

St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2022
In Person

Present: Eddie Bennett, John Bray, Stacie Court, Gail Eilers, Blaine Everson, Anna Hiers, Jane Hudson, LeeAnne Krause, Lane Norton, Maggie Reinberger, Mark Richardson, Nikki Mathis, Jeff Welch, Chrissy Moffett

Absent: Caley Ross

Devotional: John Bray

John read from the lectionary and discussion followed on ways that Jesus reveals himself. Groups of three met in triads.

Approval of Minutes: Nikki Mathis

Nikki called the meeting to order. The minutes of the September meeting were sent to vestry members in advance. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as written. The motion was approved unanimously.

Financial Report: Jeff Welch

The September financial report was distributed in advance of the meeting. Revenues for September were \$26,973 and expenses were \$36,887 resulting in a monthly net loss of \$9,913. Year to date, revenues were \$344,942 and expenses were \$304,110 for a net total of \$40,832. Jeff reviewed the report at a high level and reminded the vestry that bonuses were not budgeted for and will be allocated at the end of the year.

Discussion was held on the possibility of a blanket approval from the vestry for budget overages instead of specific line-item authorizations. The reasoning being that the vestry should be concerned with the bottom line for the year, not bogged down in details. This would require a revision to the existing financial policies.

Jeff informed the vestry of the things that the Finance Committee will be working on over the next six months:

- Preparation of a budget by the December vestry meeting
- Review of requests for the \$56,000 received in bequests (to include rationale and priorities for the use of the funds)
- Requests left over after the bequest funds have been allocated will be moved to the capital campaign
- Financial policy revisions- to include the verbiage that all budget overages will be paid

Jeff noted that a \$50,000 gift to the endowment had been received and indicated the need for an Endowment Committee to be made up of members of the vestry, not the Finance Committee, to

oversee the endowment.

Jane informed the vestry that a transfer of \$1,119.22 was needed from the Memorial Fund to the Memorial Escrow Fund. These funds will correct a misunderstanding years ago about funds received from a family member of Pat Titus to pay for his and Pat's burial in the Memorial Garden. It wasn't understood at the time of their receipt that the funds were designated, so they were deposited into the general fund. At the death of the two Titus family members, it was discovered that the rest of the family believed that their interment in the Memorial Garden had been taken care of.

It was noted that Spiritual Formation received no funding in 2022, because the Committee had no chair to request funds, but would like to pay a \$100 honoraria to three guest speakers for its Advent program. A motion was made and seconded to allow the spirituality line item to go \$300 over budget to pay these honoraria.

The vestry thanked Jeff and he left the meeting.

Rector's Report: Nikki Mathis

Mother Nikki distributed and reviewed her report. She noted an increase in in-person attendance on Sundays and online views after Sunday.

Due to increased professional obligations, David Stooksbury has asked to pause his discernment process for a year. Nikki prepared a letter to the Diocese that was signed by vestry members and the clerk in support of the pause.

Nikki indicated that she would like a small committee to work on a security plan. Discussion followed.

Nikki shared information on the demographic future of the church from the Clergy conference she attended in September and emphasized the importance and need for a social media presence. Nikki indicated that a part time position would be needed for this area. Further discussion on the demographic future of the church will be held at the January retreat.

Nikki reminded the vestry of Trunk or Treat and indicated that it was an outreach opportunity.

Diocesan Budget: Nikki Mathis

Information on the Diocesan budget was sent to the vestry in advance. Nikki indicated that it is important to know how money is budgeted at this level especially since the Diocese is receiving less money from diocesan churches. Nikki reviewed some of the line item budgets and discussion followed.

2023 Diocesan Pledge: Jane Hudson

Jane informed the vestry that the Diocesan pledge for 2022 was \$40,284 based on the calculation of 10% of the average revenue from the last two years.

Volunteers Needed: Jane Hudson

Jane asked for three volunteers to investigate three sources of support for and education on Native Americans. Gail, Maggie, and Mark volunteered

Covering the Deductible for Damage to a Guest Musician's Car: Nikki Mathis

Nikki informed the vestry that a guest musician's new car was dented and scratched while at the September 25th service. Discussion was held on covering the insurance deductible as a goodwill gift since there is an ongoing relationship with the musician but not as an implication of any wrongdoing. The deductible is \$500. Discussion followed. A goodwill gift of \$250 was suggested. A vote was taken, and the majority approved a goodwill gift of \$250. A disclaimer will accompany the gift and Nikki will discuss the funding source with Les House.

Sacred Ground: Nikki Mathis

Discussion was held on making Sacred Ground, a program to work towards diversity, a requirement for vestry members. It was decided not to make it a requirement but to suggest that it is taken within the 3 years of vestry service, and if this is not possible, to talk with the rector.

Recommendations for Clerk of the Vestry: Jane Hudson

Jane asked for recommendations for potential candidates. Discussion followed.

Forming a Capital Campaign Committee: Nikki Mathis

Nikki indicated that this would be a topic for the vestry in January and that committee members and the model to be used will be discussed.

Other Business:

Anna Hiers asked that the names of ushers appear in the bulletin along with the names of others who serve. Anna will work with Kendall on getting the names added.

The meeting closed with a prayer and was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Chrissy Moffett.