

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church  
Vestry Minutes, August 2022 meeting

**August 18, 2022**

Approved by Vestry **September 22, 2022**

**Members and clergy present:** Alan Cowart (Rector), Barbara Carter, Gloria Cardwell, Sharon Davis, Marsha Cooper, Lessy Nixon, Katey Greaney

Absent: Barbara Sherburne, Guest: Elysia Lyday (Administrator)

**Candidate for Holy Orders** The vestry reflected on the time of Kathy Maddox's continued discernment for Holy Orders as a Deacon. The vestry agreed that she has stepped into the role of potential deacon well and is sure she will continue to do well in her diaconal internship. Kathy has already been appointed as a Postulant and the vestry would like to recommend her to the Bishop as a Candidate for Holy Orders. The Vestry heartily approves and commits to continue supporting her. Members concluded the conversation by commenting that they are proud to be part of a church that "raises up good people." The vestry felt that not only Kathy, but others who have left Grace to serve in other capacities or vocations have had a great influence on the diocese.

Motion to recommend Kathy Maddox as a candidate for Holy Orders: Motion first made by Lessy Nixon and then by Sharon Davis. All approved

Opposed: None

**Daughters of the King Luncheon:** The Vestry members updated the committee about the upcoming DOK luncheon. Katey Greaney has completed sending out invitations to members. The vestry discussed calling each of the members to receive their RSVP as well as if the members needed to be picked up for the event. The members reiterated that any member of the church is welcome to the meetings even if they are not part of DOK. Additionally, the upcoming admission of new members to the DoK was discussed. The liturgy is ready for the event and DoK plans for the event and a reception following continue to develop.

**Coffee Hour:** Cuppa Grace will start once again on a regular schedule.

**Kitchen Use:** Ivy from 2Birds Meal Prep has requested more hours to use the kitchen on Sundays as her business grows. The Buildings & Grounds Committee has approved the additional hours and Alan suggested asking for a standard rate as a donation for these additional hours. He suggested between \$15-18 per hour, but will work out the details with Ivy. 2Birds intends to move on to a more permanent space in the future, which shows that the partnership has potentially been successful.

**Fellowship opportunities:** Alan encouraged members of the vestry to discuss the need for opportunities for the Grace community to connect. Vestry members brainstormed future ideas for fellowship. Ideas about spaghetti dinner/ or potluck, as well as game night, were brought up.

The vestry discussed fall events such as bonfires, hot dogs, chili, and trunk or treat nights will be exciting to plan in the future. The group was enthusiastic about an upcoming football watching party. The vestry will circle back to Marsha Cooper and Katey Greaney for further details on the ideas that were brought up.

**Financial reports for July:** There were two large amounts received as a gift from an estate: \$35,000 for the Endowment Fund, and \$5000 for the Memorial Fund. The budgeted income continues to look skewed, however, due to advanced pledge payments. The church is in process of applying for the diocesan loan to assist with roof repair, as approved minutes from previous meetings are required for the application. The loan application should be completed and submitted in a couple of weeks. The Patterson Grant that Grace Memorial applied for will hopefully be discussed at that organization's September meeting. Alan hopes to hear a status update in the coming months.

The expense for the Sexton has been higher do to increased hours worked. Alan intends to pull this back to the 5 hours per week mark for the time being. Joe Carroll's resignation from the position of Treasurer is coming close. Vestry must decide on the next individual to serve in this way. Much work has been done to simplify the role which currently requires approximately 8-10 hours per month. Joe has offered to work with the new individual until they become comfortable in the position.

Motion to accept July financial reports to the minutes: First motion was made by Sharon Davis, then by Barbara Carter. All approved.

Opposed: None

**Town Hall Discussion:** The Vestry discussed the Town Hall meeting led by Alan and Judy Gibson to continue the conversation about the financial state of the church. The vestry felt that Judy had done a phenomenal job at presenting the pressing issues. Formation of a working group must be started ASAP. Vestry will approve that group to be a new committee to investigate options for Grace. Ideally, the group will consist of 5-7 committed church members of a variety of ages to have a diverse yet committed perspective. The group will research specific plans and deadlines for concrete decisions to be made. The Vestry hopes the individuals will be able to meet frequently and have open minds about the options available as they learn about the goals and values of the church and the potential options ahead. Alan will continue to work with the diocese on any transitions upcoming at Grace and will help connect any committee to research & education opportunities.

Motion to form a committee to investigate options for Grace Memorial: First made by Lessy Nixon then, Sharon Davis. All approved.

Opposed: None

**Liaison for Beloved Community:** Alan invited Judy Gibson to be the parish liaison for the Beloved Community (Racial Reconciliation) work in the community and diocese. She will receive information about social justice and reconciliation and coordinate with Alan and Vestry about upcoming events and opportunities.

### **New business**

- Martin Tolhoek, Dan Warden, and Pat Clough will serve on the audit team (Pat Clough was invited to fill the third position) and they will begin their work shortly.
- **Buildings & Grounds Committee update:** Parish Hall flooring update. A new option was presented to use TORGINOL® to cover the entire floor. The quote for the flooring is \$20,000. There was hesitation about the expense compared to the original option to repair a section of the cracked floor and refinish the remainder. Additionally, as we prepare to paint the hallway and classroom, volunteers are needed to remove items from walls of classroom and help prep the room and surfaces for painting.
- **Outreach:** Fort Hill community school is up and running again. The faculty luncheon received positive responses. Lunches were provided with gift certificates for faculty and staff. We are looking forward to our traditional Thanksgiving Dinner for families of FHCS and the Angel Tree in December. Details will be provided as we get closer. FHCS is considering a new offering we can help with: a cooking class for the boys and calling it "Cooking with the coaches." Having time for the boys to connect with the male figure is a valuable time for the children. Additionally, the committee is brainstorming other activities for the girls for a mentoring group.

**June and July Minutes to approve:** One revision for the minutes was discussed in the July minutes. Both were approved as amended.

Motion to approve the revised minutes for June and July: First made by Lessy Nixon, then Katey Greaney. All approved.

Opposed: None