

## **St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church**

### **Vestry Meeting Minutes**

**December 8, 2020**

**Present:** Jack Armistead, Eddie Bennett, Kelly Black, Rhonda Hefner-Packer, Jane Hudson, Marge Massey, Nikki Mathis, Kathryn Musholt, Caley Ross, Beth Thornton, Lester House, and Chrissy Moffett

**Devotion:** Marge Massey

Marge read “Barrington Bunny” from Martin Bell’s book *The Way of the Wolf*. Discussion followed on the Gospel themes and references.

**Call to Order and Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Nikki Mathis

Nikki called the meeting to order. Copies of the November 10 minutes were distributed in advance of the meeting. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as written. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Financial Report:** Nikki Mathis and Les House

Les House provided the November Treasurer’s report in advance of the meeting. Les noted that money had already been received for prepaid 2021 pledges. For the month of November, revenues were \$5,097 under budget and expenses were \$3,498 under budget. Year to date, revenues are \$19,783 under budget and expenses are \$35,314 under budget. The year to date net total is \$14,493. Les noted that Buildings & Grounds is well under budget for the year. Discussion followed.

Les informed the vestry that Nikki used part of her discretionary fund to buy a computer to continue the online services. Les asked the vestry to transfer funds from the Communications budget to repay the Rector’s discretionary fund for the computer purchase. Discussion followed. Jack will inform Randall. A motion was made to transfer \$1,942.09 from the Communications budget to the Rector’s discretionary fund for the purchase of the computer to edit the online church service. The transfer will be done at the end of the year. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

**Discussion of Financial Policy Draft:** Kathryn Musholt and Les House

Kathryn shared the working document of the financial policy with the vestry in advance of the meeting and asked that they review it so that it can be approved in January. Les and Jeff Welch will attend the January vestry meeting. She noted that a financial policy was standard operating procedure for other churches St. Gregory’s size. Kathryn will share the final document in advance of the January vestry meeting.

**Report on Memorial Garden Walkway:** Kathryn Musholt

Kathryn provided a report on the walkway for the memorial garden in advance of the meeting. She indicated that it was difficult to get other bids and noted that the two bids received come out essentially the same since payment to Andrew for the drawings would be needed if the other bid was used. She informed the vestry that the finance committee had seen the report. She noted that the Buildings and Grounds line items are both under budget. Discussion was held on moving funds from the Buildings budget to a designated fund so that the money is available when needed next year for the walkway. Discussion followed on wheelchair access based on the drawing. Rhonda offered to work to make sure that the walkway is truly wheelchair accessible. Additional discussion followed.

A motion was made to encumber \$7,500 from 2020 to 2021 in a designated fund for construction of the memorial garden walkway. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Les will continue to talk to Vision Landscaping. The vestry thanked Les and he left the meeting.

**Rector's Report:** Nikki Mathis

Nikki provided her report and noted that a written report would be forthcoming. She informed the vestry that after almost a year of volunteering to video the online services, Anthony Barkdoll was resigning. A part time position will need to be hired to video, edit, and upload the services.

Nikki indicated that the diocese had approved the Sacred Pilgrimage and the Christmas Eve service with communion. Christmas day will be the first day that people can sign up for prayer in the nave. Allena will be back on January 2.

**Strategic Planning:** Rhonda Hefner-Packer

Rhonda indicated that she received feedback on the strategic plan from three people. One suggestion was to encourage youth involvement with the vestry. Discussion followed on the possibility of an *informal* youth representative to the vestry. Another suggestion was children's programs with strong multigenerational focus and a parent focused survey for more parental input. The development of a bi-annual review with input from parents, children, and youth was suggested. Discussion followed. Kathryn noted that she appreciates the work that Catherine Drewry is doing with the youth and that she should be commended by the vestry.

A motion was made to approve the strategic plan. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous hand vote. Nikki thanked Rhonda, Kelly, and Beth for their work on this important document.

**Stewardship:** Caley Ross

Caley provided an update on pledges. There are no official updated totals, but he feels that we are up by a good bit this year. He will have an update in the new year on pledge totals.

**Annual Council Meeting:** Jack Armistead

Jack reported on the annual council meeting held via Zoom. Committee meetings were on the 13<sup>th</sup> with the general session on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Two resolutions were approved: R20-1 resolution to Acknowledge First nations in Georgia, and R20-2 Resolution to Oppose Georgia's Citizen Arrest Law.

**Other Business:** It was noted that the January meeting will be the last meeting for those rolling off the vestry: Jack Armistead, Rhonda Hefner-Packer, Marge Massey, Kathryn Musholt, and Beth Thornton.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31.

Respectfully submitted by Chrissy Moffett.