

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE VESTRY  
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA  
MAY 25, 2022 AT 7:00pm**

**VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:**

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

**ABSENT:**

Barbara Batog  
Callie Flack, Treasurer

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry

The meeting opened with everyone reciting together the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Approved April Treasurer's Report and April Minutes.  
Motion to Approve: Gille/Pittman. Unanimous.

Approved motion to fund formal plans from an architect/contractor as requested by the Building & Grounds Committee. The Finance Committee will approve the plans and bring the proposal back to the Vestry. The target is to communicate this arrangement at the annual parish meeting in January 2023.  
Gille/McLendon. Unanimous.

Approved dispersals from Endowment Fund for the following: \$10,000 for Good News at Noon from the Wilheit Endowment Fund, \$10,000 for Family Promise from the Van Giesen Fund and \$2,500 for a Children of Grace scholarship to a military family from the Grace Ministries Fund.  
Neidenbach/Early. Unanimous

## OTHER BUSINESS

- The Friends of Music committee met on May 12. When our discussion began, it was to look at changing the bylaws for the timing of the campaign and removing the limits on the number of members on the committee. Chaudron Gille suggested that Friends of Music doesn't need a separate set of bylaws. A plan for moving forward will be drawn up for the July meeting.
- It was unanimously agreed that the two remaining bays in the Columbarium need to be added. The only available niches now are on the bottom row. There is currently \$63,000 available for adding the bays and the balance will be borrowed from Building Reserve. The funds will be repaid as people purchase the niches. The cost of adding the new bays will determine the future cost to purchase niches in those areas.
- The audit for 2019 and 2020 is currently being processed. The 2021 audit has begun and should be available in September. There will be a ZOOM meeting scheduled so the auditor can respond to questions.
- Stuart announced that the Rev. Mary Demmler has resigned from her position at Rabun Gap and will be moving back to the area with her family.
- The survey results were distributed. Everyone is asked to look at them for themes and action plans. Cluster groups are also asked to augment the survey information. We need to move from the old model where the staff and vestry generate ideas to a model where the parishioners are more invested. In particular, the Formation and Participation clusters could bring back things they have noticed to our July meeting, e.g., changing the parish picnic to September for homecoming. Newsom Cummings observed that Participation needs to meet and offered his home.
- The Five-year Strategic Plan (2022-2027) was also distributed. Arranged by clusters, there is an immediate, a 2- to 3-year plan and a 5-year timeline goal.
- Reba Page has begun working on an online directory, which should be available in August. Currently, there are 890 members of Grace (431 households).

The meeting was closed at 8:15PM with a Litany of Lament by Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park.

The next vestry meeting will be at 7:00PM on Wednesday, July 27.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry