

St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2022
Hybrid: In Person and Socially Distant and via Zoom

Present: Eddie Bennett, John Bray (Zoom), Gail Eilers, Anna Hiers, Jane Hudson, LeeAnne Krause, Nikki Mathis, Maggie Reinberger, Mark Richardson, Caley Ross, Jeff Welch (Zoom), Chrissy Moffett
Absent: Stacie Court, Blaine Everson, Lane Norton

Approval of Minutes: Nikki Mathis

Mother Nikki called the meeting to order. The minutes of the Annual and January meetings were sent to vestry members in advance. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as written. The motion was approved unanimously.

Rector's Report: Nikki Mathis

Nikki indicated that she had nothing new to report beyond what had been shared in the Annual Report.

Wright House at UGA: Nikki Mathis

Nikki played a video on the Wright House at UGA. Discussion followed and the involvement of the Diocese, Emmanuel, and Saint Gregory in the project were noted. Nikki would like to see someone from our congregation on the Wright House Board.

Financial Report: Jeff Welch

The January financial report was distributed in advance of the meeting. Jeff reviewed the report. He indicated that the high cash balance was the result of prepaid pledges which are also reflected in the healthy revenue balance for the month. Revenues for January were \$46,914 and expenses were \$26,602 resulting in a net total of \$20,312. Jeff noted that there were no payroll expenses for Christian Education in January due to Catherine's unpaid sabbatical. Her replacement was not added to payroll until February.

Distribution of Revenue for a Revised 2022 Budget: Jeff Welch

A revised 2022 budget proposal was distributed that the Finance Committee prepared since the "Must Pay" budget was passed at the January vestry meeting which enabled payment of salaries, utilities, and contracts. At the end of the January meeting, vestry members provided recommendations for where to allocate available funds between all ministries, programs, and staff. Since then, the church received six generous gifts and had a few increases in pledges. Jeff reviewed the revised proposal.

Jeff noted that the gifts received to help make the 2022 budget went into non-pledge trend and cannot be counted on next year. He reminded the vestry that designated funds are separate from the operating budget and can be used as needed/desired. Jeff encouraged the vestry to support the Stewardship Committee to increase pledges.

Jeff indicated that all agreed it was important to give employees a raise, except for the Christian Education Director and Youth Minister, who have just started. He noted that 5% raises were reflected in the proposed budget and that these increases will impact next year's budget. Jeff also indicated that raises were more important at this time than Christmas bonuses. Jeff recommended not including Christmas bonuses in the Operating Budget and suggested waiting until November to assess the financial feasibility of paying Christmas bonuses. If they are possible, the vestry can vote on an amendment to pay them. Discussion was held on the \$8,000 allocated to Building Maintenance. Jeff noted that any part of the budget not spent can be redesignated.

Jeff asked that a motion be made to rescind the "Must Pay" budget previously approved for 2022 and accept the 2022 Budget as proposed at the meeting.

Nikki indicated that a request had been made to change payroll from monthly to bi-monthly which would result in an additional cost of \$360. It was indicated that this cost could be covered by a decrease in the Miscellaneous Admin budget. Discussion followed. Jeff recommended not changing the proposed budget to cover this expense and noted that the vestry can approve budget overages when they occur.

A motion was made to approve the 2022 revised budget as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of a Resolution: Jeff Welch

A resolution was distributed in advance of the meeting assuring timely payment of payroll, utilities, and contracts. It also states the signature requirements for checks more than \$1,000. A motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution as presented. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Recommendations for Changes to the Bylaws: Nikki Mathis

Two changes to the Bylaws were recommended.

Section 3.1, Annual Parish Meeting

Nikki would like to move the date of the Annual Meeting to November so each calendar year can start with an approved operating budget.

Section 4.6, Meetings

It was suggested that the wording in the last two sentences regarding face-to-face and electronic meeting be changed to: *When face-to-face meeting is not possible regarding public safety, then virtual means are allowable.*

Discussion was held. Both changes will be presented at the January 2023 Annual Meeting and will be put forth for approval at the January 2024 Annual Meeting. This means that if approved, the first Annual Meeting in November would occur in November 2024.

Responses to Parochial Report: Nikki Mathis

Nikki requested that the vestry members respond to the three questions provided on the agenda and return them to Jane Hudson for inclusion in the Parochial Report. Discussion followed. A motion was made to approve the Parochial Report as presented with the addition of answers to the questions provided for inclusion. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Nikki closed with a devotional from the Book of Common Prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 5:05.

Respectfully submitted by Chrissy Moffett.