

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

CALL TO ORDER: The Vestry meeting convened on March 23, 2020, at 6:30 PM via ZOOM Conference. Stuart Higginbotham opened with a prayer.

VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:

Dan Scott, Senior Warden
Patrick O'Rourke, Junior Warden
Newsom Cummings
Chaudron Gille
Charles Kelley
JoAnn Manring
Scarlet Pendarvis
Tom Rossi
Gail Sargent
Doug Smith
Christy Wagner
Mike Whitmire
Callie Flack, Treasurer
Jason Voyles, Chancellor

STAFF PRESENT:

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

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:

Tate O'Rourke

ACTION ITEMS:

Financials and Minutes from March were unanimously approved. Scott/Whitmire

OTHER:

1. Reba Page discussed the typical weekly offerings versus the past two weeks, when only virtual services have taken place. There has been a significant drop, and she is hoping that mail-ins will increase. There was discussion about unexpected expenses that have arisen during this period, as well as expenses that have been reduced, e.g. office supplies.
2. Jason Voyles asked if we need to extend the Capital Campaign. Mike Whitmire feels that we need a "time-out" during this time of economic stress. All agreed that this downturn will last for more than a month, possibly until July or August. We are going to continue to collect pledges for the Campaign, but will acknowledge the situation in some way in the next newsletter. Tate O'Rourke, Jason Voyles and Stuart will announce that they are evaluating the situation in a broad statement of acknowledgement. We are not moving towards any new expenditures until the money has been collected.

3. Children of Grace:

- Conversations have been held with Ansley Forrester about the school being closed and what it entails. Reba Page commented that there are only two salaried employees, and the pre-school teachers are hourly. The teachers' next payroll is April 2; they are already paid for spring break so will get two more paychecks. There was approval to pay the total of \$6,000 and revisit the future payments. Motion by Kelley/ seconded by Scott.
- The question arose about reimbursement to parents for tuition. The total for tuition and meals missed is \$54,000. Other church pre-schools have been queried, and there have been mixed responses. The remaining six weeks of the school year would be an \$18,000 payment for the teachers. Newsom Cummings proposed reimbursing parents only one month's tuition so that teachers could be paid. Further discussions will be held.
- Other questions arose about what to do in the Fall if COVID-19 returns.

4. Choir:

- Will Gotmer has requested that the paid singers continue to be paid. Could the funds be pulled from the Friends of Music budget? The Administration Cluster will further discuss this. The consensus of the Vestry was that whatever is done for Children of Grace teachers should also be done for the Staff Singers. To do everything that we would want to do for pastoral reasons, it would cost approximately \$82,000, which includes tuition reimbursement, teacher pay and section leader pay.

5. Clusters:

- Stuart stated that it is essential that we use the clusters as working groups at this time to examine the needs of the parish and in Hall County. Clusters need to field questions and bring proposals to the Vestry. ZOOM groups will be set up (we have one for 500 participants and another for 100, in addition to a smaller one). The new Cluster groups are on Grace's google.com site.

CONCLUDING REMARKS:

Stuart commended the staff, with special thanks to Jennifer Williams, who has found ways to help people stay connected during this time. Unfortunately, there is a need for physical contact that cannot be abated. Stuart and Cynthia reached out to fifty people just today. Stuart encouraged all present to keep in touch with Grace Church members in whatever ways possible.

ADDENDUM:

The 2019 Parochial Report was approved by the Vestry on 3/9/2020.

The virtual meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM with a closing prayer by Rev. Cynthia Park.

The next meeting was not scheduled.

Minutes recorded by Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry