

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE VESTRY
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA (Via Zoom & In Person)
February 27, 2024

VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:

Stuart Deaderick, Senior Warden - ZOOM
Julia Greene, Junior Warden
Sue Bowron - ZOOM
Kimberley Boyd
Jim Brim
Steve Carlson
Cheryl Kelley
Beth Neidenbach
Frank Rinker
Helen Scovill -ZOOM
Anita Smith

ABSENT:

Sally Pittman

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval for adjusted December financial reports with \$4561.00 increase in pledge payment. The surplus was slid into the Building Fund. Neidenbach/Rinker. Unanimous.
- Approval of January minutes and Approval of updated End of Year financials and budget. Neidenbach/ Smith. Unanimous.
- Approval of housing allowances for Rev. Dr. Higginbotham (\$40,000) and Rev Dr. Nonnemaker (\$21,500). Rinker/Greene. Unanimous.
- Approval of Parochial Report in Principle. Neidenbach/Smith. Unanimous.
- Approval of Children of Grace sunshade for \$14,000. The funds for this have already been raised. Rinker/Neidenbach. Unanimous.
- Approval for black cassocks for choir in the amount of \$5,400, which can be paid from memorial funds. Bowron/Greene. Unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Junior Warden Julia Greene gave an update on the construction. The bathrooms are almost complete, there is new furniture in the youth room and classrooms. The bathroom in the greeting area had experienced significant water damage and had to be gutted. Lighting and electrical systems are in progress. The St. Francis Garden and Grace Center have been completed and the next step will be landscaping. Mary Lynn Coyle is working on signage, which will be black with gold lettering and will contain the shield.
- Rev. Dr. Nonnemaker gave an update on the Youth Program. He has been attending programs with youth at Camp Mikell. Going forward he, Stuart Deaderick and Sally Pittman will give a monthly update at vestry meetings on Children, Youth and Families. Children's Chapel has been modified to accommodate developmental levels. We currently have three categories of worship for youth: Godly Play for grades PK – 3, Whirl (which may be modified) for grades 4-5, and EYC for grades 6-12. Currently we have 150 parishioners between the ages of birth through 17. The Circle of Parents will have increased participation in the program.
- Rev. Dr. Higginbotham addressed the annual Parochial Report, which includes sections on Sunday attendance, membership numbers, and budget. The last page is a compilation of community outreach. This report is valuable for looking at trends and will eventually go to the National Cathedral for review and be available on their site. We currently have 902 total active baptized members at Grace.
- Mary Lynn Coyle and Choir Director Lynn Swanson have been working on updating the choir suite. The Finance Committee will make recommendations about setting aside either the Endowment Fund or Building Reserves for creation of a Bride's Room from Building Reserves.
- Since the tables set up in the Parish Hall weigh 250 pounds each, it is hoped that we can invest in new, lighter tables with wheels for greater convenience.
- Evelyn Higginbotham is working on a Girl Scout Golden Award and is working with the staff of Children of Grace to create a secret garden.
- Current outreach: We are working to form key teams that will focus on areas of the parish's support in the wider community. Those who have signed up to work on outreach will make a recommendation on the structure and focus points, while the Vestry will work on allocating funding to the teams.

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 21, at 6:30PM.

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park at 7:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry