

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

CALL TO ORDER: The Vestry meeting convened on August 31, 2020, at 6:30 PM via ZOOM Conference. Stuart Higginbotham opened with a shared reflection by Brother David Steindl-rast: "A Grateful Day." (gratefulness.org).

VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham
Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park
Rev. Mary Demmler
Seminarian Edgar Otero
Jeremy Landers

ABSENT:

Scarlet Pendarvis
Tom Rossi

ACTION ITEMS:

- Financials and Minutes from July were approved. Kelley/Whitmire Unanimous.
- Certification Plan for Use of Space: baptisms, weddings & funerals outside, afternoons in the nave on Tuesdays and Thursdays in groups of 8, as well as Memorial Space in the narthex for an "All Souls" display in October. Kelley/Manring. Unanimous

OTHER:

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park will update the Finance Committee on outreach expenses. There are still some funds available for emergency relief. \$14,000 has been given so far, and there is still approximately \$10,000 available.
- Chaudron Gille asked if there could be a link during the online Sunday services to "give now." There is already a visitor card available, and new members have been added during the pandemic.
- Jeremy Landers gave an update on the bipolar ionization units: \$6575 for the pre-school and \$23,788 for the entire building. After a discussion, it was agreed that there is no definitive proof that these units reduce the virus risk, although they do improve air quality. It was agreed

that Stuart will inform Ansley & Meg that the vestry will wait to approve such units for the pre-school until a study comes out to show improvement for ameliorating virus risk.

- The copier lease has expired. Discussion of \$155 vs. \$191/month. We will wait until the virus subsidies to look at a longer lease than month-to-month.
- A virtual Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 10.
- The stewardship campaign will have a fully on-line platform that Jennifer Williams is setting up. Cards will be sent to those parishioners who do not respond to the online form.
- The Diocesan Council will be held November 13 and 14 with an online format. Grace will send five delegates; Stuart will solicit delegates from the parish. There are currently three components to the that deal with the way parishes currently account for health/vitality: budget, membership and Sunday attendance. Those three components will most likely be discussed at the council since Sunday attendance is not taken now.
- The annual meeting will be in January. Chancellor Jason Voyles is looking into the by-laws for a mail-in function.
- Hank Goble has formed a working group to look at the law office property. Questions for the Vestry: is this a good time, and how do we connect this with the paused capital campaign? It is felt that substantial renovation will be needed to adapt the building for Grace's needs.
- Stuart announced that Edgar Otero will be ordained a transitional deacon in December. He commended Edgar on his ministry at the hospital this summer. Since Edgar was the only Spanish-speaking chaplain available, he carried a much heavier load than other chaplains.
- Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park's sabbatical will begin on September 13. She will return in December.
- There will be a special, pre-recorded All Saint's service. Rev. Mary Demmler will film graves on her family's farm, Stuart will narrate the story of the unmarked graves at Alta Vista cemetery and there will be one additional venue.

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

The next meeting will be September 28 at 6:30PM

Minutes recorded by Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry