

**Vestry Minutes for the Regular Meeting of February 2021
Grace Church, Lexington
Zoom Meeting**

February 22, 2021 (Washington's Birthday)
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order 5:00 pm

Fr Tuck

In Attendance: Fr. Tuck Bowerfind, David Connolly, Punky Dod, Carole Elmore, Elizabeth Grist, Kathy Hill, Diana Kenney, William McCorkle, John Milford, Rob Minor, Liz Moss, Judy Schram, Cecile West-Settle.

Officers: Buster Lewis, Treasurer; Lisa McGuire, Clerk

Meditation

Carole Elmore

Carol reflected on the season of Lent, the meaning of the word, the tradition, the practices and prayer. Carol closed with this prayer: Dear God, enlighten what is dark in us, strengthen what is weak in us, mend what is broken in us, bind what is bruised in us, heal what sickens us and revive whatever peace and love has died in us; in Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Information

- K&L Contract for \$920,000 Attached – signed contract.
- Committee Chairs and Liaisons meeting February 23
- Covid Regathering Guidelines – positivity rates are within the safe zone for Lexington and Buena Vista, none of the other fixed metrics are in the acceptable zone. The Presiding Bishop has released a video regarding the importance of getting the vaccine if you have the opportunity.
- Safe Church – sign the sheet in your Vestry notebook stating you read the policy.
- Marc Nikkel Mission Archives/Conference – Susan Bentley requested that Grace Church accept some archives related to Marc Nikkel's work and life. She has also provided a copy to Trinity Seminary in Pennsylvania where there is a professor who is interested in Marc's work and where they study some of his work. Additionally, we may hold a conference in early September of this year to celebrate Marc Nikkel's work and to reflect on what can be learned from it with regard to the work of the church in our own context. Tuck has spoken with Bishop Mark Bourlakas, Richard Jones and Susan Bentley about this idea. No topic or theme has been set for the conference, but Tuck would like it to support mission work in general in the diocese and help us reflect on ways of doing mission work both in our local communities and as the Church in Southwestern Virginia.

Discussion

- Returning citizens housing

Liz Moss

Update: Connie has come forward with the offer of the use of a furnished two-bedroom house at 400 Houston St for the STEPS program! We have tentative agreements about rent that fit with the program budget.

Connie is requesting \$1000.00 a month rent and is willing to rent directly to the citizens. They would sign the lease and Grace Church, through a grant from the Gadsden Trust that the Christian Outreach Committee requested, would pay for the first three months' rent. The grant will also cover an additional \$300.00 a month for the next six months' rent and other preparations needed before they arrive. The men have been offered jobs at Lee Hi Travel Mart.

Final Vestry Minutes 3/3/21

Consent Agenda

Wardens' Reports:

Liz reported that at March's meeting the Vestry will receive nominations for next year's delegates to convention/convocation representatives. The nominating committee will meet by zoom to discuss candidates.

Liz also mentioned the webinar Queer Theology that is taking place on Tuesday, February 23 held by the W&L Office of Inclusion and Engagement. Tuck will participate as a panelist.

John mentioned that on Wednesday, February 24 is the second program on the Educators of Color. John also attended a homeless seminar last week and feels hopeful that our community has a good system in place and once Covid numbers decrease and more people are vaccinated that there may not be as much need for help in our community as there has been during the past year.

Vestry Minutes for January 25, 2021 **Accepted**

Rector's Report 02222021

Clarification: Please note the connection between Becoming Beloved Community, the Outreach motion, the Diocesan initiative to provide Allyship Training. Please consider signing up for Allyship Training with Sharon White. Sharon will maintain a list of interested persons and forward names to Brian Hutchison who is coordinating training for the Diocese. Anyone who does not get into a Diocesan training will be placed in an Allyship training cohort funded through our Outreach Becoming Beloved Community fund.

Treasurer's Report – no report due to technical problems closing the month of December 2020.

Committee Reports

Chancel Capital Campaign Committee

Diocesan Delegates Convention Report

- Administration and Personnel
- Chancel Project Committee Report
- Christian Education Committee
- Christian Outreach Committee
- Finance Committee
- Gadsden
- Higher Education Committee
- Property Committee
- Safety and Security
- Stewardship Committee
- Worship Committee

Old Business

- Motion to approved Parochial Report including Narrative Questions – **Approved**

Note: The Parochial Report financial numbers need to be updated. When fixed, the updated report will be sent to the Vestry.

- Motion to Request 2021 Grant from Gadsden Committee **Approved**

Resolved, the Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church approves the grant application to the Gadsden Trust requesting 25% of their total disbursement the year, for renovation to the chancel.

Final Vestry Minutes 3/3/21

Discussion: There was concern that has been raised that this kind of request has to come from the Trustees of Grace Church. The Gadsden Trust agreement states that if the request was about a project that required agreement from both the Vestry and Trustees then the request had to come from both groups. For example: a situation where the renovation would include taking out a loan against the property. The Trustees have not been involved in the decision-making regarding the Chancel renovation because it is being done with funds under the Vestry's authority.

A motion was made to amend the resolution and change request \$20,000 to request 25% of the total Gadsden Trust disbursement for the year.

New Business

Motion to approve a Capital Campaign: Approved unanimously

We unanimously approve and commit to personally support a capital campaign, including campaign documents (case statement, brochure, pledge card, thank you card), for the renovation of the Chancel, with a goal of \$460,000 and a stretch goal of \$570,000, to take place in three phases: Quiet phase March 1-31, 2021 during which up to 60 households will be individually solicited, all Vestry and campaign leadership team members are expected to make a commitment during this phase; Public phase April 4 – May 7, 2021 during which results of the Quiet phase will be announced and all other pledging households will be invited to pledge; Wrap-up May 8-31, 2021 phase during which any follow-up communication will take place and final results will be calculated and announced.

Discussion: Rob Minor reported that there has been a lot of excitement in the parish about the renovations of the Chancel. He personally thanked the committee members for all their hard work, Liz Moss, John Milford, Gail Dickerson, David Hansen, Buster Lewis, Bill McCorkle, Bob Glidden, and Dennis Cross. K+L Construction is already at work to make the space ready for the new organ. The organ has been paid in full out of the sale of the Grey Dove house and the previous generous contributions of our parishioner to the organ fund. Half of the \$920,000 Chancel renovation cost is coming out of the current endowment funds of the church. \$250,000 out of the Berry Fund (which will leave it within an excess of a million dollars as agreed upon by the Vestry), \$100,000 from the Jones Fund, \$19,000 from the Vestry Capital Fund, and \$81,000 from the Osburg Fund which totals \$460,000. The Capital Campaign Committee is to raise \$460,000 with a stretch goal of \$570,000 (which would cover the cause of the encaustic tiles around the baptismal font, tile the Narthex and paint the Nave). The grant from Gadsden is, at this time, committed to pay interest for four years. Private phase of the Chancel Capital Campaign will start March 1, 2021. Thirteen trained solicitors will make zoom or personal calls to 37 parish families. The quiet phase results will be announced on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021. The public phase will start the following week and run through May 7, 2021. Currently commitments of \$220,000 have been made, which is 47% of the \$460,000.

Motion to Approve Becoming Beloved Community Grant Application: Approved

Resolved, that the Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church approves the process for application and distribution of funds from the Becoming Beloved Community Fund as presented by the Outreach Committee (COC). The Racial Equity Subcommittee of the COC will review applications and make recommendations for funding to the COC. The COC's recommendations will be presented to the Vestry and the Vestry will make the final decisions for funding.