

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE VESTRY
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA**

CALL TO ORDER: The Vestry retreat convened on March 16, 2019, at the Higginbotham residence. Morning prayer was celebrated and a delicious brunch was served.

VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:

Polly Jones, Senior Warden
Patrick O'Rourke, Junior Warden
Adam Hazell
Charles Kelley
Stan Lewis
JoAnn Manring
Jean Parks
Scarlet Pendarvis
Gail Sargent
Dan Scott
Doug Smith
Mike Whitmire
Callie Flack, Treasurer

STAFF PRESENT:

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham
Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park
Reba Page

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the regular meeting on February 25, 2019, were presented for approval. Jones/Lewis Unanimous approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

February Financials were approved. The Bob Fowler memorials have been transferred from general to the building fund. Bob had requested that any memorials be designated for building. Hazell/O'Rourke. Unanimous.

The 2017 Audit was unanimously approved. Finance/Jones.

PAROCHIAL REPORT:

Clarification was requested on ASA (Average Sunday Attendance). Anything occurring between Saturday evening and Sunday evening counts as a Sunday service. The exception is weddings and funerals. ASA for Grace Episcopal in 2018 is 299. Only 6 parishes in the diocese have ASA's of 150 or higher. Motion to approve the report was made by Whitmire/Hazell. Unanimous.

CLUSTERS:

Administration: Reba Page, Mike Whitmire (Finance Chair), Patrick O'Rourke, Jean Parks, Doug Smith and Charles Kelley

Compassion: *Cynthia Park, Polly Jones, Doug Smith, Gail Sargent, Stan Lewis, Charles Kelley and JoAnn Manring*

Formation: *Cheryl Kelley, Gail Sargent, Dan Scott*

Participation: *Brenda Morgan, Patrick O'Rouke, Jean Parks, Gail Sargent, JoAnn Manring, Adam Hazell + Invite, Welcome, Connect (Bobbie Ingenito & Barb Batog)*

Liturgy & Creative Expression: *Will Gotmer, Scarlet Pendarvis, Stan Lewis, Adam Hazell*

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:

The focus points are: Prayer, Compassion and Belonging. Graphics are being done by children in the parish. There are 54 people involved, divided into 4 groups.

Patrick O'Rouke discussed the strategic planning for the Capital Campaign. He, Cheryl and Stuart have met and are early in the process of exploring community data. Patrick explained that the campaign will be about things that are 25 years in the future. He recommended a book by Haydn Shaw, *Generational IQ*, which details how churches can span generations; we need to think about the long-term life of the church. He is looking for people to help as the plan is being developed. At the final GWAG program, geographical data about Gainesville now and in the future will be presented. ESRI uses marketing data by zip code.

ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN:

Polly Jones distributed a hand-out containing Endowment Fund policies and guidelines.

NOTABLE QUOTES:

"Grace has increased its tolerance for tension" – Stuart

"The vestry is the board of directors of a non-profit organization" – Kelley, who also observed that

"The model of the vestry model being the only way to change the church is not a good model."

"We should look at the WHY of each cluster mission" – Lewis

Stuart announced that there is no timetable yet on the Plaza. There will be no nave work done until after Easter 2020. The annual meeting of 2020 will be the kick-off for participation in the remodeling projects.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at noon with banana pudding and a closing prayer by Cynthia. Minutes recorded by Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry.