

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE VESTRY
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA (Via Zoom)
August 22, 2024**

VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Amy Munn, Treasurer

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry

Rev. Dr. Brandon Nonnemaker opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:30PM.

AGENDA ITEMS/APPROVALS:

- Approval of Consent Agenda: July minutes and Approval of July Treasurer's Report and Financial Report. Rinker/Brim. Unanimous.
- Approval of 2025 Diocesan assessment: three-year rolling 10% average is now \$116,869. (Last year's assessment was \$111,355). Deaderick/Neidenbach. Unanimous.
- Approval of \$10,000 to be spent on choir suite (from February). Rinker/Carlson. Unanimous.
- Approval of \$25,000 credit card limit from a local bank. Neidenbach/Pittman. Unanimous.
- Finance Committee recommended approval of COG preschool 2024-2025 budget and approval of designating the COG 2023-2024 surplus to the COG Building Reserve. Finance/Carlson. Unanimous.
- Approval for Endowment Committee terms of one to three-year terms with option to renew. Anne Marie Braham and Hank Goble will continue to serve on the committee. Smith/Brim. Unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- The Line of Credit for Grace is at Ameris Bank.
- COG will get new paint and carpet in 2025, along with the plan for the Parish Hall, Greeting Area, etc. We will concentrate on one carpeting period.
- Junior Warden Julia Greene gave an update of building projects. Lynn Swanson's office and choir suite have been relocated with help from Kevin Flack and Jeff Williams. New keypads and lighting have been installed. The proposed new signage did not meet city code, so we have modified and new approval given. Waiting on timing at this point. No carpet will be replaced at this time.
- Vestry members Frank Rinker, Steve Carlson and Sue Bowron accompanied Father Stuart, Reba Page, and Jeremy Landers at a meeting with Scott Tankersley from Lawson Heating & Air Conditioning. Mr. Tankersley will be doing an audit of the building at a cost of \$750. The goal is for him to assess the roof, ceilings, refrigeration and make recommendations to streamline maintenance. One suggestion is to automate thermostats that can detect when people enter the building and depart. The group was informed that Refrigerant 410 will not be made in the future and the old R-22 unit will need to be replaced.
- The Grace podcast has been launched. We will be looking at different ways to put things in front of the parish.
- Father Brandon gave an update on Youth. Christian Education begins September 8: Godly Play will be available for 3-year olds through third grade, Whirl for 4th and 5th graders, and Wisdom Literature for older grades. There will be monthly gatherings of EYC. Five youth will be going with Father Brandon on a pilgrimage to New York City in the fall. Small-group, age-based clusters have been formed, with one cluster still needing a leader.
- In September, the vestry will discuss ideas around how to encourage participation even further across the parish's life. Brandon would like to have liturgy for teachers and youth on September 8, as a starting point. Anita Smith suggested that older children need to have Sunday School at a deeper level and that there need to be two adults in the room, with one being there for safeguarding purposes.
- The Search Committee for an Associate Rector will meet on September 8. They will put together a profile and then see who might be available, keeping in mind that there is a pronounced shortage of clergy. The Bishop is now putting retired clergy in temporary positions.
- With the resignation of Rev. Mary Hemmer, David and Betsy Powell have agreed to fill her role on an interim basis. Sister Genevieve will be an asset to pastoral care.
- Reverend Dr. Cynthia's farewell celebration was held on August 21 at Lanier Village Estates. Her celebration at Grace is scheduled for October 27, when the two services will be combined.
- Looking ahead to Junior Warden discernment for 2025-2026, it was agreed that the focus should be on involvement, participation and ownership.

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham at 8:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry

