

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE VESTRY
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA
Thursday, February 27, 2025**

VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:

Stuart Deaderick, Senior Warden
Kimberley Boyd, Junior Warden
Sue Bowron
Jim Bradley
Jo Brewer
Jim Brim
Darlene Hauserman
Cheryl Kelley
Helen Scovill
Anita Smith
Jason Voyles

ABSENT:

Steve Carlson
Amy Munn, Treasurer

STAFF PRESENT:

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham

OTHERS PRESENT:

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 January 2025 were approved unanimously. Voyles/Deaderick. Unanimous.
- On-line approvals appointing Kimberley Boyd as Junior Warden, Jason Voyles as Chancellor, Amy Munn as Treasurer and Susan Lahey as Clerk of the Vestry. Unanimous.
- The 2024 Parochial Report was approved. Boyd/Voyles. Unanimous.

AGENDA ITEMS:

- The 2024 end of year report was amended to reflect two donations made online on 12/31/24 that parishioners wanted counted for 2024. One was a \$100.00 flower donation to the Grace Designated Flower Fund. The other was a \$3,000.00 donation to the Campaign, which included a \$2.95 processing fee; this will be reflected in the Bicentennial Campaign report for February when that is balanced out.
- It was agreed that Stuart and Reba Page will have the discretion to move funds internally to access money market funds when necessary to accumulate additional interest when possible. Treasurer Amy Munn provides a checkpoint in the system on a weekly basis. The Finance Committee will continue to explore if there is a baseline that cannot be touched. These are

internal transfers with checkpoints on them, so we will see if we can take advantage of funds gathering additional interest for periods of time.

- The group reviewed the 2024 Parochial Report distributed at the meeting. The Diocese needs a clear picture of which parishes are sustainable. Grace is the sixth largest parish out of 110 worshipping communities/parishes in the Diocese. In terms of our financials, we are \$130,000 in the black year-to-date.
- There will be a meeting of the Building & Grounds committee on March 3, 2025, to discuss the maintenance update that will be discussed at the next vestry meeting on **March 27 at 6:30PM.**
- Potential Phase Two possibilities were discussed. A timeline of 3 months at least would be necessary to stretch out the chancel and narthex and move the choir to the lower level. During that time, the Parish Hall would become the sanctuary. Should this be done before the Bicentennial or afterwards? No decision was made; further discussion will be necessary. There are concerns about needing to complete construction, after raising additional pledges, after finalizing plans—all in the short window we now have. One option would be to begin raising funds/pledges when we begin the celebration in Fall 2027, with construction to follow the Bicentennial celebration.
- A hand-out on the Ministry Clusters was distributed and discussed. Junior Warden Kimmey Boyd distributed a Participation questionnaire for the vestry to consider. Participation will be a key focus for us in this season, and the surveys will offer us key insights into the parish's involvement/discipleship. Revised Clusters will be: Administration, Compassion, Formation, and Worship
- Father Higginbotham gave an update on the search process for an additional Associate Rector. Only one potential candidate has applied. She wants to work part-time and would help with Outreach and Community Life, as well as assist at the services. Sister Genevieve will continue her services with Pastoral Care. Stuart has a small group who will continue helping him with discernment, looking at all available options.

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Senior Warden Stuart Deaderick at 8:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry