

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

CALL TO ORDER: The Vestry meeting convened on July 27, 2020, at 6:30 PM via ZOOM Conference. Stuart Higginbotham opened with a poem from Meister Eckhart: *A Deeper Stillness*.

VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:

Dan Scott, Senior Warden
Patrick O'Rourke, Junior Warden
Newsom Cummings
Chaudron Gille
Charles Kelley
JoAnn Manring
Tom Rossi
Gail Sargent
Doug Smith
Christy Wagner
Mike Whitmire

STAFF PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Scarlet Pendarvis
Callie Flack, Treasurer

ACTION ITEMS:

- Financials and Minutes from June were approved with one date modification in the minutes. Whitmire/Manring. Unanimous.
- Certification Plan for Children of Grace approved with amendments to mandatory mask requirement and dismissal protocol. Gille/Sargent. Unanimous.

OTHER:

- The Whelchel & Dunlap building next door to Grace will be available at the end of 2020. A group from the Finance Committee (McDuff, Goble and Frost) recommended that a task force be formed to make recommendations to the Vestry about possible purchase or lease of the building. Reba Page, Doug McDuff, Hank Goble, Jason Voyles and Dan Scott will continue to research the possibilities and report their findings.
- *Stewardship campaign for 2021:* Because of the economic downturn we are facing, a number of questions arose. For example, what can we expect in terms of pledge potential? Since our reports to the Diocese are on a yearly basis, would a 6-month budget be possible at this time? Patrick said that there will be a warden call next week, and there will be input from other parishes. Stuart expressed misgivings about his own participation in the process this year because of added complexities. Cynthia put forth an idea about "stories," which would be an

opportunity for people to connect their giving to a story that has unfolded during this time. The discussion will be continued at the next Vestry meeting.

- *Children of Grace:*

1. Discussion of bipolar ionization units to enhance the HEPA filters in the school. Jeremy Landers has gotten an estimate of \$6,500 for the pre-school and \$17,000 to include the church. A number of questions arose, e.g., what is the life expectancy of this system? Is there scientific evidence to support the efficacy of such a system? Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School is using ionizing guns, and UNG said UV technology is being employed there. With so many questions remaining, it was determined that more research is needed before a final decision is made.
2. Per the Bishop's staff, the use of masks for children ages 3 and up is **mandatory**. It was explained in a ZOOM call with parents that we are not an independent entity because we are accountable to the Bishop. If exceptions are to be made, we will require documentation
3. Dismissal protocol demands that there be adequate time for cleaning (using Health Department standards) if someone at the school is infected. The school will move online for a period of 2 days to a week before the building can be reopened.
4. The need for a Liability Waiver will be further examined.

The virtual meeting was adjourned at 7:52PM with a closing prayer by Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park.

The next meeting will be _____

Minutes recorded by Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry