

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Windsor, Connecticut

January 10, 2023

Call to Order

Attendance

Because the vestry meeting was held in person and via Zoom, recorded for future viewing, formal attendance was not taken.

1. **Opening Prayers**

The January 10, 2023 Vestry Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. with an Opening Prayer by the Reverend Harry (Chip) Elliott.

2. **Faithful Giving Report**

Connie Hegarty, co-chair of the 2022 Faithful Giving Campaign, reported that the 2023 campaign was successful. She recapped the campaign: In 2022, there were 79 pledges with a median pledge of \$2,000 for a total of \$200,065. In 2023, there were 74 pledges for a total of \$201,535. Connie further explained the pledging unit details for the vestry. Carol Devine congratulated Connie on a successful campaign and thanked her for all of her hard work.

Connie stated that while it is difficult to find folks willing to serve on the Stewardship Committee, people are willing to serve on smaller communities such as helping with mailings, etc.

Andrea Anderson has agreed to Co-Chair next year's Faithful Giving Campaign with John Carpenter. Connie has agreed to stay on to help train Andrea until she is ready to take over her role.

3. **Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda**

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

4. **Approval of the Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes as written from the December 27, 2022 Vestry meeting.

5. **Financial Report**

Treasurer Larry Young reported on the Fund Balances and highlighted several items that had unusually high activity such as Repairs/Maintenance and Office Supplies & Expenses. Re-keying the Church, purchasing security cameras and other unplanned purchases caused the overage on the Maintenance/Repair Fund. Larry stated that the Operating Fund will have a deficit this year. Heat and electricity continue to be the largest expenses and that will likely continue into the new year.

Larry stated that he would like to reinstate the Finance Committee. So far, Sam Hinckley, Max Kuziak, Ian Rickard and Adam Hutchinson have agreed to serve.

6. Old Business

a. Nominating Committee Report

Debbie Hutchinson reported that the Nominating Committee had met and proposed candidates to fill the vacant positions on the Vestry. Katrina Woodhouse, David Stender and Andrea Anderson were nominated for a 3-year term and Margaret Shields was nominated for a 1-year term.

7. New Business

a. Father Chip's Upcoming Surgery

Father Chip stated that while he will be recuperating from his surgery, plans are being put in place for Morning Prayer, Ash Wednesday (Ashes to Go and the Evening Service) and Scout Sunday.

b. Vestry Appreciation

Father Chip thanked Carol Devine, John Devine, Marcia Hinckley and Max Kuziak for their service to the Vestry and Grace Church.

c. Housing Allowance

Father Chip explained that his housing allowance of \$23,500 never changes. A motion was made to continue his Housing Allowance of \$23,500 under the rules of 503c. The motion was seconded and it passed unanimously.

8. Questions, Concerns and/or Comments

- Larry stated that the Church still has money from the Red Door of Grace Food Pantry. Occasionally, money is received from Stop & Shop Floral and/or reusable bag sales. We have made donations to the Windsor Food Pantry and to the Five Corner Cupboard. A discussion took place and it was decided that half of the funds go to the Windsor Food and Fuel Bank and the other half to the Five Corner Cupboard.
- Father Chip explained that over the last few months, the office computers have been having problems. Melissa Rickard's computer was recently replaced and Father Chip's Apple Computer crashed this past week. The Finance Computer, which holds all of the Church's financial information, has been running very slowly and needs to be replaced. Replacing Father Chip's computer and the Finance Computer will cost approximately \$4,500 and the funds would be taken from the Tuttle Fund. A motion was made and seconded to approve replacing the two computers. After a brief discussion, the motion passed unanimously. Father Chip will research the best deal for the computers.
- A discussion took place regarding what measures can be taken to reduce our heating and electricity costs. The windows at the Tuttle House were mentioned. Bonnie Yosky explained that this is not the time of year to work on them; the many layers of paint on the windows would make them difficult to work on without breaking the glass. Dan will look into this project in the spring. Bonnie stated that the heat in the Tuttle House will be lowered to 60 degrees during the week and turned up on Fridays for Church School on Sunday. Hopefully, the February heating bill will show a reduction at the Tuttle House. New programmable thermostats will be purchased for the Church, Tuttle House and Great Hall. These will be controlled by cell phones.
- Ken Roach stated that he has two volunteers working on the STP Report. They will have the Building & Grounds input no later than the next meeting.

- Deb Hutchinson will be conducting the February Vestry meeting.

With no further business before the vestry, Father Chip made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. The motion was seconded and carried. Father Chip led the vestry in saying a closing prayer. Many many thanks to Bonnie Yosky for taking the vestry minutes for this meeting. I am very grateful!

JoAnne McLeod, Clerk