

**St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church**  
**Vestry Meeting Minutes**  
**16 January 2024 In Person**

**Present:** Vestry Members Kate Avinger, John Barrett, Stacie Court, Gail Eilers, Anna Hiers, LeeAnne Krause, Lane Norton, Maggie Reinberger, Mark Richardson, Shelby Welch; Treasurer Les House, Clerk Anna Thornton, Mother Nikki Mathis

**Absent:** Vestry Members John Bray

**Devotional:** LeeAnne Krause

Mother Nikki opened with prayer at 6:30 pm. LeeAnne shared excerpts from *Growing Up Lutheran*, with thoughts and discussion. Prayer time followed.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mother Nikki Mathis

Mother Nikki called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm. Minutes of the December meeting were sent to Vestry members via email prior. A motion was made and seconded to accept minutes as written; motion approved and carried.

**Financial Report:** Les House

Les distributed two financial reports prior to meeting via email and hard copies. The Operating Account Checking balance was reported to be at \$37,940 with Revenues reported at \$34,014, reflecting \$1,620 over budget. December expenses were \$41,427 versus a budget of \$45,851, reflecting \$4,424 under budget. Loose plate contributions accounted for \$1,191 put into the Rector's Discretionary Fund in 2023.

Discussion centered around the proposed 2024 budget and preparations for the Annual Meeting Financial Report. The first extra handout illustrated the Finance Committee's proposed balancing of funds to remain flexible and prepared for emergencies. The finance committee proposed three year-end fund transfers, as follows:

- 1) In the regular budget, \$8,089.42 is to be transferred from the Main Checking Cash Reserve (line item 001001) to the designated fund in Main Checking (001006). This will leave the operating fund with \$29,850.88 and the designated fund with \$35,226.80.
- 2) In the designated fund, \$4,589.42 is to be transferred from the Building and Grounds Maintenance operating budgets to the Special designated fund. This will leave the Special designated fund with \$7,599.79.
- 3) Also in the designated fund, \$4,410.20 is to be transferred from the Capital replacement fund to the Capital designated fund, leaving the latter fund with \$7,910.20.

A motion was made to approve these transfers and was seconded, approved, and carried. Other handouts included charts depicting a preliminary and a (reduced) proposed 2024 budget. Les offered explanations of line items and the vestry discussed the proposed cuts. It is worth noting that the Finance Committee met several times to develop a budget from one with a deficit of \$88,086 to the proposed budget with a deficit of only \$405. After further explanation, a motion was made to vote on the revised, proposed 2024 budget as presented. Vote was unanimous and the 2024 proposed budget was passed.

**Capital Improvements Campaign:** Stacie Court and Mark Richardson

Stacie reported that the parish voting on the survey sent out reflected the following order of importance to the proposed projects first identified in the strategic plan :

1. Capital Reserve Fund
2. Parish Hall building flooring
3. Playground
4. Organ
5. Labyrinth

There were a few write-ins as well. Stacie has developed an Excel spreadsheet to track the information. Marketing materials were shared and discussed, including a brochure and commitment card. Commitments will be for a period of five years, culminating December 31, 2028. The official rollout of the Capital Improvements Campaign will take place Sunday, February 11 with a visit from Bishop Rob Wright.

**Building & Grounds Committee:** Gail Eilers

The Building & Grounds Committee now has two co-chairs to lead the committee, Caley Ross, and Austin Baeckeroot. An organizational meeting will be held January 28.

**Parish Life Committee:** Maggie Reinberger

The Parish Life Committee will set up and clean up for the memorial service of Susanne Burton on Saturday, January 20. All are asked to meet at 5:00 pm on January 20 to set up for the Annual Meeting, which will be held January 21 after the 10:30 am service. Clean-up after will require extra hands as well. The Parish Life Committee is still looking at the possibilities of purchasing a commercial oven. Discussion was had over asking Building & Grounds and Finance Committee to contribute funds towards the oven. There has been a donation of \$1,000 pledged as well. A total of ~\$5,000 will be needed.

**Rector's Report:** Mother Nikki Mathis

Mother Nikki reported that during 2023, attendance has grown by about ten households, which includes young families and the BlindSpot age group of young adults in their twenties and thirties. There are three candidates under consideration for the position of Christian Education Director, all of which come from our membership. Hiring will depend on the state of finances as we progress through 2024. Jonathan Klein is currently filling in as choir director as well as music director. Finances will dictate hiring a new choir director as well.

Mother Nikki taught at the Candler School of Theology during their J Term. She continues to work on writing the forward in *Day by Day* for 2025. No funds from the Rector's Discretionary Fund were distributed in December.

The Annual Meeting will be held January 21 following the 10:30 am service. A Vestry Retreat is being planned for February 17, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Bishop Rob Wright will visit on February 11.

The meeting closed with a benediction and was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Anna Thornton