

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

CALL TO ORDER: The Vestry meeting convened on February 24, 2020, at 7:00PM in the Grace Center Conference Room. Stuart Higginbotham opened with a prayer from the Capital Campaign.

VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:

Dan Scott, Senior Warden
Patrick O'Rourke, Junior Warden
Newsom Cummings
Chaudron Gille
Scarlet Pendarvis
Tom Rossi
Gail Sargent
Doug Smith
Mike Whitmire
Callie Flack, Treasurer

ABSENT:

Charles Kelley
JoAnn Manring
Christy Wagner

STAFF PRESENT:

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham
Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park
Edgar Otero, Seminarian

ACTION ITEMS:

Financials and Minutes from January were unanimously approved. Sargent/Scott

OTHER:

- The ROTA was distributed so vacant slots could be filled in.
- Patrick O'Rourke, Dan Scott and Callie Flack signed updated signature cards for the bank.
- A sample Sunday revenue sheet sent from Reba Page was circulated. After each service, Vestry members are to count the cash and the number of envelopes without opening them.
- A new Sunday Service account has been added to financials with \$10,000 seed money. Each season there will be a Sunday evening service that incorporates music, art and a possible partnership with Brenau. Stuart and Cheryl Kelley recently returned from Sewanee with a template for this service.
- Construction on the Sanctuary Plaza has been delayed by inclement weather.
- The transition to an on-demand ACS platform should be launched in summer. After this is accomplished, the church directory will be on-line.
- Update on the Capital Campaign: \$350,000 in total pledges has been received from 35 households, which includes two \$50,000 pledges. On March 8, Jason Voyles and Tate O'Rourke will update the membership on the current status of the campaign. After that, follow-up will be done with members who have not yet pledged. New Vestry members will work with CVD and the Steering Committee on details of the campaign.

- The funeral policy will be revamped. We will be moving from a set fee for services to **no fee** for simple funerals. Those who wish music/soloist will send a check to Will Gotmer. There will also be a fund for those who wish flowers and/or food.
- Whelchel, Dunlap, Jarrard & Walker, LLP have reached out to Charles Kelley about leasing half of their building to Grace. A group will visit next week to see if this is a viable possibility.
- Charles Putnam has been arrested for criminal trespass at Lakewood Baptist Church. He will be released soon, so Lt. Tommy McElroy of the GPD is alert to the need for increased vigilance in our security. Coincidentally, on February 20, Grace's safety team completed a course on "Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events" presented by the Gainesville Police Department.
- Grace has entered into a partnership with The Hub at Gainesville High School. The clergy will be meeting with the director to investigate ways that we can support their staff.
- Plans are ongoing to establish a Center for Practice of Prayer at Grace.
- Gail Sargent will need help coordinating the ecumenical service at Grace on March 11. Newsom Cummings volunteered to assist her.
- The five clusters at Grace (Administration, Compassion, Formation, Liturgy & Creative Expression and Participation) were discussed. Stuart and Cynthia will send a note to Vestry members about the clusters, and Vestry members will be able to select their choices online.

To end the meeting on a note of inspiration, we reviewed the words of Amos Wilder and Rabindranath Tagore that were distributed during the meeting. And, on a note of gratefulness, Stuart thanked the assembled group for their assorted contributions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM with a closing prayer by Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park.

The next meeting will be March 23 at 7:00 PM

Minutes recorded by Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry