

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE VESTRY  
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA  
OCTOBER 30, 2025**

**VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:**

Stuart Deaderick, Senior Warden  
Kimberley Boyd, Junior Warden  
Sue Bowron  
Jim Bradley  
Jo Brewer  
Jim Brim  
Helen Scovill  
Jason Voyles

**ABSENT:**

Steve Carlson  
Darlene Hauserman (moved)  
Cheryl Kelley  
Anita Smith

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham  
Rev. Brandon Nonnemaker  
Reba Page (present for Finance Committee meeting)

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry

At 6:00PM, the Vestry met with Finance Committee Members and Sam Odom, Auditor, from CoSurge. Finance Committee Members present were: Randall Frost, Hank Goble, Larry Lykins, Doug McDuff, Doug Smith and Warren Stribling. The Auditor was very impressed with the results of the audit; he found no fraud, no non-compliance and no disagreement with management. Audit results available upon request. Grace has \$6.9 million in assets and \$1.7 in restricted funds. It was a good year financially, and the money was managed well.

We addressed the COG budget for this school year. The COG deficit of \$34,000 will be covered with COG operational reserve fund. Motion by Frost/Goble. Unanimously approved.

Father Stuart thanked Reba Page and Jessica Voyles for their work. He also reminded us that most parishes now have part-time priests and administrators.

Funds have been moved from Truist Bank to First Citizen. We will see about how much we need to keep in one account so it can actually be moved into a money market account to earn some interest. We're able to manage this, with the bank automatically sliding funds as needed.

Endowment will be looking at the Wilheit Fund at the first of the year. Jason Voyles plans to meet with Michelle Prater, the CEO of the North Georgia Community Foundation. The conversation was broached as to whether there is a better/more efficient way for the Community Foundation to manage the account, given the fund was established under an earlier model.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Approval of COG 2025-2026 Budget. Finance/Brewer. Unanimous.
- Approval of minutes/treasurer's report. Voyles/Brewer. Unanimous.
- Vote to accept the audit: finance/Jason Voyles, voted electronically
  
- Building & Grounds: Benches for the St. Francis Garden have been ordered by the design group. The stripping & staining of the Chapel windows is complete. There is a problem with some of the pipes in the 18-year old organ spontaneously making noises. Lynn will have a conference call with the Casavant organ company. Some of the lights in the nave will be re-wired by professional electricians. The COG playground pad needs to be repaired or replaced. There will be a fresher look to the trash can bin in the St. Francis parking lot. A vendor for the deep cleaning of the kitchen has been found for the January project. Jeremy Landers will be working with B&G to examine what is on the docket and what is coming up for 2026.
  
- Family Ministries and Discipleship: The youth continue to enjoy a variety of activities and projects: EYC, Friendsgiving, Blessing of Animals and Outdoor Eucharist attended by 50 people. The youth classes are now divided into: Godly Play (3-6 years, 7-9 years) and 10-18 are in two youth classes. The Diocese of Atlanta is partnering with Virginia Seminary for a formation training program, which Callie Flack is participating in. We continue to build our relationship with Brenau by attending their orientation in the fall. One student has joined the Altar Guild and there is interest in meeting with the faculty and staff of Brenau. We have hosted a LGBTQ Affinity Class and a Shalom B'Harim service.
  
- Stewardship: As of October 30, we have 16 new pledges totaling \$51,000 and an additional \$51,000 in increased pledges. This is 72% of what we had last year. Father Stuart and the vestry will be reaching out.
  
- Vestry for 2026: Sally Pittman will chair the committee and will be hosting an open forum in the parlor on November 9. Jason Voyles will replace Stuart Deaderick as Senior Warden and Kimmey Boyd will continue as Junior Warden. Rachael Pearson, a CPA, will

assume the responsibility of Treasurer and Susan Lahey will step down as Clerk of the Vestry when a replacement is found.

- Compensation review: Fr. Stuart is working with a group to explore the figures around key staff positions, looking at comparable information from parishes in the diocese. This will help us with planning for the 2026 budget.
- We also shared a conversation around the complexity of nurturing a public witness as disciples of Jesus in challenging times. Some of the resolutions at Diocesan Council (Nov 7 to 8) are inviting a deeper reflection on public witness, recognizing that our identity as followers of Jesus (practicing our faith) does not merely consist of following laws, given that some laws and customs/orders do not align with the Gospel's call.

The meeting was closed with a prayer at 7:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry