

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE VESTRY VIA ZOOM AND IN-PERSON
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA
JULY 28 2021, AT 7:00pm**

CALL TO ORDER: Stuart Higginbotham opened the meeting by reading a letter that Cynthia Park had written to the group in which she expressed her appreciation to their hard work during Stuart's sabbatical.

VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:

Dan Scott, Senior Warden
Chaudron Gille, Junior Warden
Barbara Batog – via Zoom
Newsom Cummings
Daniel Grizzle
Vance Holifield
JoAnn Manring
Sonja McLendon
Tom Rossi
Gail Sargent- via Zoom
Christy Wagner
Mike Whitmire

STAFF PRESENT:

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham
Reba Page, Parish Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT:

Callie Flack, Treasurer
Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry

ACTION ITEMS

Approved Minutes from May 26, 2021 meeting
Motion to Approve: Whitmire/ McLendon. Unanimous

Approved May and June Treasurer's Reports
Motion to Approve: Whitmire/ McLendon. Unanimous

Approved 2022 Parish Commitment/Canon 20 for the amount of \$109,603.
Motion to Approve: Gille/Wagner. Unanimous

OTHER BUSINESS

Grace Center Parking Lot Rental/Lease/Acquisition Update: Doug McDuff is waiting to hear from Charlie Hawkins so there is no news to report.

Stuart Higginbotham announced that he will be looking for 5 delegates to the Annual Council meeting at St. Phillips on November 12 and 13. Registration deadline is September 15.

2022 Stewardship Campaign: The recommendation was for a transparent campaign this year by stating exactly how much money is needed. The goal will be roughly the same as last year's \$1.1 million goal and perhaps a thermometer image could be used to illustrate the progress. Mike Whitmire suggested that we begin the campaign earlier this year than has been done in past years. Chaudron Gille added that the request for pledges could be mailed out along with the September statement at the end of the third quarter. At the August vestry meeting, the group can determine what to include in the stewardship request.

Christian Formation Steering Committee: Chaudron Gille reported on conversations with parish groups about their status. For example, the Centering Prayer group would like to continue with a hybrid meeting format. There is a possibility of forming intergenerational groups that would be a way of reaching out to members who are not part of traditional groups at Grace.

Stuart Higginbotham's letter to the parish: The Diocese has determined that churches will need to follow CDC guidelines. Signs will be printed to inform people entering the church that CDC guidelines will be followed. Questions remain about whether or not parishioners will be allowed to sing with the choir and whether those speakers from the pulpit will be allowed to remove their masks at the microphone. The medical team reported on the increased cases occurring in Hall County. Most hospitalized patients had not been vaccinated.

Staff Updates:

- Cynthia Park is recovering at home, and will next see her physician on August 20. At that time it will be determined if she is able to return to work or if she will need to explore short-term leave with the Bishop.
- Things have been set up for the fall for Sundays and Wednesdays. There are still questions about GWAG since Brenda has been the point person for that event and will not be able to assist with that.
- Lynn Swanson will begin serving as Interim Organist/Choirmaster in August for a term ending on June 2, 2022. At that time, it will be determined if she will assume the position permanently or another person will be hired.
- Meg McPeek has been working with Stuart and Reba to firm up COG plans for the fall. Meg has talked with Liz Katz about being the art and music floater for the pre-school. Meg will also be the point person with Cheryl Kelly for Sunday School.
- Things have worked out so that the transitions of Lynn Swanson and Meg McPeek will add to the existing budget.

The meeting was closed at 8:15PM with prayer from Stuart Higginbotham. The next meeting will be August 25, 2021, at 7:00PM.

Minutes recorded by Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry