

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE VESTRY
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA
OCTOBER 26, 2022 AT 7:00pm**

VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Daniel Grizzle
Christy Wagner

STAFF PRESENT:

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham
Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park
Rev. Mary Demmler

OTHERS PRESENT:

Amy Munn, Incoming Treasurer
Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham opened the meeting with a prayer.

CONSENT AGENDA:

September financials and minutes were approved.
Neidenbach/McLendon. Unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Stuart announced that the stewardship total to date is \$714,000. There have been almost \$80,000 in new pledges.
- Newsom Cummings has attended both Building & Grounds (B&G) meetings and Finance Committee meetings. He reported that B&G focused on maintenance because information on upcoming construction was not yet available. Once B&G gets the figures, Finance can allocate the funds. Currently the top priorities are: fire and HVAC, specifically in the nave. All previous quotes have increased in price. Stuart contacted First Presbyterian and First Baptist Churches to see what their fire alarm systems cost. He anticipates that it will be approximately \$90,000 for total replacement and integrating the systems across campus. Additionally, the organ pipes

continue to have issues since the lightning strike, described as a “domino effect.” The cost to replace all the pipes will be approximately \$4300.

- Spring Fling funds will be used to redo half of the playground. The bark will be replaced with artificial turf.
- Senior Warden Sonja McLendon reported on the upcoming capital campaign, which will be a reinvigoration of the work before pre-COVID in 2020. Finance and B&G will frame the direction of the Capital Campaign Steering Committee. Target date for kick-off is 2/1/23 at the annual meeting.
- Sonja and Stuart had a phone conference with Sally from the Bishop’s office. Smaller parishes in the diocese were now 70% of their pre-COVID membership. Larger parishes were 50%, but Grace was 74% and therefore was flagged by the Bishop’s office.
- The parochial report gathers data on budget, membership, and Sunday attendance. The latter may be changed from the Sunday figure to numbers from weekly participation. Engagement is more importance than attendance.
- The nomination committee will begin its search for four new vestry members to replace Newsom Cummings, Tom Rossi, Chaudron Gille, and Christy Wagner. Those four departing vestry members will be joined by JoAn Manring, Gail Sargent, Dan Scott and Mike Whitmire to form the search committee. Any confirmed communicant in good standing of the Parish who is not less than eighteen (18) years of age is eligible to be considered.
- Stuart distributed *The Center for Prayer & Spiritual Practice* folders to all present. Parishioners in their 30’s, 40’s and 50’s will be asked to participate in a pilot program with targeted conversation about how to make church more mobile. They will be invited to a dinner at church on November 30.
- Stuart anticipates having a multi-layered online platform available on the web in the future. He will meet with a sound expert from Asheville for a workshop day. He wants to pull together a team to create a pilot program. Chaudron Gille suggested that “The Work of the People” might be a resource we could use.
- Diocesan Council will meet in Atlanta on November 11 and 12. Stuart, Cynthia and Mary will attend, as will delegates Sonja McLendon, Chaudron Gille, Jason Voyles, Beth Neidenbach and Frank Rinker. Prior to the meeting, there will be a convocation on ZOOM on November 7.
- Rev. Mary Demmler announced that the youth activities have included bowling with pumpkins and going to an escape room.

The meeting was closed at 8:10 with a prayer by Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry.