

Grace Church in the Mountains
Vestry Minutes
November 21, 2017
Approved

Present: Rev. Joslyn Ogden-Schaefer, Jim Moore, Bill Collins, Donna Buckner, Lisa Hardeman, Rob Viau, Paula Welling, Linda Deeb, Louisa Lunt

Guests: Peter Welling, Treasurer; Mary Lockey, Vestry Clerk; Fred Deeb; Al Fortney

Absent: Linda Sexton, Rev. Dn. Ray Escott

Joslyn called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm. A reading of Luke 10:38 - 42 followed. After a period of reflection and discussion of the relevance of the passage to Vestry work, Joslyn closed with prayer.

Mission and Vision

The agenda for the December 3, 2017 annual meeting was discussed:

- The tone of the meeting will be invitational, celebratory, reflecting stability and growth.
- Paula will open with prayer.
- Jim will give the Vestry report.
- Mary will record minutes.
- Outgoing Vestry members will serve as tellers for the election of new Vestry members. Since Jim is giving the Vestry report, a third teller will be appointed.
- Peter will present a draft budget (five minutes in length). Joslyn will meet with Peter and the wardens prior to the meeting to discuss how much detail to include. A 5-minute question and answer period will follow Peter's presentation.
- Annual committee reports (tied to Smart Goals) will be given. (Reports are due to Joslyn by November 27).
- A report on time and talent card collection will be presented. Bill will gather information to be included. A 5-minute Q and A period will follow.
- Time for miscellaneous business will be allotted.

Review of Smart Goals

Goal 1: "To Hold Quarterly, Vestry-led meetings during Adult Forum."

- A congregational meeting will be held January 21.
- The diocese will provide "Dismantling Racism" training on February 24 at Lake Logan. All are encouraged to attend.

- A parish book read will be held Christmas through Epiphany. Sanctuary of the Spirit, by Steven Charleston can be ordered through Paula. Cost is \$15. Discussion will be held on the church's Face Book page. The January 7 Adult Forum will be devoted to a final discussion of the book.
- Rob reported that Pub Theology is growing. Future gatherings will be held the first Tuesday of each month from 7:00 – 8:30 at Mad Anthony's.

Goal 2: "To identify a baseline number of children for each class by December, 2017."

- Louisa proposed offering an Open House to showcase our children's formation program. She will meet with the formation team to identify a date.

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

- Bill and Paula are working with Michael Lodico to organize a follow up plan for those who returned time and talent cards.
- Phase 2 follow up will include an email asking individuals why they selected certain areas in which to serve and what prevented them from selecting other areas.
- Donna asked about nametags. Joslyn prefers that this be handled at the committee level.

October Vestry minutes

Correction to minutes: the 2018 budget will be adopted *by the current Vestry*. Lisa moved that the October Vestry minutes be approved with correction. Donna seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Defibrillator Gift

- If purchased, the defibrillator could be placed in the parlor, a centralized location.
- Haywood Community College can provide training. Cost is \$15 per person.
- Louisa moved that we purchase a defibrillator. Rob seconded. Discussion ensued about liability concerns.
- Jim stated that our insurance company could not say if our usage of a defibrillator is covered in our policy.
- **Vote to purchase: 3; vote not to purchase: 3, Abstentions: 3**
- **Discussion will continue at December Vestry meeting.**

Proposed By-Laws Amendment re: Absentee Ballots

The current policy regarding absentee ballots for voting at annual meetings was discussed. The proposed policy 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, occasional 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 recommended striking the word "occasional" and suggested that the rector should decide what constitutes "due cause". **The policy will be voted on at the December meeting.**

Social Media Policy

After discussing the proposed policy, Donna moved that the Vestry adopt the Social Media Policy. Rob seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report

Peter stated that the operating Budget had a surplus last month.

Stewardship

Jim reported that approximately 109 pledges have been received.

Bishop's Request for Diocesan Pledge

Request from Bishop to submit pledge to diocese of \$25,748, based on the 10% parish finance income from the 2016 Parochial report. This would be included when we adopt the 2018 Parish Budget under "Ministry Beyond the Parish."

Donna moved that the pledge be submitted. Lisa seconded. **Passed unanimously.** Payments will be made monthly; the first 2018 payment will be made in January.

Bishop's Visit to Grace Church

The Bishop will visit Grace Church on January 28, 2018.

Finance Committee Recommendation

For the year 2018, the finance committee recommends the Vestry recognize the selection of Joslyn's health plan, Cigna CDHP 20 Renewal, being below the premium costs of her 2017 health insurance plan, to approve an employer contribution Health Savings Account (HSA), and to contribute a cash amount of \$3,960.00. This money will be paid as a tax-free contribution for Joslyn by Grace Church in the Mountains. The 2018 premium plus the HSA contribution results in a savings of \$1,008.00 to our 2018 operating costs in comparison to 2017 operating costs.

Bill moved to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Paula seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

2018 Budget Preview

- Fred presented a draft of the 2018 budget.
- Joslyn asked about budgeting for youth mission trips at the end of high school.
- The Vestry continued to discuss options for balancing the budget.
- An ad hoc committee could be appointed to examine budget priorities, including paying down our debt.
- **Discussion will continue at the December meeting.**

Jim called for executive session at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Lockey
Clerk to the Vestry