

St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2023

Present: Kate Avinger, Stacie Court, Gail Eilers, Les House, LeeAnne Krause, Nikki Mathis, Lane Norton, Maggie Reinberger, Mark Richardson, Shelby Welch

Absent: John Barrett, John Bray, Blaine Everson

- 1) Mo. Nikki called the meeting to order at 6:30 with a prayer.
- 2) Shelby led the devotional with a reflection on the divisions in many churches and the difficulty human beings have getting along with each other. Discussion turned to the new mosque being built in Athens. Stacie expressed concern about the acceptance of people of other faiths and wondered what we could do to be more welcoming. Kate suggested contacting the Muslim community leaders with some sort of welcoming gesture. No action was taken at this time.
- 3) After the triads met, the minutes of the March meeting were reviewed and accepted.
- 4) Missy Hamlin and Jude Red Bear, co-directors of the nursery, presented a list of needs related to the condition of the nursery and its playground and led the vestry on a tour of the problem areas. No one was injured. Later, the vestry voted to prioritize these repairs (see #9 below).
- 5) Les House presented the treasurer's report, as follows:
 - Les is in the process of developing a revenue and balance sheet for the Endowment Committee so that their financial status will be more clearly apparent to them.
 - Our monthly revenues for March were \$27,120 (which was \$6,275 less than the budget anticipated) and our expenses were \$37,468 (which was \$3,610 more than the budget anticipated), leaving us \$9,885 short of our budget for March.
 - Our year-to-date revenues, however, remain higher than the budget expected: the budget called for \$129,453 in income, but we have taken in \$159,398, largely because we received \$16,280 in unpledged giving. Year-to-date expenses have also run higher than the budget anticipated by \$7,422, but we remain \$22,522 better off than our budget expected. Our trend, however, is heading downward as it normally does after first-of-the-year giving.
 - In discussing budget items, Mo. Nikki pointed out that parishioners tend to give without pledging and also tend to spend their own money (small amounts) instead of running a budget deficit, which makes it hard to know what some ministries really need.
 - Les next explained the new letter of agreement with Doug Adkins which will come into effect July 1, 2023, after Doug is ordained. His position will be changing from director of the Sunday school to priest Associate, though he will continue to head up the Sunday school program. Les

pointed out that while the vestry could approve the letter at this meeting, the letter will still need re-approval once Doug has decided what percentage of his pay will be allocated to housing allowance (as distinct from salary). Les added that Doug will be making what he is making now with the addition of a pension pay-in.

- A discussion arose about Doug's ordination, which will take place on Saturday, June 24, from 2-4 pm, at the Cathedral of St. Phillip in Atlanta. Mo. Nikki pointed out that it would be great if as many parishioners as possible from SGGEC could attend. She also said that more than a party in celebration, Doug would appreciate a gift to remind him of his ordination. Stoles, which are expensive, make an appropriate present. Christina Dondero, Lane Norton, and Margaret Agner were all mentioned as gifted fabric artists who might be interested in a commission.
- Next, Les reviewed the changes to the church's Financial Policies handbook. In discussing the revisions, he mentioned that if church members require reimbursement for travel, it works best to use the Excel form that Kendall can send out, which calculates totals. Mo. Nikki pointed out that the Meal Reimbursement Rate in Appendix A (p. 17) needs to be updated. Les said he would do that and added that updating the Appendices does not need vestry approval.
- →The vestry approved the changes to the Financial Policies.

6) Mo. Nikki asked for a report from the Capital Campaign Committee. Stacie reported that she and Mark had met briefly and would meet again in May to discuss possible members of the committee and goals for the campaign. Mark and Stacie requested members of the vestry to contact either of them via email with suggestions for who might serve on the committee.

7) LeeAnne reported that the Endowment Committee has been re-formed with a new membership with George Krause as chair. Other members include Jeb Byers, Marge Massey, Chrissy Moffett, and Logan Sawyer.

8) Mo. Nikki reported that the Trey Clegg singers cost the church \$2500, which was unbudgeted. The fee was assessed to the music budget, which will be allowed to run a deficit and then be corrected next year.

9) The vestry ranked special requests for the \$56,000+ gift (of which \$16,000 has already been spent on re-roofing the Christian Education building). Mo. Nikki asked us to separate our rankings of requests into most urgent, addressable with the gift money; and less urgent, addressable through the capital campaign. Repairing the organ and the first floor of the parish hall and building a labyrinth were voted top priorities for the capital campaign.

→More urgently, the vestry approved spending an estimated \$21,000 of the \$40,000 remaining from the \$56,000+ gift to repair the two playgrounds and the nursery as soon as possible.

10) LeeAnne brought up an idea from a parishioner that the church create a dedicated spot in the sanctuary during the peace where congregants could face a camera and wave to family or friends at home. Mo. Nikki said this would potentially delay the service and that went perhaps too far in violating the sense of the sanctuary as a family of congregants itself.

11) Mo. Nikki reported that the church is healthy. Holy Week services were well attended and spiritually rewarding, the Trey Clegg singers were very well attended and were outstanding, and new members keep coming, often with families.

12) She went on to report about her stand-ins during her sabbatical. Sundays are scheduled as follows:

- April 30: Carol Schwenke
- May: Ellen Richardson
- June: Carol Schwenke
- July, except for July 30: Bob Dendtler
- July 30: Ellen Richardson

Besides celebrating the Eucharist, the stand-in priests have agreed to officiate at the Wednesday evening healing service and to handle hospital visits, administering of Last Rites, and funerals if any are needed. Since the Rector's Discretionary Fund is temporarily out of money, the stand-in priests will not need to disburse any funds.

13) The vestry agreed to meet on the second Tuesday in May and to decide then when and where the June meeting will take place.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Richardson