

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

VESTRY/AGENDA MINUTES

July 26, 2016

The Vestry met at 6:00 p.m. in Richardson Hall, and the meeting was called to order by Senior Warden Jim Wiley.

Opening Prayer: The Vestry members prayed in unison: *Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Search Update: Marti Wallace reported on the status of the search; she also asked for and received clarifications on the Charge that the Vestry gave to the Search Team.

Regular Reports:

- Senior Warden. No report at this time.
- Junior Warden. Johnny Burns stated he will meet with Melissa Clyburn, Kindergarten Director, on Wednesday, July 27, regarding things that must be done before Kindergarten opens. He will also meet with a representative of the Diocese for an updated Safety Review.
- Treasurer. Giving for the month of June was **below needs** by \$3,275 or 15.5% less than what was expected and year-to-date we are \$16,962 or 11.9% more than needed due to help of the Stewardship Committee and the receipt of a number of parishioners who gave the full annual contribution in March and April to assist Grace Church cover monthly expenses.
- Stewardship. Karen Eckford briefly discussed the program: *The Gratitude Path, Leading Your Church to Generosity.*

During these reports, the following specific items were discussed:

- Bill Herbert questioned Kindergarten expenses: building, utilities, etc. and if tuition should be increased by 3% when credit cards are used to pay tuition. The Vestry agreed (but did not vote) that a credit card surcharge should be applied and will communicate this to the Kindergarten Board and Director.
- Bill Herbert asked that the Vestry approve the base salary for the new Rector. This amount would not include health care or pension. At this time, the diocesan health care for a single person is \$717/month (more expensive plans are paid by the insured) and pension is 18% of base salary. The proposal was not to pay spouse or family health care, but to leave this negotiable. Bill Herbert made a motion that the base salary be \$69,800. Marti Wallace seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
- Expenses for Search Team: Bill Herbert recommended that, if necessary, up to \$12,000 be made available for Search team expenses – by considering savings on clergy pension in 2016 by cutting the amount paid to the diocese. A motion to this effect was proposed by Bill Herbert and seconded by Johnny Burns, but was not approved. Jim Wiley then moved that we maintain the \$9,100 to be paid to the diocese and, from the clergy pension savings, approve \$5,000 for Search Team expenses. This motion was seconded by Dennis Magee, and carried.

SHIFT Program. Jim Wiley read a letter concerning this program (Commission for Congregations). Copy of letter will be forwarded to all Vestry members. In mid-August it will be posted and announced if the 3-4 spaces allowed to Grace are not taken by Vestry members.

Other Business:

- Picnic: Jim Wiley asked if we should plan a picnic since we have had one for the past few years. After discussion, it was agreed that Dwight deLoach will get with Dan Cantey reference this matter.
- Absent/Lapse Member: Jim Wiley asked for opinions as to how we should identify and then contact persons in this category. At this point, Pam Jackson spent considerable time sharing her views on this subject.
- Small Groups Wishing to Meet in Church. Jim Wiley stated that groups wishing to meet to discuss matters related to Christian formation or for fellowship should feel free to do so. This matter came up recently with several members wishing to continue a self-directed Adult Sunday School during the summer. Pam Jackson mentioned a second fellowship alternative which she will pursue.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:00 p.m.

Present: John Burns, Dwight deLoach, Karen Eckford, Bill Herbert, Pam Jackson, Julie Magee, Dennis Magee, Frank Trapp, Jim Parrish, Marti Wallace and Jim Wiley.

Absent: Harriet DuBose (out of town)

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Baird, Clerk of the Vestry

MEETING CALENDAR FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR

Executive Committee

September 6
October 4
November 1
December 6

Vestry

August 16
September 20
October 18
November 15
December 20