

Grace Church in the Mountains
Vestry Meeting via Zoom
June 16, 2020 (approved 7/14/20)

Minutes

Vestry and Clergy Present: Laurel Destry, Mary Hartman, Michael Lodico, Mary Lockey, Pat Robinson, Rev. Joslyn Schaefer, Lauri SoJourneyer

Guests: Walt Austin, Sandy Curtis, Karen Morris, Lidiya Potapenko

Absent: Kenneth Ratcliffe, Crystal Clary, Dale McDonald

The meeting was called to order at 6:14 p.m.

Communication guidelines were reviewed.

May Minutes (19th and 28th) were reviewed and approved with the correction of increasing the number of attendees under the tent for service from 20 to 25.

Pastoral updates were provided.

Big Picture - Highlights of Vestry Conversations with the Congregation

A. Connecting with our Parish

- Some people are very lonely and really appreciate the multiple worship opportunities
- The calls averaged about 20 - 30 minutes
- Many mentioned how they appreciate Joslyn and everyone at Grace
- Many people are concerned about venturing out
- There was a suggestion about close captioning on Facebook Live for worship services
- Some members have technology challenges - perhaps a tech savvy person could walk them through connecting
- This was a good opportunity for the Vestry to get to know our church members. We spoke to new people. This may be a good outreach opportunity once a year going forward.
- We should see this also as an opportunity to ramp up our technology capabilities

B. Worship - Congregational Vitality

- Continue with 25 people in person for the service under the tent
- Consider offering mid-week Eucharist - maybe have 2 priests with a July 2nd potential start date - May consider doing this on Sunday a.m.

A vote was held to approve Joslyn applying for a grant from the Diocese. The Vitality grant would be used for a PA system, electronic piano, Vimeo subscription, live streaming kit and upgrading the internet. The internet upgrade would occur now and not be dependent upon receiving the grant. The motion was approved unanimously.

Finance - Sandy Curtis gave an overview of the financials.

- The accounts are in balance.
- Endowment funds are in the correct line items
- Taxes have been paid
- Applied for a \$526 refund on sales tax

Walt provided the following update:

- Committee spending has been under budget YTD
- Revenue is ahead of budget but some members may be paying early
- Loose plate in down year over year
- The finance team will provide a year over year comparison before the next Vestry meeting.

It was decided that a mid-year update will be sent out to update our members of our financial status.

Committee Reports (in addition to minutes)

Building and Grounds -

- A vote was taken to approve the removal of trees on the property that have become dangerous. The lowest bid was from Element Arbor. The Vestry voted unanimously to approve the \$2000 expense.
- Bill Collins is chair of the inventory project. The first floor of Thatcher has been completed.
- There was a discussion about installing additional filters to the HVAC system. This is tabled to a future date.

Education -

- We have 14 youth currently in our Youth Group.
 - There will be an outing to Lake Logan in a couple of weeks.
 - There was a discussion about using Mo Gaelyn's office for a Youth gathering space.
- Lidiya will be a great asset to our educational offerings during her stay
 - She will lead Racial Reconciliation Adult Forums during July
 - She will lead a book study on **White Fragility**
 - She will lead a Sholom Bible study
- Orion will be leading Catechism and Coffee discussions during the month of July
- Camp Henry will be held at Grace for 2 separate sessions. The Vestry voted to approve this and to provide supplemental funds to be used as scholarships. This was approved by all in attendance with one abstention.

Parish Life -

- Social distancing requirements continue to hamper our ability to gather. Deck discussions will be replaced with Catechism and Coffee for the month of July.
- There was a discussion about an electronic phone tree, but it was determined that the personal touch is more appropriate for our communications.

Outreach -

- Giving Garden is in great shape.
- Pantry numbers are down but there are some new people as well.
- We have been feeding homeless folks in a Maggie Valley hotel.
- The Estate Ministry will be developing guidelines.
- We were awarded a \$10K grant to work with the Open Door to provide prepared food.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Submitted,

Karen Morris

Clerk