

Grace Church in the Mountains  
Vestry Minutes  
October 17, 2017  
**Amended/Approved**

Present: Jim Moore, Bill Collins, Donna Buckner, Linda Deeb, Linda Sexton, Lisa Hardeman, Louisa Lunt, Rob Viau, Paula Welling

Absent: Rev. Joslyn Ogden Schaefer; Rev. Deacon Ray Ascott

Guests: Peter Welling, Treasurer; Fred Deeb, Finance Committee Chairman; Mary Lockey, Vestry Clerk; Paula Eachus

Jim called the meeting to order at 6:15. Linda Sexton opened with prayer.

**Mission and Vision**

Paula led the discussion of Missional Priority #3: "To cultivate a culture of welcoming that engages each person's spiritual gifts."

SMART Goal: "By the end of the year, we will ensure that everyone who offers their time and talent is personally contacted and connected by the ministry team leader. We will propose a "follow up" plan to the Vestry to implement in 2018."

Points of discussion:

- The Stewardship Committee will handle contacting those who submitted time and talent cards.
- The Vestry will handle follow up.
- Linda Sexton suggested that the final decision regarding *how* to follow up be decided at the Vestry retreat.
- Paula and Bill will begin to plan how follow up might occur.

Missional Priority #1: "To grow in mutual love for one another specifically by improving our ability to communicate across difference."

SMART Goal: "By December, the Vestry will schedule quarterly congregational meetings during the Adult Forum hour to provide an opportunity to describe parish leadership initiatives and identify cares and concerns."

Points of discussion:

- Jim remarked that the Vestry presentation on October 1 was fairly well attended.
- Donna asked if one of the meetings could occur in the evening.
- Lent might be an opportunity for an evening meeting.
- Jim and Donna will talk with Joslyn.

Missional Priority #2: "To develop a vibrant ministry to children, youth, and young adults."

SMART Goal: "By December, the Vestry will determine a numerical baseline in each children's or youth class in order for numerical attendance to be one gauge of tracking interest in our program."

Point of discussion:

- Data is being collected.

### **Approval of September Vestry minutes**

Lisa moved that the minutes of the September 19, 2017 Vestry meeting be approved as written. Donna seconded the motion. **Passed unanimously.**

### **Finance Committee Recommendation**

**The finance committee recommends to the Vestry to discuss and approve payment of \$13,574.33 to United Community Bank on the principal only balance of the current loan. The funds to be taken from the unrestricted savings account currently held with Episcopal Church Foundation at State Street Global Advisors. The finance committee recommends that this payment, if approved, be made as soon as possible.**

Fred Deeb led the discussion of the recommendation. Points of discussion:

- The savings account earns less interest than what is owed on the loan.
- Payments are \$17,274.33/year; \$13,574.33 is still owed for this year.
- The Finance Committee would like to see the loan payments included in the budget going forward.
- Funds can be transferred from savings to operating expense for payment.

Donna moved that the Vestry approve the Finance Committee recommendation as written *for this year*.

Further discussion: The new Vestry can revisit the proposal to include loan payments as a budget item.

Linda Sexton seconded the motion. **Passed unanimously.**

### **Check Signer Policy**

Jim called for acceptance of policy as agreed upon in September, 2017. **Accepted.**

### **Stewardship**

Jim reported that 75 family units were represented at the Stewardship meetings. A list of those who did not attend will be given to the Vestry. Discussion ensued regarding how to divide the list for follow up.

**The final decision was tabled until the November Vestry meeting.**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Peter reported that \$3,400 remains in the Outreach budget. Lisa stated that three projects remain to be funded, and the money will be spent. Jim thanked Peter for his hard work as Treasurer.

### **2018 Budget Preview**

Fred Deeb led the discussion of the 2018 budget proposal.

Discussion points:

- Loose plate offering currently at \$27,109.37; budget proposal for 2018 = \$35,000.
- An approximate 5% increase for rector's health insurance proposed for 2018; insurance policies for 2019 will be revised by the diocese.
- Rector's salary increase and compensation package.
- Congregational Care could be added as a budget line;
- Fred stated that Mark Bumgarner of Ray, Bumgarner, Kingshill & Associates, PA has been contacted to conduct an outside audit of "agreed upon procedures" per diocesan guidelines. This audit should be conducted every 3-5 years. The last audit of this type occurred over 5 years ago. The bid for Mr. Bumgarner's service is expected this month.
  - Bill asked if more bids are required per church policy. **Jim will research the policy. Bill will ask diocesan office for recommendations of other accountants who work with same size churches.**
- Proposed budget for 2018 is \$328,781. To balance will require \$287,931 in pledges and \$35,000 in loose plate offering.
- The final budget will be decided by the new Vestry. **(The final budget will be approved by the current Vestry.)**

Jim thanked Fred and the Finance Committee for the many hours of hard work involved in preparing the budget proposal.

### **Leadership Development**

The Vestry nomination form was reviewed. Forms are should be submitted to Joslyn by November 19.

### **Communication**

No discussion of the letter received from Laura Armour.

### **Committee Reports**

Received in packet. No discussion

**Rector's Report**

Received as submitted by Joslyn.

**Defibrillator Project**

Lisa led the discussion of the Defibrillator Project as proposed by Prescott Lunt.

Discussion points:

- Men of Grace will contribute \$1,000 towards the cost of the Phillips OnSite Business Package model (sells for \$1,199). Can Vestry pay for balance? Peter and Fred confirmed that the balance could be paid from miscellaneous expenses.
- Is the model recommended by Men of Grace a "gold star" model? *Lisa will research.*
- Will our insurance cover our usage of a defibrillator? *Jim will research.*
- *Final decision on purchase of a defibrillator was tabled until the November Vestry meeting.*

**Dismissal**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:45. The Lord's Prayer was prayed in unison.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lockey  
Clerk to the Vestry