

St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2020

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

Absent: Marge Massey, Beth Thornton

Devotion and Triad Time: Jane Hudson and Nikki Mathis

Jane read Acts 2: 5-12. Discussion followed.

Call to Order and Approval of Meeting Minutes: Nikki Mathis

Nikki called the meeting to order. Copies of the May 12 vestry 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 May Treasurer's report in advance of the meeting. For the month of May, revenues were \$5,822 under budget and expenses were \$7,013 under budget. Year to date, revenues are \$8,636 under budget and expenses are \$14,945 under budget. Discussion followed.

Resolution re: Audit: Kathryn Musholt and Les House

The audit due date is set by the diocese. Due to the coronavirus, staff can't do what is necessary to prepare the audit. The proposed resolution on the audit was shared with the vestry in advance of the meeting and is as follows: *The Vestry of St. Gregory the Great Episcopal church- Athens, GA requests that the 2019 audit due date be delayed from September 1, 2020 to November 1, 2020.*

Discussion followed. A motion was made to accept the resolution and hold off on the audit with the caveat that if it is still not possible to meet the November 1 due date, another extension will be requested. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Parishioner Request: Les House

The vestry was informed of a request received from a parishioner to support an Episcopal relief center in Italy that has lost all revenue due to the coronavirus. The parishioner would like to organize a fundraiser with the checks made payable to St. Gregory and St. Gregory would write a check to the center in Italy. Les is seeking vestry approval for St. Gregory to be used as a repository for the funds until a check is written to the center in Italy. Discussion followed. The end date of the fundraiser and potential audit impacts were discussed.

Nikki shared her guidelines for use as a flow-through:

- 1) St. Gregory is not the source of funds and no parishioner emails are given out
- 2) It must be Episcopal
- 3) There should be a legitimate and legal reason that a flow through is needed

Additional discussion followed. A motion was made for St. Gregory to be used as a flow through for the Santa Maria Episcopal Relief Center in Italy provided there is an end date for the fundraiser and that notes are kept in the accounting system until a check is written. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote with one dissent.

Discussion was held on the reason for dissent which included concerns on audit tracking, precedent, and appearance. The question was raised whether the diocese had any regulations concerning flow throughs. Nikki indicated that she would reach out to the diocesan finance committee and the motion will be tabled until additional information is gathered from the diocese. A firm end date for the fundraiser was requested by the vestry. Since Nikki will be on vacation for the next two weeks, Les will reach out to Bonnie Burgess at the diocese and this will be a topic at the next vestry meeting.

The vestry thanked Les and he left the meeting.

Rector's Report: Nikki Mathis

Nikki provided her report and indicated that rules for visits and worship had not changed. She informed the vestry that she will be taking vacation for two weeks effective immediately. Discussion was held on attendance numbers for virtual worship. Nikki noted that St. Gregory gained a new member from its online presence and that she has received requests for online services to continue after the return to in person services.

Resignation from Vestry- Karen Hankins: Kathryn Musholt and Nikki Mathis

Nikki indicated that Karen Hankins resigned from the vestry due to family obligations. Discussion followed. This leaves nine vestry members, which is an acceptable number and another vestry member will not be added.

Stewardship Report: Caley Ross

Caley indicated that the stewardship committee has been meeting via Zoom and would like to try and have an online Ministry Fair with a series of discussions and online interviews. Caley read a letter from Terry Tillman to the vestry on the subject. Discussion followed. Peter Rice or Terry Tillman will reach out to the committees directly. It was noted that Kendall is receiving notices of Zoom meetings so that there aren't meeting conflicts and the Church Calendar is being used to track the meetings as well.

Report on Nourish, Grow, and Go: Rhonda Hefner-Packer

Rhonda provided an update on the strategic planning process and noted that goals have been formulated. June 15th is the target date for the first draft of the goals to be loaded to Google Docs online. June 15th through June 30th will be a time for review and comments with comments due back by close of business on June 30. Committees have until July 8 to get back together to review comments. Rhonda noted that all goals must be specific, measurable, assignable, realistic and time bound.

Zoom sessions with parishioners will be publicized by the communications committee. Focus group questions will be asked at each of the sessions. Discussion followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21.

Respectfully submitted by Chrissy Moffett.