

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE VESTRY
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA
MARCH 29,2023**

VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:

Julia Greene, Junior Warden
Barbara Batog (via Zoom)
Jim Brim (via Zoom)
Stuart Deaderick
Daniel Grizzle
Vance Holifield
Beth Neidenbach
Sally Pittman (via Zoom)
Frank Rinker
Helen Scovill
Anita Smith

ABSENT:

Sonja McLendon, Senior Warden

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Amy Munn, Treasurer
Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry (via Zoom)

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of Treasurer's Report and February 27, 2023, minutes. Grizzle/Greene. Unanimous.
- Approval of moving \$5000 from operating fund to funeral fund. Rinker/Smith. Unanimous

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Julia Greene reported on the activities of the Building & Grounds Committees:
 1. A small sub-group met with Jeremy Landers to examine fire alarm proposals. It was determined that DataWise Communications (David White) would furnish the new alarm system at a price of \$95,000. This information will be reviewed by the Finance Committee for referral to the Vestry. The funding will come from Building Reserve.
 2. The hot water handler for airflow into the nave needs replacing at a cost of \$5839, which may come from M&R or Building Reserve.
 3. The choir loft HVAC unit has excessive condensation and leakage. The cost for replacing the unit will be \$23,026.

4. These three projects (at a total cost of approximately \$130,000) will be presented to the vestry at the April Meeting.

- **Bicentennial Campaign:**

1. The committee has chosen four pictures of Grace from its beginning to the present as the cover for the brochure, which will be included in the packet which will be sent to parishioners with a cover letter, pledge card and return envelope. All this information will also be available on the Grace website.
2. The information will be released on Easter Sunday and open for a month. The overall goal is \$1,000,000 with \$380,000 already raised during the COVID period.
3. It was suggested that there be a Sunday Forum at the end of April for updates on the progress of the campaign.

- **Friends of Music Campaign:**

1. Will begin on May 1 after the Bicentennial Campaign has ended, with a goal of \$30,000.
2. This will be the first year for Grace to participate in a residence and part of the funds will go to scholarships for the paid singers.
3. The University of North Georgia's chorus will provide all the music for the service on the Sunday after Easter.

- **Welcoming Brandon Nonnemaker to Grace! Our new Associate Rector for Children, Youth and Families.**

1. Rev. Higginbotham thanked Stuart Deaderick and Sally Pittman for their leadership in introducing Brandon to the families in the parish.
2. A letter of agreement will be finalized and receive the Bishop's approval. His ordination will most likely be held at the Cathedral of St. Philip.
3. Sally Pittman is working with Brandon and his family to secure housing in the Gainesville area. Currently the median price of a home here is \$438,000 so there are challenges to be met.

- **Return to the Common Cup:** after discussion, it was determined that the common cup will return to the service of Holy Communion, with intinction only.

- **Rev. Dr. Higginbotham** will join the faculty at **the Candler School of Theology at Emory** as Assistant Professor in the Practice of Spiritual Formation and Ministry! He will have 25-30 students and has made a three-year commitment. He will be at Emory on Wednesday afternoons and will bring some of the seminarians for experiences here at Grace. This is an extraordinary opportunity for the parish to expand its reach and be a model for how sustainable and prayerful ministry can be accomplished.

At the close of the meeting Daniel Grizzle gave a gift of *Meditations for Vestry Members* to the group.

Reverend Dr. Cynthia Park closed the meeting with a prayer at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry

