

St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2022
In Person

Present: Eddie Bennett, Stacie Court, Gail Eilers, Blaine Everson, Anna Hiers, Jane Hudson, LeeAnne Krause, Lane Norton, Maggie Reinberger, Mark Richardson, Caley Ross, Nikki Mathis, Les House, Roger Schwenke, Anna Thornton, Chrissy Moffett
Absent: John Bray

Jane Hudson introduced Anna Thornton to the vestry. Anna will be taking on the position of clerk of the vestry in December.

Devotional: Caley Ross

Caley read from Ecclesiastes 7:1-13. Discussion and sharing followed. Groups of three met in triads.

Approval of Minutes: Nikki Mathis

Nikki called the meeting to order. The minutes of the October 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: Les House

The October financial report was distributed in advance of the meeting. Revenues for October were \$25,727 and expenses were \$34,499 resulting in a monthly net loss of \$8,772. Year to date, revenues were \$370,669 and expenses were \$338,616 for a net total of \$32,054. Les reviewed the report at a high level.

Les distributed a handout on pledge progress toward meeting the 2023 basic operating budget of \$441,783. As of the meeting date, pledges had been received for \$291,610, or approximately 2/3 of what is needed. \$150,173 of additional pledges are needed. It was noted that St. Gregory's does not pledge in a timely manner to allow budgets to be prepared in advance of the calendar year. Information on pledges received to date will be included in Friday's newsletter.

Les indicated that the Finance Committee feels comfortable recommending Christmas bonuses. Les recommended that all employees, including the coffee host, receive a \$200 (gross) bonus with their last November paycheck. Discussion followed. A motion was made and seconded to pay a bonus of \$200 per employee. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Mother Nikki left the meeting in advance of discussion of her 2023 housing allowance. Les informed the vestry that a motion was needed to approve the rector's housing allowance. Discussion followed. Jane Hudson left the meeting to ask Nikki if an increase was needed to her housing allowance. Nikki requested that the allowance be increased to \$25,000 and Jane informed the vestry. Discussion

followed. A motion was made to budget \$25,000 for the rector's housing allowance in 2023. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote. Mother Nikki rejoined the meeting.

A document listing special funding requests for bequest funds was distributed in advance of the meeting. Jane Hudson reminded the vestry that they need to rank the requests and that they would be discussed at a future meeting. Discussion followed.

The vestry thanked Les and he left the meeting.

Rector's Report: Nikki Mathis

Mother Nikki provided a verbal report. She will be leading a *Praying with Pictures: Contemplative Christian Practices with the Tarot* class and asked the vestry if they had any questions. Discussion followed.

Representatives to the diocesan council were present at the vestry meeting in the persons of Anna Hiers, Maggie Reinberger, and Roger Schwenke. Discussion was held on the upcoming Annual Council, including proposed changes to the Standing Council.

Nikki informed the vestry that the recent staff retreat echoed the need for an increased social media presence and a new position dedicated to this. No one on staff has the extra time or experience to do this. Discussion followed.

Review of Investigation of 3 Sources for Education About Native American Culture & Funding for Native Americans: Mark Richardson, Gail Eilers, Maggie Reinberger

Mark indicated that rather than a presentation, the group thought that sharing links to the Georgia Council on American Indian Concerns and the websites about the three state-recognized tribes of Georgia would provide the best source of information for the vestry. Maggie suggested that Mark also include the link to the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing website on Indigenous Peoples Month. Mark will send an email with the links so that the vestry can review the information in advance of the December meeting. The topic will be discussed at the December meeting with the goal of selecting a group. Information on the selected group will be shared with the congregation and a contribution will be made in January.

Youth Sunday School Inquiry: Nikki Mathis

Nikki shared an inquiry she received about Youth Sunday School. Discussion followed.

Stacie's Personal Report: Stacie Court

Stacie shared personal news with the vestry.

Dining Options for December's Meeting: Nikki Mathis

Jane volunteered to provide dinner for the December meeting. LeeAnne offered to provide Christmas cookies. The meal will be at 6pm on Tuesday, December 13, and the meeting will follow.

The meeting closed with a prayer and was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Chrissy Moffett.