

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE VESTRY
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA (Via Zoom, Text & In Person)
JANUARY 25, 2024

VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:

Sonja McLendon, Senior Warden
Julia Greene, Junior Warden
Barb Batog
Jim Brim
Stuart Deaderick - ZOOM
Daniel Grizzle
Vance Holifield
Beth Neidenbach
Sally Pittman
Frank Rinker- Text
Helen Scovill -ZOOM
Anita Smith- ZOOM

STAFF PRESENT:

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham
Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park
Rev. Dr. Brandon Nonnemaker

OTHERS PRESENT:

Amy Munn, Treasurer
Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry – ZOOM

OTHER BUSINESS:

Rev. Dr. Brandon Nonnemaker opened the meeting at 6:30PM with a prayer.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of end of year Treasurer's Report and minutes from November 30, 2023. Neidenbach/McLendon. Unanimous.
- The parish operating budget for 2024 was approved, as recommended by the Finance Committee, including a note that clergy housing allowances are remaining at their present levels.
- Approval of Finance Committee recommendation to transfer from 2023 surplus \$50,000 transferred to the Doug Smith Outreach Fund and \$44,730.74 transferred to the Building Reserve Fund.
- Approval of update to COG 2023-2024 budget to include COLA raises (January – July) for Meg McPeek & Liz Katz. McLendon/Grizzle. Unanimous.
- Approval for increase to \$2000 for purchase of niches in the columbarium due to increased costs. Neidenbach/Greene. Unanimous.
- The trip to Exeter is not from the line-item budget but a portion is coming from Friends of Music. Participants and Grace will contribute. Forty participants have registered. Finance Committee/Pittman. Unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Prior to the meeting, a celebration was held for the four vestry members who will be rotating off in February, who will also be honored at the Annual Meeting on February 4. The four who have done an extraordinary job are: Sonja McLendon (Senior Warden), Barb Batog, Daniel Grizzle and Vance Holifield.
- Treasurer Amy Munn gave a detailed update on End of Year adjustments: \$50,000 from the 2023 surplus will be transferred to Doug Smith Outreach along with \$44,730.74 which will be transferred to Building Reserve. The 2024 budget also includes COLA increases for staff. Rev. Stuart expressed gratitude to the dedication of the parish and the ongoing work of the Finance Committee for the stability we are now experiencing. Clergy housing allowances will remain the same for 2024 as they were in 2023.
- Junior Warden Julia Greene gave an update on the construction project. Renovations to the Youth Room and Grace Center bathrooms are underway, as well as ongoing work with the St. Francis Garden. ADA guidelines have eliminated one stall in the greeting area women's bathroom. Parishioner Scott McLendon and his crew have provided a landscape plan for the exterior of the Grace Center building, which will then be reviewed by the Building & Grounds Committee. We are investigating the pricing of four doors to be on an automatic opener.
- The Fire Marshall has certified our fire alarm update, so a check will be sent to the company for their work.
- The Parochial Report will need to be completed by March 3. One issue that will need to be addressed is whether or not online participants will be counted.
- Barb Batog suggested that there be a celebration when the renovations are completed so that parishioners can tour the building.
- Our next meeting will be the Annual Meeting between the two services on February 4. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the walls in the Parish Hall.

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park at 7:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry