

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE VESTRY
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA
Thursday, January 23, 2025**

VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:

Stuart Deaderick, Senior Warden
Julia Greene, Junior Warden
Sue Bowron
Kimberley Boyd
Jim Brim
Steve Carlson
Cheryl Kelley
Beth Neidenbach
Frank Rinker

ABSENT:

Sally Pittman
Helen Scovill
Anita Smith

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Amy Munn, Treasurer
Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:30PM.

APPROVALS:

- The financial report and minutes from November 21 were approved unanimously. Neidenbach/Rinker. End of year financials were approved, in conjunction with the 2025 budget.
- The Clergy Housing allowance listed in the budget stays the same for 2025. The 2025 Budget was unanimously approved. Finance/Carlson.

AGENDA ITEMS:

- After enjoying refreshments in honor of outgoing vestry members, Father Higginbotham thanked those who will be rotating off: Julia Greene, Beth Neidenbach, Sally Pittman and Frank Rinker.
- Vestry voting is concluding, and the four selected will be announced at the annual meeting from 9:30-10:30 on February 2.
- Highlighted items from Amy Munn's Treasurer's report:
 1. There was a 2024 year-end surplus of \$65,000. \$20,000 will be transferred to the Doug Smith Outreach Fund, \$45,000 to building reserves. The budget balance for 2025 allows for \$18,000 for staff COLA raises in the amount of 3%. Currently there is \$478,000 in building reserves.

2. This was the highest pledge year and budget that Grace has ever had.
 3. FYI Pledges made mid-year are tracked into the revenue stream.
 4. 2024 plate offering was \$240,000, which includes a \$100,000 gift. You'll remember that large gifts can be allocated to the Building Reserve Fund. This was the case earlier this year.
- The Senior Associate Rector position is budgeted to begin in May 2025.
 - Outreach: Good News at Noon has applied for an ECF grant. Also being considered are Gateway and Family Promise. Recent conversations with Good News shared that there are an estimated 6,000 homeless in Hall County/Gainesville—recognizing there are different contexts. There are approximately 1200 homeless children in Hall County. Gainesville Mayor Sam Couvillon wants to put together a commission for non-profit commission for non-profit collaboration.
 - The meeting concluded with a discussion of Bishop Budde's sermon at the National Cathedral, reflecting on how our practice of faith can nurture deep conversations and engagement with the Gospel's call in complex times.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry