

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Vestry meeting convened on June 24, 2019, at 7:00 PM in the Grace Center Conference Room. Polly Jones opened with a prayer.

**VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:**

Polly Jones, Senior Warden  
Patrick O'Rourke, Junior Warden  
Charles Kelley  
JoAnn Manning  
Jean Parks  
Gail Sargent  
Dan Scott  
Doug Smith  
Mike Whitmire  
Callie Flack, Treasurer

**ABSENT:**

Dr. Cynthia Park (on pilgrimage)  
Adam Hazell  
Stan Lewis  
Scarlet Pendarvis

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Doug McDuff

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MINUTES and FINANCIALS:**

Kelley/Jones. Unanimous approval.

**SANCTUARY PLAZA:**

Doug McDuff explained the process of executing the contract with Ashford-Gardeners, Inc., who want to begin working in mid-July. Dale Jaeger has gotten a grant of approximately \$12,000 from the city because we are improving the sidewalk, and the youth have donated \$1,000 for a bench; the Fowlers have pledged \$100,000 for the plaza. Email approval of the budget will be given by Vestry when the final numbers are in from the Sanctuary Plaza contract. The Vestry approved the Ashford-Gardeners contract for the Sanctuary Plaza contingent on final review by Jason Voyles and Mike Whitmire. Kelley/Jones. Unanimous approval.

**SURETY BOND:**

It is church policy to obtain a surety bond on projects over \$50,000. The cost of the bond is \$2,500. Finance/Manning. Unanimous approval.

## **ENDOWMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:**

On May 29, 2019, the Endowment Committee met in the Church conference room and after discussions, made the following recommendations:

(1) Grace Church \$10,000 to fix the parking lot.

(2) Family Promise \$15,000 with conditions:

(a) If building project does not work, the funds would be returned;

(b) The \$15,000 is a one time commitment for this year; and

(c) No prohibition against Family Promise or any other group from applying for additional funds later in the year or any other year.

(3) Camp Mikell, no funds at this time.

The Committee wanted to have some additional funds available for other requests during the year. After the two recommendations, the Committee would have \$12,320 available to disburse.

Finance/Whitmire. Unanimous approval.

## **DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT:**

The amount is 10% of a running three-year average. Grace's assessment will be \$106,929 for 2020. Jones/Smith. Unanimous Approval.

## **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Children of Grace Budget: Salaries have been adjusted for Meg McPeak's new role. Starting this year, salaries and tuition will change from every two years to every year. There will be a town hall meeting with Ansley Forrester and Stuart Higginbotham to discuss a new focus area to strengthen the program. Spanish was mentioned as a possibility.

Close out two designated accounts of *Windows of Grace* and *Taste of Grace*.

Spanish service: since no members have moved from their former church, Edgar Otero plans to get clarification on moving forward from the Diocese.

The Diocesan Council will meet November 22-23 in Macon. Grace is allotted five delegates. Tentatively scheduled to attend are Dan Scott, Callie Flack and Mike Whitmire.

A reporter from *Harpers* is profiling Grace's posture of decision-making and collaboration. Other news of interest from Stuart are that he will be teaching a BULLI class in the Fall, and that his book will be launched at the end of September: *Contemplation & Community: A Gathering of Fresh Voices*. Stuart

reflected on how beneficial his sabbatical was, and that he feels optimistic about the future of Grace. He is getting meaningful feedback from his survey and may re-send for further results.

Dan Scott has agreed to serve as Senior Warden for the next term.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM after a closing note from Cynthia Park and a prayer from Stuart.

Minutes recorded by Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry