

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church  
Vestry Minutes, JULY 2022 meeting

**July 21, 2022**

Approved by Vestry **August 18, 2022**

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

**COVID update:** COVID numbers are rising. Alan raises the importance of masking indoors again to protect vulnerable people at church, to which the vestry members agreed. The potluck on the 31st is in question whether it should be altered to prevent the spread of COVID or to move the event to another date. Ultimately, the vestry consensus was to postpone the potluck. Alan also proposed an suspending coffee hour for a few weeks.

**June Financial Reports:** The vestry is in favor of the new financial report format. The introduction of the balance sheet seems to be helpful for many of the vestry members. The endowment fund has maintained its strength, even if losing a bit in recent months. The hope for the new financial reports is for the vestry members to thoroughly understand them and be able to explain them to other parishioners if necessary. Alan walked through the reports thoroughly for the present month as well as a guide for how to use the new reports. There will be an opportunity to share the current situation with the Parish as a continuation of the Parish Meetings earlier in the year. The vestry hopes to offer information for the parish on August 14th at the Sunday service. Alan is also asking the Finance Committee to set a calendar date for when we might have to make more drastic changes to the budget. This will hopefully be offered to the congregation on the 14th and the intent is to highlight the conversation with Eucharist.

Motion to accept the June financial reports: First motion made by Sharon Davis, and Barbara Sherburne seconded. All approved.  
Opposed: None.

**Pastoral Care:** The vestry heard from Alan and others about a number of parishioners who are in crisis or who have certain needs. The Vestry continues to take meals to those in need and keeps the freezer stocked.

**Daughters of the King:** The DoK chapter will host a luncheon for the homebound & elders of the parish, providing food and a hymn sing along. The hope is to do this on a quarterly basis.

**Website:** The new website was discussed and explored

**Financing Roof Repair:** Alan applied to the Patterson Grant for Historic Churches (approximately \$18,000) to help finance the roof repair, and the vestry should hear about the results in a few months. The Vestry previously approved by email (at the Finance Committee's motion) to apply for a \$10,000 diocesan loan to help offset the out of pocket expenses for the

roof repair. The intent is to use the loan to ease the initial outlay for roof repair, but to pay it back on an advanced timeline. The Vestry affirmed the previous email vote.

**Motion to affirm the Diocesan loan for \$10,000:** First made motion by Lessy Nixon, then Sharon Davis. All approved.

Opposed: None.

**B&G:** The charcoal color for the tiles have been approved by the B&G committee. Painting the education wing. The committee hasn't had any new volunteers, however, Alan suggests moving forward with the painting. Additionally, the upstairs classroom needs to be painted with wall repair. The church is hoping to utilize the upstairs classroom space for all generations, so the intent is to furnish it for adults as well as children. For example, small groups and Bible studies could be held in a more comfortable space. It was suggested to use the same gray color as the choir suite.

**Lynchburg Freedom School Lunches:** The church provided lunches for the Summer-time Freedom School staff and a family dinner for the families and students. The event was a success. Everyone who participated enjoyed connecting and serving. Vestry members praised Ronda Spinner for planning and executing the details of the dinner. The vestry hopes to stay connected with the organization. Alan will be providing feedback to the organizers.

**Godly Play Materials:** The Godly play materials that the church owns has not been in use for some time and Alan raised three options for the materials. First, to store away the materials until the curriculum is used some time in the future. Second, to have them out and accessible, acknowledging that there is not a current use for that curriculum. Lastly, to offer them (as a gift or a sale) to a parish who needs them or is starting a Godly Play curriculum . The vestry is leaning towards rehoming the Godly play materials. Creating a time to say goodbye to the Godly Play materials could be a unique and helpful way to part ways with them and to say goodbye to a formerly vibrant ministry. Alan mentioned the spiritual practice of letting go with gratitude.

**A motion to find an appropriate home for the Godly Play materials was** first made by Sharon Davis, then seconded by Katey Greaney.

All approved.

Opposed: None.

**Formation Meeting with Diocese:** The August 27 Faith Formation gathering at the diocese was discussed with the key note speaker Jen Gamber (author of "My Faith, My Life"). The meeting will be discussing the topic of Christian Formation for adults and children.

**Parish Life:** Back to school bash is being planned between Katey and Alan followed up by the backpack blessing event.

**General convention:** Alan attended the General Convention as a deputy for the diocese and shared several highlights including the questions of liturgical revision, representation in

leadership by young adults and People of Color. Alan walked through several key legislative accomplishments of the convention

**Motion to accept May Vestry minutes:** First made motion by Gloria Cardwell, seconded by Sharon Davis. All approved.

Opposed: None.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned with prayer