

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

VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Julia Greene, Junior Warden

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Reba Page
Amy Munn, Treasurer
Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry
Randall Frost, Finance Committee
Hank Goble, Finance Committee
Larry Lykins, Endowment Committee

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:00PM.

JOINT MEETING WITH FINANCE AND VESTRY: Collin Rygh, the Audit Manager from CoSurge, gave a detailed report on the 2023 audit. He painted a positive picture and affirmed that Grace is financially healthy. He concluded his report at 7:00PM and the Finance committee members were excused from the rest of the meeting. The audit was accepted by the Vestry, upon recommendation from Finance.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of May minutes and Approval of Treasurer's Report and Financial Report for May and June. Rinker/Carlson. Unanimous.
- The Endowment Committee has recommended the following for vestry approval:
 - 1) \$15,000 from the Van Giesen Fund for Family Promise
 - 2) \$5,000 from the Grace Ministries Fund for the Hispanic Alliance
 - 3) \$10,000 from the Wilheit Fund for Good News at Noon

4) \$10,000 from the Wilheit Fund for My Sisters Place Endowment/ Rinker. Unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Reba Page gave a construction update. New exterior doors and railings at the two back doors are in progress, and the signage updates are nearing completion. The new air handlers are approximately two months from being installed. Carpeting for the greeting area, parish hall, hallways and the choir suite will be replaced for a cost of \$35,000. Reba also reported that COG had a full summer school. New carpet and paint for that area is also in the works.
- Outreach: Per Endowment recommendations, Father Stuart will be in touch with Sam, director at Sacred Roots Farm. Fathers Stuart and Brandon met with Barbara Fleming at CenterPoint, which plans to expand its space on the Gainesville High School campus.
- The Diocesan Council delegates for the fall meeting are: Stuart Deaderick, Frank Rinker, Anita Smith, Beth Neidenbach and Scarlet Pendarvis. There has been a core group of delegates since COVID and more names can be added now.
- Father Stuart reported that the pastoral phone calls are going well and have helped Grace to clean its rolls. Our membership numbers may change once the calls are completed.
- Rev. Dr. Cynthia Parks' farewell celebration at Lanier Village Estates will take place on August 21. The celebration at Grace will be held on October 27.
- Grace's liability insurance does not cover us if a worker does not have his/her own liability insurance. The vestry will sign off on people hired on an individual basis.
- Credit card limits – after the choir tour to England, it will be determined if our limits need to be increased. The trip will begin on August 3. Bon Voyage!
- Next week's newsletter will have information about the trip to Greece next summer.
- Father Stuart, Steve Carlson, Sue Bowron and Frank Rinker will meet on Monday, July 29, to discuss strategic Building & Grounds plans. In the vestry meeting, Frank Rinker stressed the need for a cohesive plan for our systems and suggested an evaluation by a firm like Lawson. The refocused Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet monthly to keep track of the overall maintenance items for the campus, working to get recommendations to Finance, and ultimately Vestry.
- Parish events/ Children, Youth, and Families:
 - 1) Father Brandon reported that The Gwinnett Stripers game was rained out.
 - 2) Father Brandon has assembled 50 families into 8 clusters, based on the ages of the youth and children.
 - 3) August 7: Barbeque and Bingo in the Parish Hall.
 - 4) September 15: Parish Feast Day with an indoor picnic and a group picture in the nave.
 - 5) September 30: Social gathering at a venue to be determined. Decoy and Jekyll Brewing are possibilities.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry