

## GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**Vestry Minutes** - October 16, 2018

**Present:** Khacki Berry, Anne Caputo, Matthew Dumont-Machowski Jenni Faires, Kelly Gable, Rich Kelly, Jeremy Koss, Chris Kupczyk, Jennifer Long, Stephen Lovell, Ashley Mather, Jennifer Pease, Jean Reed, Chris Rugaber, Mary Stewart, Laura Weidenfeld and Jan Wolff.

### Call to Order

Seminarian Matthew Dumont-Machowski opened the meeting with a prayer.

Sr. Warden Rich Kelly thanked Jennifer Long for providing the dinner.

### Old Business

The September 18, 2018 minutes were approved as amended.

**Stewardship.** Stephen Lovell asked for more vestry members to sign up to speak on stewardship during services.

**Additional Envelope.** There was a discussion on whether or not there should be an envelope included in the pledge envelope packet for Capital Improvements. Jean Reed feels that we give already with the pledges and also give to the altar guild. Chris Kupczyk wondered why the altar guild has a special envelope. Anne Caputo explained that we have always given to the altar guild in this way and that the altar guild likes to control its own money. Mary Stewart doesn't feel it is advantageous. Chris K. felt that it might raise awareness of the need. Chris Rugaber thinks it will be confusing. Jeremy Koss has not yet started to pledge but thought it might be a good way for new members to start giving. Laura Weidenfeld thinks that if we need a capital campaign let's do a capital campaign. Jean feels that designating gifts of this type tends to dilute the general fund. A number of vestry members feel that we should hold off on making a final decision until after we fund HVAC. Jean made a motion to table a decision and the motion passed unanimously.

**Jeremy Koss Discernment.** Jeremy came to speak to the vestry, asking for their support as he pursues his call to become a priest. He feels he is entering his journey in a very untraditional discernment process. He understands that due to his schedule he has not met very many members of the vestry. He and his husband have been doing counseling sessions with Father Malm. He became a Christian while living in England, was baptized and found community in the Unitarian Church. His husband is very supportive of his decision. Jeremy feels he has a knack for spiritual direction and counseling. Mary Stewart asked Jeremy what he needed from Grace. He feels we lift him up. He regularly attends the 5:00 P.M. service on Sunday and enjoys the contemplative aspect.

After Jeremy departed the vestry held a brief discussion. We also observed a period of silent prayer. Jan Wolff made a motion, second by Khacki Berry to support Jeremy going forward in his discernment

process. Mary recommended that with the guidance of the Rector we set up a support group for Jeremy. The motion passed unanimously and the Sr. Warden notified Jeremy.

**Trust.** Two trustees of the Grace Church Trust met with the executive committee and recommended that for various reasons we move the money in our trust that is held by the diocese. Jean Reed mentioned that he is aware that other Alexandria churches are taking out their funds also. Additionally, he wondered how that might change the Hastings fund which she wanted to be held in the diocese. Jean moved we support the request from the trustees. Chris Kupczyk second. The motion passed.

**Fellowship Report.** Anne Caputo gave a detailed report on all the work done by the Fellowship Committee. There have been 68 coffee hours to date with 22 more anticipated by the end of the year. They are coordinated by Phil and Sharon Hickok and Lucy-Lee Reed. There are 30 foyer groups of 8 -12 people meeting once a month at homes or restaurants. There have been 15 special events thus far in 2018 with at least two more anticipated. Currently the Fellowship Committee is coordinating the upcoming 70 Years on Russell Road Gala on Friday, November 16th from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in Merrow Hall.

**Stewardship.** Vestry members signed a note declaring that they vow to be good stewards going into this stewardship season. The note will be held by the Stewardship Chair and it may be printed so parishioners will join in the commitment of the vestry members.

**Outreach.** Jennifer Pease will discuss supporting the Tanzania mission needs in November. She will have information in the newsletter and Grace Notes. Please leave clothes for the clothing drive in the Tower lobby. We will be doing Thanksgiving baskets again. She will report on plans for Christmas giving at our next meeting.

## **Reports**

**Treasurer.** Chris Rugaber pointed out that we have a small deficit. A hold will be placed on major expenses. September pledges were \$56,885.50. We will need \$260,000 in October - December to close the gap to balance our budget. We have had lots of repairs and maintenance. We have received 67.66% of the income pledged.

**Jr. Warden.** The bells have arrived. We are waiting for a wiring estimate. We have a target date of November 25 to have them working. The forum on the windows went well. There is interest in how the work will be funded. Chris did receive a second estimate on the cost of window repair and it was \$10,000 higher than the first estimate. The planting project outside of the Tower doors will cost \$250.00 each for the church and school.

**Sr. Warden.** Rich Kelly informed the vestry that Jonathan Doelp has resigned for personal reasons. We need to start looking for six new vestry members for the new year. Four contractors attended the HVAC tour of the facility. He expects that three will bid. Construction will occur from April 15, 2019 - August 15, 2019. Thank you all for your commitment to the vestry.

## **Roundtable**

**Jean** - Appreciated all the support for Art on the Avenue. Need assistance for the Newcomer's Reception on the 21st at 5:45 p.m. Needs people to sign up for the Spanish language program. Brackets will be on the signs out front before the 70th celebration.

**Stephen** - Needs speakers on stewardship for services.

**Ashley** - Prayers as she travels home for her diocese convention and her candidacy interview.

**Khacki** - Two upcoming forums. One on refugees and the second Conrad Zeigler and Evan Robinson on the Middle East.

**Jenni** - J2A sponsoring Bingo on Saturday night from 7 - 9. Sunday Evensong at 5 P.M. followed by Newcomer's Reception at 5:45 p.m. Trunk or Treat on the 27th from 4 - 5:30 p.m.

**Matthew** - His lay committee has met. He is preaching Sunday after next. Appreciates coming to this meeting.

**Chris R.** Budget sessions starting to work on the draft budget.

Our seminarian, Ashley Mather, closed the meeting at 9:40 P.M. with a prayer.