

**St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church**  
**Vestry Meeting Minutes**  
**March 9, 2021**

**Present (via Zoom):** Eddie Bennett, Kelly Black, John Bray, Blaine Everson, Anna Hiers, Jane Hudson, LeeAnne Krause, Nikki Mathis, Caley Ross, Lester House, Jeff Welch, and Chrissy Moffett

**Devotion:** Eddie Bennett

Eddie read Psalm 4. Discussion followed on humility and assumptions.

**Call to Order and Financial Report:** Nikki Mathis and Les House

The meeting was called to order by Nikki Mathis. Les House reviewed the February financial report. February revenues are \$2,376 under budget and expenses are \$674 over budget. The February net total is (\$7,435) compared to a (\$4,386) budget. Year to date revenues are \$4,744 under budget and expenses are \$1,098 over budget. The year to date net total is (\$6,560) compared to a (\$719) budget. Pledges are \$8,630 under budget. Discussion followed.

**Approval of Proposed Budget:** Les House

Given the reduction in 2021 actual pledges compared to projected pledges, budget reductions are necessary to maintain a zero-deficit budget. A proposed budget was shared. Designated gifts were considered in determining which line items could be cut. It was noted that the proposed budget did not include COLAs (cost of living adjustments) for employees and that Christmas bonuses would be cut.

John Bray shared the request from the Parish Life committee for the Bishop's visit in September and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. It was noted that funds are not available for the request now. Discussion followed. It is hoped that by the time of the event, funds will be available.

Discussion followed on the proposed budget reductions and some edits were made. A motion was made to approve the proposed budget as edited with the provision that COLAs for employees be given and program budgets be raised to 2020 levels when funds become available. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Treasurer's Review:** Les House

Les provided a list of items that he requested be exempt from the Treasurer's review in the annual budget for the 2021. These items do not have flexibility within the budget and therefore do not warrant a review.

A motion was made as follows:

Resolve that the line items listed below are exempt from Treasurer's review for being within the annual budget for the 2021 fiscal year.

001864 - DIOCESAN PROGRAM

001881 - Clergy Salary

001882 - Housing Allowance  
001883 - Pension/Clergy  
001884 - Insurance/Clergy  
001887 - SALARY/ALL LAY EMPLOYEES  
001888 - FICA EMPLOYER  
001889 - Parish Administrator Pension  
001890 - SERVICE CONTRACTS  
001893 - TELEPHONE  
01888A - WORKERS COMP INSURANCE  
01888B - Commercial Insurance  
01889B - Parish Admin. Health Insurance  
01889D - CHRISTIAN ED DIR PENSION  
01889E – Organist Pension

The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Approval of February Minutes:** Nikki Mathis

The minutes of the February meeting were sent to Vestry members in advance of today's meeting. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Vestry Member Resignation and Replacement:** Nikki Mathis

Nikki informed the vestry that Julia Marlowe Swagler needed to step down from the vestry. Per the Bylaws, a committee needed to be formed to choose a replacement. Discussion followed. John Bray, Anna Hiers, and Jane Hudson agreed to be part of the committee along with Nikki. Nikki will reach out to a short list of potential candidates and share the responses with the committee. This position will fulfill the remainder of the one-year term that Julia was serving, which is until January.

**Strategic Plan Item Updates:** Nikki Mathis

Nikki reminded the vestry that based on the Strategic Plan, the vestry was to create a Nourish committee, a Cultural Awareness committee, and a Newcomers committee as well as send youth to Camp Mikell. These goals were made before COVID and are not possible now due to COVID. Nikki will retool the goals and present two at the next vestry meeting for consideration.

**Rector's Report:** Nikki Mathis

Nikki provided her report. Discussion was held on the need for a larger Regathering committee in advance of meeting again in person. There are currently only two members on the committee now: Blaine and David Stooksbury. If COVID numbers continue to remain low, we should be able to begin meeting outdoors weather-wise by the end of April. Nikki reminded the vestry that two tents were destroyed at the outdoor service on Christmas Eve and would need to be replaced prior to regathering outdoors. Discussion followed. Blaine will share a rough regathering proposal with the vestry.

**Our Parish Family:** Kelly Black

Kelly provided an update on parish members facing difficulty and asked for prayers. Discussion followed.

Nikki closed with a prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Chrissy Moffett.