

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE VESTRY
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA
JULY 26, 2023**

VESTRY MEMBERS/OFFICERS PRESENT:

Sonja McLendon, Senior Warden
Julia Greene, Junior Warden
Barb Batog
Jim Brim
Stuart Deaderick
Daniel Grizzle
Vance Holifield
Beth Neidenbach
Sally Pittman
Frank Rinker
Helen Scovill
Anita Smith

STAFF PRESENT:

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham
Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park
Rev. Brandon Nonnemaker

OTHERS PRESENT:

Amy Munn, Treasurer
Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham opened the meeting with prayers of Thanksgiving.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of May and June financials, as well as minutes for May. Neidenbach/Holifield. Unanimous.
- Approval of a virtual vote on June 23, 2023, to affirm the recommendation that Grace move forward with the full scope of the Bicentennial Capital Campaign, as outlined in the budget proposed by the Buildings & Grounds Committee and recommended by the Finance Committee, not borrowing funds but using existing reserve funds to cover costs at which point those funds will be repaid with the fulfillment of pledges made toward the campaign. And approving Randall Frost as Finance Chair and Jason Voyles as Chancellor (to vet the contract), with Sonja McLendon as Senior Warden be authorized to sign the contract along with the rector. Finance/Neidenbach. Unanimous.
- Approval of payment of the annual assessment for the Diocese in 2024 of \$111,355, based off the 10% of the rolling 3-year revenue average. McLendon/Pittman. Unanimous.
- Approval for funds for the construction project, i.e., additional funds received will increase the amount that can be spent. Figures will be revealed each month for the current project until the goal has been reached. McLendon/Rinker. Unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- The city has received all the building permits so it is anticipated that construction will begin in early August.
- The front desk will move to the greeting area, with entrance by the St. Francis Garden door. The church will be notified by zone where construction will take place.
- A potluck luncheon/reception will be held in the Parish Hall on August 6. Barbara Batog will coordinate the event, and the McLendons will assist her. As an extra bonus, there will be a table of gifts/relics that will be offered in the greeting area.
- The Nominating Committee will begin gathering a slate of eight names for the next Vestry. The outgoing Vestry members are: Sonja McLendon, Vance Holifield, Barbara Batog and Daniel Grizzle. They will be joined on the committee by the four Vestry members who had finished their terms last year.
- The church's technology has been updated, with a 2-step authentication. Now that the technology is in place, Brandon will capture the data for Children & Youth.
- The Diocesan Council delegates from Grace will be Beth Neidenbach, Sonja McLendon, Jason Voyles, Anita Smith and Daniel Grizzle.
- October 22, 2023, will be the last service at St. Gabriel's Church. Their Vestry voted to dissolve the parish, which will happen at the Diocesan Council in November, and the Diocese will disburse the assets.
- Brandon's housing approval will be emailed for a Vestry vote.
- On August 20 and 27 there will be lunch meetings for the Vestry and staff in the Parish Hall from noon – 2:00. Senior Warden Sonja McLendon will lead the group in enneagram activities, which will provide the framework for the discussion. Prior to those dates, Stuart will send readings and links. The primary questions to be considered will be: a) Institutional maintenance, i.e., the programmatic components of the church and b) How is the church changing?

Reverend Brandon Nonnemaker closed the meeting with a prayer at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lahey
Clerk of the Vestry

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Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry

Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham opened the meeting with prayers of Thanksgiving.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of Treasurer's Report and April 26, 2023, and May 18, 2023, minutes. Neidenbach/Holifield. Unanimous.
- Approval of a virtual vote on June 23, 2023, to affirm the recommendation that Grace move forward with the full scope of the Bicentennial Capital Campaign, as outlined in the budget proposed by the Buildings & Grounds Committee and recommended by the Finance Committee, not borrowing funds but using existing reserve funds to cover costs at which point those funds will be repaid with the fulfillment of pledges made toward the campaign. And approving Randall Frost as Finance Chair and Jason Voyles as Chancellor (to vet the contract), with Sonja McLendon as Senior Warden be authorized to sign the contract along with the rector. Finance/Neidenbach. Unanimous.
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