

St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2022
In Person

Present: Eddie Bennett, John Bray, Stacie Court, Gail Eilers, Anna Hiers, Jane Hudson, LeeAnne Krause, Lane Norton, Maggie Reinberger, Mark Richardson, Nikki Mathis, Les House, Anna Thornton
Absent: Blaine Everson, Caley Ross

Dinner was served at 6:00 pm and provided by Jane Hudson and LeeAnne Krause.

Devotional: Stacie Court

Stacie shared a bit of background on Saint Lucia which led into a devotion centered around the many uses and meanings of LIGHT in scripture. Discussion, sharing, and insights followed. Triads were considered to have occurred during dinner conversations.

Approval of Minutes: Nikki Mathis

Nikki called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. The minutes of the November meeting were sent to vestry members in advance. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as written. The motion was approved unanimously.

Financial Report: Les House

The November financial reports were distributed both in advance of the meeting and at the meeting with updates. Revenues for November were \$30,470 and expenses were \$34,242 resulting in a monthly net loss of \$3,773. Year to date, revenues were \$401,139 and expenses were \$372,864 for a net total of \$28,275. Les reviewed the report in detail, and discussion followed.

Les distributed a handout updated on December 9, 2022, on pledge progress toward meeting the 2023 basic operating budget of \$441,705. As of the update, pledges had been received for \$358,648, or approximately 4/5 of what is needed and representing 116 pledge units. \$83,057 of additional pledges are needed. It was again noted that St. Gregory's does not pledge in a timely manner to allow budgets to be prepared in advance of the calendar year. Discussion was had to that effect around passing a provisional budget at the annual meeting in January, with review in June. Information on pledges received to date will continue to be included in weekly newsletters.

Discussion was had and a motion carried to roll over to 2023 the remaining funds in Building & Grounds. Les brought attention to the fact that an audit would be required in 2023 resulting in the need for an increased cash-on-hand amount. In addition, the following projected cash assumptions were noted in the financial report:

- Loose Plate will be \$100 under budget in December (11-month average)
- Pledge income will end up at budget at the end of 2022. Currently \$214 under budget year-to-date.

- Local Outreach expenses will be at budget at the end of 2022. Currently \$6,478 under budget year-to-date.
- Music expenses will be at budget at the end of 2022. Currently \$881 under budget year-to-date.
- Building Maintenance will be at budget at the end of 2022. Currently \$4,173 under budget year-to-date.
- All other revenues and expenses are assumed to be at the monthly budget for the remainder of 2022.
- Cash was supplemented in November by \$5,000 in pre-paid 2023 pledges received. The 2023 pre-paid pledges will be removed from the cash calculation in January 2023 because the cash is already booked in 2022.
- Assumptions may change from month-to-month.

Nikki nominated Les House for a second term as Treasurer, and Jeff Welch for a second term as Finance Committee Chair. A motion was made and passed. Les asked that an Assistant Treasurer be appointed, so Les can train him/her to replace Les at the end of his second term. Anna Thornton has volunteered to take on the role of reconciler and will begin working with Les once December statements are secured.

The vestry thanked Les and he left the meeting.

Senior Warden Report: Jane Hudson

Vestry members were reminded that the same requirements stated in the by-laws for appointment to the Vestry are required to remain on the Vestry. As well, liaisons to committees are full and active members of the committees. Liaisons should remind committee chairs that annual reports are due at the end of the year. The Annual Parish Meeting is slated for Sunday, January 15, 2023, immediately following the 10:30 am service. There are three Vestry nominees for the 2023-2026 term: Kate Avinger, John Barrett, and Shelby Welch. The annual Vestry retreat is planned for Saturday, January 21, 2023, in the Education Building. A huge thanks goes to retiring Vestry Caley Ross, Eddie Bennett and Jane Hudson for their hard work and dedication to the Vestry.

Review of Investigation of 3 Sources for Education About Native American Culture & Funding for Native Americans:

The committee consisting of Gail Eilers, Maggie Reinberger and Mark Richardson reported on research concerning First Peoples groups. Discussion was had and a motion carried that funding from the Rector's Discretionary Fund not lower than \$200 and not higher than \$500 be given to the Muskogee Creek organization. It was noted that because the Outreach Committee concentrates efforts on specifically local organizations, our partnership with the Muskogee Creek organization be considered social justice and possibly fall to the Environmental Committee.

The Epiphany Project:

Gail Eilers reported that The Outreach Committee has chosen the Epiphany Project as a way our congregation can support Family Promise in 2023. St. Gregory the Great supports Family Promise with volunteers two weeks each year, but not everyone is able to volunteer to provide a meal, serve as a host, or drive a van, and Family Promise has ongoing needs. There is an Amazon wish list for Family

Promise which will allow our congregation to donate via Amazon ordering or donate items physically. The Epiphany Project's list of needed supplies will be published in the newsletter and bulletin.

Rector's Report: Nikki Mathis

Mother Nikki provided a verbal report. There have been greater than 100 participants in the 10:30 am services with fewer than 23 at the 8:00 am services. Some 60 participants have joined the 10:30 services online. Mother Nikki's class on *Praying with Pictures: Contemplative Christian Practices with the Tarot* continues through December 18 with 25 participating in person and another 45 online the first two weeks. A nominal stipend for all diocesan deacons was approved at Annual Council in November. Earning a stipend enables deacons to receive benefits as diocesan employees.

The meeting closed with a prayer and was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Anna Thornton