

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Windsor, Connecticut

August 8, 2023

Call to Order

Attendance

Present: William (Harvey) Harvey, Susan Burgdorf, Ian Rickard, Father Don, JoAnne McLeod, Larry Young, David Stender, Andrea Anderson, Debbie Hutchinson, Andrew Hutchinson, and Ken Roach.

Absent: Katrina Woodhouse, Margaret Shields, Chuck Drake, and Carol Blais.

1. **Opening Prayers**

The August 8, 2023, Vestry Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. with an Opening Prayer by Senior Warden Debbie Hutchinson.

2. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

b. New Business

- c. Ramp Update
- d. Age of Committee Members
- e. Worship Committee

3. **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the minutes as written from the July 11, 2023 Vestry meeting.

4. **Financial Reports**

Treasurer Larry Young reported that we have a negative position in our Operating Fund of about \$3500. Larry stated again that he feels that this deficit will be \$15,000-\$20,000 at year's end. Larry noted that a number of mechanical issues such as the internet connections and the interface with the organ have helped to cause the deficit. He also noted that the Transition Financial Report has been submitted to the Diocese.

5. **Old Business**

a. Streaming Update

David Stender reported that the new box surge protector has been ordered. A proper surge protector should have been initially installed. The zoom services using the iPad will continue until the box is installed.

b. Water Damage

Larry reported that Chuck Drake has made some changes in how the water drains from the back window in the Lower Parish Hall. The Nursery needs to be painted; a fan will be needed to help it dry during the

humid weather. A plumber inspected the nursery walls, and he suggested that foam insulation be blown inside the walls about 3 feet up from the floor to protect the pipes from freezing. This will probably not be covered by insurance because it is new to the Church and not a replacement. Larry also noted that some of the pipes are outside the framing, and this causes a problem. The pipes need to be brought inside. Larry will be meeting with the new plumber next week. Larry stated that perhaps volunteers could help with any carpentry. Larry noted that one bid has come in for the Tuttle House garage roof and there are calls out to two other roofers for bids. These will be asphalt shingles.

c. Vestry Retreat

Father Don stated that the vestry retreat will focus on three items: Who we've been, Who we are now and How do we see ourselves progressing. Saturday's meeting will be more hands on with action items being discussed and decided on. The retreat will take place Friday, Aug. 11th from 6-9 pm and Saturday, the 12th from 8:30 am -2:00 pm at the University of Hartford. Dave Stender will send out emails with parking details and directions to the retreat room.

d. Transition Process Update

Our Diocesan liaison, Amber, reported to Debbie that the Diocese will meet with us regarding a new priest after they examine our financial statement. We need to identify our goals and revamp our website before we can move forward.

Debbie also acknowledged that Steve and Lois Bethke have resigned from the vestry and they do not plan on attending Grace Church any longer. The decision was made not to fill the second Junior Warden position held by Steve Bethke since that position will be ending at the end of this year.

6. New Business

a. Update on Bulletin Format

Debbie reported that there is a mixed reaction among parishioners regarding using the Book of Common Prayer during the services. Andrew reported that the Sunday School wanted the prayer book used during services in 2019. It was agreed that the full bulletin will be used during special services such as Christmas, Easter and Baptisms when visitors would be at the service.

b. Christmas Eve Service

It was decided to table this discussion until the September vestry meeting.

c. Ramp Update

Dave Stender reported that he had reached out to Jim Vance for a design drawing for the ramp. This will be discussed at a later date when we have a detailed design and an estimate of cost. A donation has already been made to help pay for the ramp.

d. Age of Committee Members

Ian Rickard noted that we have an aging congregation, and we need to begin attracting younger new members. Younger folks need to be pulled into positions of leadership.

e. Worship Committee

Debbie announced the members of the Worship Committee. They are: Father Don, Mark Child, Connie Hegarty, Karen LaClair, Lynne Rhodes, Andrew Hutchinson, Bonnie Yosky, Debbie Hutchinson, Donna Soule, Geri Harvey, JoAnne McLeod and Linda Rickard. Father Don stated that he likes to plan the liturgy with the committee at least one or two months ahead of time.

7. Questions, Concerns and Comments

a. Father Don

Father Don stated that the Nursery should be up and running in September and he asked if there was an alternate space where it could be held until the repairs to the nursery are completed. After a discussion, it was decided that the Nursery would be temporarily housed in the Lower Parish Hall. Debbie will ask Bonnie to send out a notice asking how many babies will be coming with their parents to Church.

b. Debbie Hutchinson

Debbie stated that she is looking forward to the vestry bringing energy to the retreat. We need more diversity in our services because we are a diverse community.

With no further business before the vestry, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. The motion was seconded and carried. Father Don led the vestry in saying a closing prayer.

JoAnne McLeod, Clerk