

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes, May 2022 meeting
May 19, 2022
Approved by Vestry **July 21, 2022**

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

Absent: Katey Greaney

Vestry meeting began with a story from the Godly Play curriculum and a discussion about the lesson and the Godly Play curriculum in general.

Buildings and Ground: Sharon Davis has shared the updates on facility maintenance. The buildings and grounds committee has been soliciting bids for the replacement of the asphalt shingle roof on the education wing. The company offering the bid for roof repair of the slate roof additionally offered a competitive bid for replacement of the shingle roof (of the Education Wing). Sharon shared the complete proposal and walked through images of the areas needing attention. Some of the damage and leaking of the slate roof was worked on 3 years ago but needs additional care to stop the leaking in the nave and at the chimney. Slate repairs, flashing repairs, ridge cap repairs (near chimney), bell tower coating, gutter cleaning, shingle replacement, and setting up gutter guards will be completed by Craftsman Roofing. The company will utilize the existing slate at Grace Memorial to reduce costs. Regarding funding, Alan led a discussion about the possibility of pursuing an interest-free loan from the Diocese which is available for parish projects. This would free up funds in our B&G fund for other projects. If approved, Alan would bring the loan information to the Finance Committee for structuring and application and then back to Vestry for final approval.

Motion to approve the full scope of the bid proposed by the B&G committee: All approved.
Opposed: None.

Motion to pursue a diocesan loan to pay for a portion of the slate repair: First made motion by Sharon Davis and seconded by Lessy Nixon. All approved.
Opposed: None

Christian Formation: Alan discussed the state of Christian Formation in the current climate of the church. The transition from the COVID-19 pandemic has been difficult and the hiatus has perhaps effected formation efforts as much or more as any segment in the church. At this moment, children still have not been vaccinated and many families are unable to attend in person. Adult formation was waning prior to the pandemic. Alan suggested a different time slot for adult formation - perhaps the 11am slot, following the 10am service. Fellowship and gathering is critical and Alan is cautious to schedule formation for a small group that would limit their ability to participate in other parts of the community that would be equally valuable.

Discussion was offered about the best time and days to engage in Christian Formation for adults and children in a way that was accessible to the most people.

Alan discussed the use of the upper level classroom and suggested it be remodeled for both adults and children with ample storage for a variety of items. After the choir moved to the choir suite and emptied the storage closet, the classroom became unusable until it is remodeled. Alan will gather a team to look at the needs of a variety of age groups in that space and make a recommendation to the Buildings & Grounds Committee for needed storage and furnishing. Even with fewer children in our own community, the need for flexible spaces (like the classroom and nursery) and easy-to-gather activities help us to be a flexible and welcoming community.

Discussion was also offered regarding the Godly Play materials and whether they are useful for Grace Memorial at this stage in our life. They could be held here as a resource, or possibly offered to a church that is beginning this curriculum. The Vestry was invited to continue discerning the best use of these materials and continue to give thanks for their many years of use. Focus was given to discuss our ability to offer activities and formation for any children who attend church and be flexible to respond to those who attend even if we don't have a need for a weekly curriculum.

Interactive Prayers: Additionally, Alan is asking for volunteers to help plan interactive prayer stations that would invite participation from the parish as they prepare for worship or enter the buildings.

Pastoral care: Barbara Sherburne provided an update for our ready-to-go freezer meals. Some pastoral situations where meals were needed or had recently been delivered were discussed.

Finance: The April financial report was presented and discussed. The current state of the budget continues as predicted with the deficit budget beginning to be more apparent as we move through the fiscal year. The UTO ingathering from Lent was \$173 with additional gifts expected to continue coming in through the year.

Motion to accept the April financial review: First made motion by Sharon Davis and seconded by Gloria Cardwell. All approved.

Opposed: None.

Treasurer Role: Joe Carroll, the Treasurer of the church had originally committed to the role for 3 years, and has graciously continued beyond this time. The church is in search of a new treasurer beginning next year. Alan suggested that Joe has done much to adjust the job description and expectations of the role, making it more accessible to a variety of parishioners. Joe has shared with the vestry that the treasurer position could be filled by a non-professional and could be shared in a regular rotation. Joe and others are available to help support (especially in transition) anyone who is elected treasurer. Some functions of the Treasurer could also be contracted with a bookkeeper if needed to help fill the position but this would come at an

additional expense. Barbara Carter agrees that the position does not have to be filled by a professional accountant but rather a Bookkeeper or any financial-minded individual with some training would be able to fulfill the position.

Motion to approve April Minutes: First made motion by Sharon Davis and seconded by Lessy Nixon All approved.

Opposed: None.

Discussion was also briefly offered about upcoming offsite events where Grace Memorial had planned to have a presence. The Lynchburg Juneteenth event has changed to an online event, but we will remain as sponsors. Other outreach and community events were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned.