

**MINUTES OF A ZOOM MEETING OF THE VESTRY
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA
February 23, 2022 AT 7:00pm**

VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:

Sonja McLendon, Senior Warden
Chaudron Gille, Junior Warden (via ZOOM)
Barbara Batog (via ZOOM)
Newsom Cummings
Nate Early
Julia Greene
Daniel Grizzle
Vance Holifield
Beth Neidenbach
Sally Pittman
Tom Rossi
Christy Wagner

STAFF PRESENT:

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham
Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park

OTHERS PRESENT:

Callie Flack, Treasurer
Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry

The meeting opened with a prayer from Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham.

ACTION ITEMS

Approved Treasurer's Report, Financials and amended January Minutes.
Motion to Approve: Pittman/Grizzle. Unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS

Since this was the first meeting with the four newly elected Vestry members, introductions were made, and the ROTA was distributed so that the new members could shadow current vestry members.

Father Stuart distributed binders to everyone present. The binders are the "starter kit" for a Five-Year Strategic Plan, and include the five ministry clusters. Each vestry member was asked to choose two clusters to concentrate on; they will be provided with specific updates to be added to the binders. Some of the tentative requests were:

- Pittman: Formation and Participation
- Early: Administration
- Rossi: Administration
- Neidenbach: Formation and Compassion

- Cummings: Administration (Finance Committee)
- Wagner: Compassion
- Greene: Compassion and Administration
- As homework for all members, Stuart asked each to let him know what they think the parish specifically needs from him.

It is hoped that the vestry will drive the programmatic development going forward. A specific example would be garden parties for those under 50 and another for those 50 and over. Game trucks will be utilized to make these events more festive. This falls into line with Chaudron Gille's observation that nurturing community is the most meaningful thing we can do at this time to foster reconnection. Another effort to encourage reconnection is that the DOK will be reaching out to everyone college age through 49 to make contact with them and nurture relationships. In yet another effort for more inclusion, all those who have been Friends of Music will be invited to have more meaningful roles. How else can the vestry shift from where we have been to get as many parishioners involved in the ownership of Grace?

Currently, the **Red** Tab of the binders addresses the need to practice resurrection in a season of transition. Who are our conversation partners? What are the dynamics we need to be aware of, e.g., we currently have a shortage of priests?

The **White** Tab deals with the formation cluster and the School for Christian Practice.

The **Blue** Tab is a conversation around the Capital Campaign. Several of the original plans have been tabled, e.g., renovation of the nave. Grace Center improvements, signage, specific building improvements and grounds improvements are still a priority. Two columbarium niches will need to be built since only the top row of niches remain in the existing space.

Going forward, Rev. Dr. Cynthia will be working more closely with Cheryl Kelley to deal with the anxiety being experienced by the youth because of the pandemic. Cynthia will work more with the pre-school to welcome pre-school families into the church.

Stuart announced that church insurance will replace the phone system that was struck by lightning. He also noted that our current database can be loaded into an online directory, which will help with better communication among parishioners.

Father Stuart closed the meeting at 8:15PM with a meditation by Howard Thurman.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 23, at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry