

Regular meeting of Grace Church Vestry

Draft Nov 30, 2011

November 21, 2011

Vestry members present: Bruce Croushore, Mary Ann Germanson, Kenn JeSchonek, Michael Leland, Terry Gibson, Ginny Shannon, Linda Newman

Clergy present: Father Jonathan Grieser, Deacon Carol Smith

Officers present: Nelson Flynn, Treasurer; Carolyn Hackler, Clerk

Visitors: Mary Ray Worley, Ann Flynn, Mary Ann Cook

Absent: Heidi Barnhill, Jason Loch, Steve Webster

Meeting was called to order at 7:00. The agenda was adopted and October meeting minutes approved.

Father Grieser provided the devotional.

Bruce said he didn't understand why the Vestry had to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting. Father Grieser asserted that Grace's by-laws required Vestry approval so that the minutes did not have to be read at the next year's Annual Meeting. Linda Newman made a motion to approve the Annual Meeting minutes, Ginny seconded, motion carried with one abstention.

Treasurer's Report: Nelson stressed that pledge income is Grace's "biggest variable line"; pledges for the year are at \$228,000, which is \$28,000 less than last year. He reported that the Food Pantry Fund is doing well and making budget. Nelson stated that the capital maintenance funding needs to be discussed with the parish. He asked that a member of Building and Grounds committee attend the Finance Committee meetings. Kenn made a motion to accept Nelson's report, Ginny seconded, motion carried.

Stewardship: Ann Flynn mentioned that Linda is writing the "thank yous" to pledging parishioners. As of last Thursday, there were 86 pledges; in 2010 at this time, there were 123. The amount of money pledged so far is \$266,318, and the average pledge is \$3,097 compared to \$2,588 in 2011 and \$2,637 in 2010. Steve had suggested previously that the pledge results be posted in several spots where Grace parishioners can see them; Father Grieser agreed that this is important information to share, as well as where revenues come from. Jonathan, Nelson and Bruce agreed that a reminder should go out to those who have not completed their pledge commitments for the year. Jonathan will work with staff on setting up a link for general financial information to be seen; Ann suggested that it would be a good idea to provide budgetary information on a weekly basis. The Hispanic ministry is to be included in pledging next year. Ann also mentioned that she is setting up a "phone fiesta" for December 12th where Vestry members will bring cel phones and call Grace members who haven't yet pledged (Ann will provide food and drink).

Annual Meeting Debrief: Terry thought Father's write-up on the committees was great. Bruce mentioned he would like to see requests for committee reports earlier next year so that parishioners would have some time to read and digest them. Jonathan replied that an email was sent out on October 1, 2011 requesting committee reports and that the deadline was October 31st. Bruce also stated that there should be a process in place for written proxy votes for Vestry seats. Jonathan pointed out that caution relative to the voting procedure is really important. Linda stated she felt that we'd had a good slate of candidates.

Rector's Report: St. Francis House administration will effectively move in to their place at Grace as of January 1st; deconstruction starts that day. Father Jonathan reported that they are planning to use as much of the material from the current building as possible. Jonathan will meet with the Bishop on the space being offered at Grace to SFH. Beth Wroblewski, a Grace member, is the administrator for SFH and will meet with Grace staff. Jonathan reported that the new sound system is in place and a discussion ensued where everyone agreed that the system needs some tweaking.

Personnel: Terry reported that he is in the final stages of Russ's review; Janet is now salaried, and her review has been completed. Terry also mentioned that a policy for the safety of children at Grace is being worked on.

Pastoral Care: Linda reported on the Lotsa Helping Hands site that Darby has set up for volunteers wishing to help make meals, etc. for those who need the extra help.

Outreach: Mary Ann Cook is the new chair, and she said they are currently trying to decide what would be the best thing to present to the shelter guests in December (socks, etc). The cafeteria at the Capitol will once again be open for the homeless. Anyone wishing information on the Triangle Committee should contact Father Charles Grainger. Mary Ann reported that there is to be a Haiti Fair during Coffee Hour on December 11th. She stated that the Outreach Committee is working on ways to collaborate with Lauren on youth ministry, and that a goal of the committee is to make the congregation aware of opportunities to help. She explained about Bread for the World, an advocacy group.

Buildings and Grounds Committee: Paul will report in greater detail at the next Vestry meeting on B and G's suggested capital maintenance plan.

Bruce read Carolyn Hackler's resignation letter to the group, per her request. There was unanimous appreciation of Carolyn's efforts this year. Her letter will be filed in the Church's records.

There was a discussion on an updated directory as an on-line attachment with pictures.

Father Grieser stated that, as a parish, we are good at welcoming newcomers, but not at getting them committed to programs, task forces, etc.

Mary Ray Worley stated that the last joint service with the Hispanic ministry and attendees of other Grace services was extremely well received.

Bruce talked about the mandate on medical insurance for employees of Episcopal churches and how this payment for our staff will affect our budget. It goes into effect on January 1st of 2013. Jonathan advised that there is quite a bit of resistance to the mandate and he thinks it will be substantially modified if not revoked.

Bruce also stated that the Porchlight lease has been agreed upon; IT upgrade is on hold; Steve is writing a kitchen use policy.

Grace Presents: Bruce reported that the Caravan concert was well-attended. The next concert will be Saturday, December 10th; Navan, a Celtic a capella group, will perform that day at noon. Bruce stated that he and Judy Rose and others involved with Grace Presents made a list of 60 steps that need to be completed to put together the concerts. Because of staff time limitations, Grace Presents task force could use help with promoting the concerts.

Terry reported that foyer groups will begin again after the holidays.

Father Grieser talked about the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes; he is going to Charlotte, NC in March (7th-10th) to participate and was pleased to see that an affinity group for downtown parishes will be one of the offerings. He also mentioned that he has been asked to join the board of Episcopal Rectors for Stewardship.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Ann Hackler, Clerk of the Vestry