

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE VESTRY  
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA  
September 22, 2021, AT 7:00pm**

**VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:**

Chaudron Gille, Junior Warden  
Barbara Batog  
Newsom Cummings  
Daniel Grizzle (via ZOOM)  
Vance Holifield  
Sonja McLendon  
Tom Rossi  
Gail Sargent  
Mike Whitmire (via ZOOM)

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham  
Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park  
Reba Page (via ZOOM)

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Callie Flack, Treasurer  
Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry

**ABSENT:**

Dan Scott, Senior Warden  
JoAnn Manring  
Christy Wagner

The meeting opened with two prayers from the Book of Common Prayer offered by Rev. Stuart Higginbotham.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Approved August Minutes and Treasurer's Report  
Motion to Approve: Gille/Sargent. Unanimous.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- Stuart Higginbotham announced that they are creating three zones on the church campus for clergy and members to meet outside: the front yard, the columbarium, and the St. Francis Garden.
- The clergy is holding services on the first and third Wednesdays at Lanier Village Estates; 28-35 people have been attending.

- In October, the \$12,000 grant for the Plaza will appear in our financial statement.
- Stewardship:
  1. \$126,000 in pledges have already been received.
  2. Jennifer Williams is working on a thermometer logo for the web page.
  3. Mike Whitmire said that there will be 500 pieces of mail going out to homes soon.
  4. The targeted goal is \$1.1 million.
- Stuart Higginbotham announced the delegates for the Annual Council meeting via ZOOM from the Cathedral of St. Philip on November 12 and 13: Susan Lahey, Lynn Swanson and Jason Voyles.
- Notes have been sent to the nominating committee for new Vestry members, who will be announced at the annual meeting on Wednesday, January 26, 2022. The committee consists of the four members who will be rotating off this year, as well as the four who rotated off last year.
- Brenda Morgan has put together a list of people of who have come to Grace since January 2020, and will begin updating a data base on them. It is hoped that the current roster can be adapted to an online church directory after addressing security concerns.
- Discussion followed about using a payroll service beginning January 2022. Reba Page is currently researching: Church Pension, ADP and Paycheck. Much of Reba's time is devoted to payroll matters and Stuart needs her time to help him look at potential staff shifts. Currently Brenda handles the responsibilities of database, registrar and the weekly church bulletins.
- Stuart is pleased that Lynn has settled in well to her new position. They are looking into two possible shifts:
  1. Staff singers. We currently have four paid out of the operating account and four from Friends of Music.
  2. Possible policy changes in Friends of Music. Currently Friends of Music and the Endowment are the only committees with mandatory rotation of members: one is selected by the Rector, one by the Director of Music and one Vestry representative. It may be time to eliminate the rotation system.
  3. Lynn is lining up concerts. The University of North Georgia is scheduled to have its Christmas concert at Grace, and Kinnara will be here in January.
  4. The choir will now receive communion in the loft.
- There was discussion of ROTA responsibilities. Usher captains will be assigned to ensure that this area is covered each week.
- Chaudron Gille announced that "listening sessions" will resume when in-person GWAG returns.

The meeting was closed at 8:10PM with prayer from Cynthia Park. The next meeting will be October 27, 2021.

Minutes recorded by Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry