

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

VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:

Stuart Deaderick, Senior Warden
Julia Greene, Junior Warden
Sue Bowron
Kimberley Boyd
Jim Brim - ZOOM
Beth Neidenbach
Sally Pittman - ZOOM
Helen Scovill
Anita Smith

ABSENT:

Steve Carlson
Cheryl Kelley
Frank Rinker

STAFF PRESENT:

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham
Rev. Dr. Brandon Nonnemaker

OTHERS PRESENT:

Amy Munn, Treasurer
Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry

OTHER BUSINESS:

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of March minutes and Approval of Treasurer's Report and Financial Report. Neidenbach/ Deaderick. Unanimous.
- Approval of \$250 to renew our line of credit with Peach State Bank. Finance/Neidenbach. Unanimous.
- Finance recommended and Vestry approves the donor gift of \$100,000 to be designated for the Building Reserve account. Finance/Boyd. Unanimous.
- Accumulated interest funds from our combined building accounts, which near \$32,000 will be allocated to the Bicentennial Campaign budget/restricted account for those items. Finance/Neidenbach. Unanimous
- \$3,800 excess from Brenda Morgan's total compensation package will be held in a contingency fund. Greene/Scoville. Unanimous

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Junior Warden Julia Greene gave an update on the construction: among the highlights were completion of the bathrooms, with the ceiling tiles in the women’s rest room installed by volunteers from the parish. There is still work to be done on the doors, electrical system, the St. Francis Garden and awnings, but completion is expected by the end of May or early into June. An additional element will be the installation of public art (a painting of Mary) in the corner of the rear parking lot under the oak tree. This will offer the possibility of an outdoor meeting space.
- The church is on schedule to pay off the Bicentennial Campaign project by 2025. We are in good shape financially.
- Rev. Dr. Higginbotham distributed the Ministry Cluster Vision Plan 2024, with Bicentennial Celebration tracking through 2027, when Phase 2 may begin, given where the conversation is. Steve Carlson and Sue Bowron will begin working with Stuart, Frank Riker (Finance) and others on a comprehensive maintenance plan to track the next few years with scheduled maintenance, etc.
- Vestry members will map out the goals of their clusters:
 - Kimmy Boyd reported on the success of the recent Women’s Salad Supper and said the plans are in place for a summer book study to prepare for the Women’s Retreat in January.
 - Rev. Dr. Nonnemaker gave an update on activities in the Children, Youth & Families group. He also announced that the last day of Sunday School will be May 5. At the April 28 luncheon, he wants to use the time to pinpoint places where there is pressure or passion. Where does spiritual formation fit in with family life? He also wants to encourage summer gatherings, with activities such as a bingo night in June, a Stripers game in July and tubing on the Chattahoochee in August, culminating with a pilgrimage in the Fall (e.g., a train trip to NYC).
 - Anita Smith spoke about Godly Play, which includes all age groups. There are approximately 10 youth participating regularly.
 - Sue Bowron distributed information about upcoming programs for Friends of Music. The fundraising campaign will resume next February. Many are attending Evensong, and the Messiah sing-along is a popular event. Resuming a children’s choir has been discussed but to date parents cannot schedule. Sue also announced that 39 people will be participating in the pilgrimage to Exeter this summer.
- Sixty people have signed up for the combined luncheon on Sunday, April 28. After the meal, they will break into two groups: Children, Youth & Families and Outreach.
- Significant changes in the parish:
 - Brenda Morgan will be retiring at the end of April. Her compensation package will be utilized in this way: Jennifer Williams will begin working full-time and assuming some of Brenda’s responsibilities at a salary of \$65,000 annually. Also, Mike McPeak will assume the role of Worship Technology Assistant – and will thus coordinate online/hybrid technical assistance for services in the nave, for a salary of \$10,000 annually. As noted in the consent agenda, the balance of \$3,800 will be held in a contingency fund.
 - In mid-May, the 8:15 ZOOM service will be discontinued. The 10:45 service will be a more efficient hybrid platform. Sermons can be converted to podcasts, and possibly anthems as well.
 - Rev. Dr. Higginbotham recently hosted a dinner for former wardens. One of the outcomes of this gathering was the plan to hire a female full-time priest to replace retiring Rev. Dr. Park. A “discerners group” of Cheryl Kelley, Donna Murray, Jason

Voyles, Anita Smith, Marsha Kump, and Daniel Thompson will be working together on the replacement. Rev. Dr. Higginbotham will introduce an interim plan in June.

- The retirement party for Rev. Dr. Park will be held on October 27 at 9:30AM. She will celebrate with her family in Black Mountain later.

The next vestry meeting is scheduled for May 30, 2024 at 6:30PM.

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Rev. Dr. Brandon Nonnemaker at 7:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry