

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Vestry meeting convened on November 30, 2020, at 6:30 PM via ZOOM Conference. Stuart Higginbotham opened with a reading of Psalm 46.

**VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:**

Dan Scott, Senior Warden  
Newsom Cummings  
Chaudron Gille  
Charles Kelley  
Scarlet Pendarvis  
Tom Rossi  
Gail Sargent  
Doug Smith  
Christy Wagner  
Mike Whitmire

**ABSENT:**

Patrick O'Rouke, Junior Warden  
JoAnn Manring  
Callie Flack, Treasurer

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham  
Rev. Mary Demmler  
Rev. Betsy Powell

**ACTION ITEMS**

- Financials and Minutes from October were approved. Kelley/Sargent. Unanimous.

**OTHER:**

- The Treasurer's Report submitted by Callie Flack was reviewed. The good news is that we are in better shape this year than we were at this time last year. Among the positive aspects is that we have collected 40% of the customary plate offerings, despite there being no plate to pass.
- Stewardship/Budget: 206 total pledges have been received compared to 277 last year. Vestry members will be making follow-up calls in the coming weeks.
- Annual Meeting & Nominating Committee Update: This year mail ballots will be sent to all parishioners who are at least 16, confirmed and have made a financial commitment to Grace. After a discussion of the logistics, it was determined that Stuart will consult with our Chancellor, Jason Voyles, to make sure that we will be proceeding correctly. There will be a ZOOM call on December 13 at 5:00PM for anyone in the parish to express their interest or inquire about standing for Vestry. This will give the Nominating Committee a chance to listen to the parish as a whole, after which they will finalize their slate of 8 qualified candidates who will stand for election. Deadline dates for voting and for the Annual Meeting will be determined later.
- Worship Update: Stuart reports that the 3-service format is working well. The Christmas Eve service will be filmed on December 20. There will be two outdoor services at 1:00 & 2:00PM on

Christmas Eve day. In addition, there will be a ZOOM Christmas pageant filmed on Saturday, December 19. Seven families will enact various parts of the Christmas story. Rev. Dr. Cynthia & Jack Park will narrate the event.

- **School for Christian Practice:** Thus far, 35 people have signed up for the group meeting Sunday, December 6. Vestry members were encouraged to participate in the school. As part of the program, Cheryl Kelley will do a 3-week lesson on “Stages of Faith.” Cynthia will also present lessons on “Language & Story.”

Mary Demmler led a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:43PM.

Minutes recorded by Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry