

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

CALL TO ORDER: The Vestry meeting convened on October 28, 2019, at 7:00 PM in the Grace Center Conference Room. Stuart Higginbotham opened with a prayer.

VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:

Polly Jones, Senior Warden
Patrick O'Rourke, Junior Warden (via telephone)
Adam Hazell
Stan Lewis
JoAnn Manring
Jean Parks
Scarlet Pendarvis
Gail Sargent
Dan Scott
Doug Smith
Callie Flack, Treasurer

ABSENT:

Charles Kelley
Mike Whitmire

STAFF PRESENT:

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham
Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park

ACTION ITEMS:

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS:

Hazell/Smith. Unanimous approval.

IMPORTANT CHANGE:

After being approved by the Vestry, the annual meeting has been moved to Sunday, January 26, 2020. There will be one service at 10:00AM, followed by a luncheon and then budget discussion and launch of the Capital Campaign. Jones/Manring. Unanimous.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

Out of 432 households in the parish, 158 households have not contributed to Grace in the past two years. There are others who have pledged but not yet turned in their pledge cards. Discussion followed about contacting the non-contributing households. After conversations about discomfort about making calls to those members, Stuart suggested that we "move from a place of embarrassment to encouraging participation in the parish." Vestry members will participate in calling the list of those who have not contributed after the deadline date of November 3. Adam Hazell offered to put together a script that callers can use. Patrick O'Rourke suggested that there be less emphasis on annual giving and more on a one-time gift to the Bicentennial Campaign. We will need \$293,000 to meet last year's budget. On a positive note, to date there are \$52,000 in new or increased pledges.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE:

The Steering Committee considered the Vestry's recommendations in revising the list of priorities. They are recommending a goal of \$1.5 million for nave and multi-purpose room improvements, including \$250,000 earmarked for the Building Reserve Fund. We already have \$60,000 in pledges for the campaign. The Steering Committee recommended a three-year pledge period, with \$500,000 year as a goal. Reba Page and Stuart are putting together a list of parishioners who might give larger amounts. After Thanksgiving, there may be a gathering to which thirty to forty households would be invited. Stuart proposed sharing the list of names with the Vestry to enlist their assistance with contacting friends. Dan Scott offered to accompany the clergy for individual meetings.

VESTRY NOMINATIONS:

Polly Jones reported that there is a long list of Vestry nominations to fill the positions of the four members who are rotating off. She is also going to put an announcement in *The Evangelist* for all parishioners who might want to offer their names for consideration. A short discussion followed concerning the need to have four males and four females on the final slate.

OTHER NEWS:

From the Mountain, Sewanee's publication for alumni and friends of the School of Theology at the University of the South, contained an article entitled "Ministries in a Changing World" in its Fall 2019 issue. Prominently included are the relationship between Stuart and Khalid Ibrahim, a Muslim professor at Brenau University; together they are teaching a course for Brenau's Lifetime Study program which focuses on the relationships between people of different faiths.

Stuart distributed a list of "Resources for Contemplatives" from the Crossroad Publishing Company. The cover page features *Contemplation and Community: A Gathering of Fresh Voices for a Living Tradition*.

Harper's sent a photographer to Grace on Palm Sunday; the pictures and an article will be featured in an upcoming magazine.

Dennis Baxter, a sound engineer, has volunteered to come on October 31 to install state-of-the-art microphones to record the *Requiem* on November 3. There is a possibility that it will be available for later enjoyment by those who miss the service.

Officer Tommy McElroy has been asked to come and do spot checks; he will write tickets for pre-school parents whose children are not secured in proper safety seats.

Stuart closed the meeting by thanking the Vestry "for all the pieces that they hold." Scarlet Pendarvis offered the prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25PM.

Minutes recorded by Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry.