

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE VESTRY

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

JULY 24, 2025

VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:

Stuart Deaderick, Senior Warden

Kimberley Boyd, Junior Warden

Sue Bowron

Jim Bradley

Jo Brewer

Jim Brim

Steve Carlson

Darlene Hauserman

Cheryl Kelley

Helen Scovill

Anita Smith

Jason Voyles

STAFF PRESENT:

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham

OTHERS PRESENT:

Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:30PM. Included in the prayer were Richard Rohr's health and Sister Genevieve's presence at a monastic retreat in Nebraska.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Treasurer's Report from May and June (amended) and Minutes from June approved unanimously. Carlson/Bradley.
- Unanimous approval of the 2026 Diocesan Commitment of \$122,972 (10% of a rolling three-year average of our total budget, which was \$1,343,022 in 2024). Voyles/Kelley.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Grace delegates to the Diocesan Council on November 7 and 8 are: Sue Bowron, Jason Voyles, Beth Neidenbach, and Meg McPeck. There is a fifth spot that will be filled later.

- Building & Grounds: the painting and carpet projects are nearly complete. Luxury vinyl tile (LVT) has been chosen for COG flooring. We have a new machine that can fold to streamline mailings. The music library work has been done. Benches for the St. Francis Garden will be coming, as well as stripping & staining the Chapel windows. Three companies have been interviewed for HVAC controls. Ten lightweight tables will be ordered for the parish hall to replace the unwieldy ones. The kitchen was to have been cleaned but only one woman came and worked for 8 hours, so we will be looking for a new cleaning company because the work wasn't completed. The painting company will come and make final adjustments, with some bubbles in the paint and other spots to fix.

· Family Ministries & Discipleship: Teams are in place for Sunday School, Youth and Godly Play, which all begin on August 10. We have 10 school systems represented in the parish. Seventy-two backpacks were stuffed in advance and blessed at the 10:45 Sunday service on July 27.

· Participation Update:

1. Charis Circles are an intentional framework for shared meditation and conversation that encourage a deeper relationship between people from different spiritual traditions. They will be introduced at Grace this fall. Meg and Mike McPeck will be working with the Brenau and other community groups to begin in-person and on-line groups after Labor Day. Some, (Brandon and others) will be attending Brenau's student fair on August 20 from 3:00 to 6:00PM and we will schedule a Sound Bath to appeal to Brenau's student population. Brenau has a new part-time chaplain who is exploring ways to partner with Grace.

2. PALS Program: Barbara Conley and Jana Brown are spearheading a new program in which a group of Grace parishioners are paired with prospects and newcomers. The acronym stands for *Parish Ambassadors of Love & Support*.

3. The School for Prayer and Spiritual Practice will explore ways that participants in programs can also contribute to the budget of the parish. Likewise, Darlene Hauserman's Alzheimer Group will offer "an opportunity to express gratitude."

4. As we gear up for the Bicentennial Celebration, Jennifer Williams will have a calendar for events in 2026-27. There will be a parish trip to Wells, England, in conjunction with the choir residency, musical events, and Art in Bloom. We will look at a theme for the stewardship campaign that connects with the Bicentennial celebration.

5. Tours of the campus in August—Vestry presence is requested:

· August 10 - Introduction Sunday led by Cheryl Kelley and Sister Genevieve

- August 17 – Tours through campus. Door signs should be ready. A highlight could be knowing weird/random facts about the church that can be shared.

- August 24 – Tour in the Nave

6. Tracy Troutman will be logging hours for work we do outside the church, looking at the ongoing work with the Grace Days of Service.

- Father Stuart contacted St. David's in Roswell and St. Martin in the Fields in Brookhaven for comparisons for lay staff compensation. Also will look at Emmanuel in Athens.

- Stewardship kick-off will be Sunday, September 14.

Senior Warden Stuart Deaderick closed the meeting with a prayer at 7:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry