 2022 audit and submit it to the Diocese with a letter from the Wardens/ Treasurers stating what process improvements we are making based on its findings.**

*Motion to approve the consent agenda made by Tracy, seconded by Barbara and unanimously approved.*

*Motion to approve the audit agenda item made by John, seconded by Joyce and unanimously approved.*

### STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORTS

(Link reports for Vestry to read; list items needing discussion or requiring Vestry action in **red**)

- PARISH PROGRAMS Report [here](#)

*Reported on success of Chili Cookoff and new art gallery in the hallway outside Thatcher Hall.*

- OUTREACH Report [here](#) (~10 min) -
  - o Discussion of Task Force Recommendations

*Will bring guidelines from the visioning group to the February Vestry meeting for approval.*

- ADMINISTRATION Report [here](#) (~20 min)
  - o **Approve changes to UCB for our operating account to a Business Interest account that earns interest**

*Motion to approve UCB Business Interest account unanimously approved.*

- o **Recommend we pay down our UCB loan with \$23,000 in unused loan funds.**
- o **Recommend the proposed [2024 Budget to the Vestry](#) for approval.**

- o Recommend that the 2023 operating budget surplus plus the proceeds from the sale of the motorcycle be used to pay for the following 3 items
  - Recommend that we accept the bid (\$33,593.00 ) from Parkway Heating & Air for 3 new HVAC units on the roof
  - Recommend we accept bid (about \$14,000.00) from Window World to replace 16 windows in Grace House
  - Recommend we replace the pinblock (about \$4000) in the piano in the Sanctuary

*Discussion regarding how best to use the budget surplus, how to avoid giving Joslyn a pay cut, and how to get Josly more help. Due to the length of the discussion, the vote to approve the budget was tabled to the Vestry Retreat.*

*Discussion included making this into a stewardship talking point. We cannot hire someone based on anticipated unpledged income; people need to fill out pledge cards because even if we consistently have a surplus, we cannot ask someone to do a job for us when we're not sure how they'll be paid.*

#### **RECTOR'S REPORT**

Review [Parish Planning Calendar](#) - esp. LENT  
Vestry Retreat Details

#### **CLOSING PRAYER (Barb)**

*From the Annual Meeting on January 21, 2024 in Thatcher Hall at Grace Church in the Mountains.*

*Rev. Joslyn Schaefer called the meeting to order noting that we had a quorum for the vote of new vestry members.*

*Vestry Candidates Georgia Raines, Betty Bradley and Jesse Nelson were elected for the 2026 class.*

*At our Vestry retreat (Jan. 26-28, 2024), the following motions passed:*

1. *John Turley motioned and Joyce Brooks seconded for Barb Rowe to serve as Senior Warden for 2024, Mary Lockey to serve as Junior Warden for 2024, and Michael Boss to serve as Treasurer for 2024, and Gary Roberts to serve as Co-Treasurer for 2024.*
2. *Betty Bradley motioned and Tracy Bahm seconded amending our Communication Guidelines to add the clause "and spiritual growth" to guideline # 6: Take 100% responsibility for one's own learning.*
3. *Tracy Bahm motioned and Betty Bradley seconded approving our 2024 Operational Budget. This included the following resolution for the clergy housing allowance:*

*The following resolution was duly adopted by the vestry of Grace Church on January 28, 2024:*

*Whereas, Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code permits a minister of the gospel to exclude from gross income a church-designated allowance paid to her as part of her compensation to*

*the extent used by her for actual expenses in owning or renting a home; and Whereas, Joslyn Ogden Schaefer are compensated by Grace Church exclusively for services as a minister of the gospel; and Whereas, Grace Church does not provide Joslyn Schaefer with a rectory, therefore, it is hereby Resolved, that the total compensation paid to Joslyn Schaefer for calendar year 2024 shall be \$122,955 of which \$32,000 is hereby designated to be a housing allowance; and it is further*

*4. Tracy Bahm motioned and John Turley seconded that we move \$6725 out of the Endowment Outreach Earnings and place that money in Vestry Reserve for Outreach purposes. The Vestry will accept recommendations from the Outreach Committee as to how best to spend that money in the coming year.*

*5. Barb Rowe motioned and Georgia Raines seconded that the church contract with Parkway Heating and Air to purchase 3 new HVAC units with funds from the Vestry Reserve.*

*Minutes of the Annual Meeting on Jan. 21 taken by David Ferguson.*

*Minutes of the Vestry Meeting on Jan. 23 taken by Mariah Nehus.*

*Minutes of the Annual Retreat on Jan. 26-28 taken by Joslyn Schaefer.*