

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Windsor, Connecticut

September 5, 2023

Call to Order

Attendance

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

Guest: Lynne Rhodes

Absent: Katrina Woodhouse, Ken Roach, Chuck Drake, Susan Burgdorf and Carol Blais.

1. **Opening Prayers**

The September 5, 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**

Additions

6. **New Business**

- c. Activities on the Green

Deletions

5. **Old Business**

- b. Safe Church Training – Number of parishioners certified.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the minutes as written from the August 8, 2023 Vestry meeting.

4. **Financial Reports**

Treasurer Larry Young made a brief financial report. He stated that the operating deficit for the year to date is currently about \$25,000. He stated that he is hopeful that trends will change and that savings in wages will help to slow the rate of deficit. A question was asked about money budgeted for music purchases. Larry explained the budgeting process. A discussion took place about spending money remaining from the Red Door of Grace Food Pantry.

5. **Old Business**

a. **Retreat Overview**

Debbie Hutchinson reported that the retreat was an eye-opening experience. Many vestry members attended. She stated that the retreat has given us the opportunity to think about what we can do as a parish in the future.

b. Safe Church Training

Debbie stated that there is a misconception regarding which parishioners need to complete the training. She will present the number of folks who have completed it at a later date.

c. Sunday School & the Education Ministry

Lynne Rhodes presented a handout containing the 2023-24 Sunday School calendar, a list of new students and the proposed curriculum overview. She stated that she has communicated several times with all families who have Sunday School aged children. Currently, one person is signed up to teach classes. She stated that she needs at least 2 more adults to teach, and she is hoping for more to sign up so that folks don't have to teach every Sunday. A discussion took place regarding possible new students and how to encourage folks to teach the classes.

d. Website Update

Debbie Hutchinson reported that Jenny Hawran has made wonderful progress on the website. She currently needs quality photos of the music ministry. She asked Dave Stender to take photos of the choir practicing and singing on Sundays. The vestry members need to submit a photo of themselves accompanied by a brief bio. Jenny Hawran had previously stated that she would send out a template to use for the bios. Quality photos of the other Church ministries need to be submitted. We are trying to get all the material to Jenny by Oct. 31st.

e. Tuttle House Roof Update

Larry Young reported that the Tuttle House garage roof has a significant leak. He stated that, when the garage roof is replaced, the summer kitchen should be done at the same time. He has received bids from Eagle Rivet, and Don Gleason; he is waiting for a bid from J. P. Carroll Company. Currently, the two bids are between \$8,000 and \$11,200. Larry cautioned that the bids could grow depending on the number of roof layers and materials that are under the top layer. The roof discussion will continue when the bids have all been submitted.

Larry also stated that the nursery repairs need to be completed. He suggested that rather than acting as our own general contractor, the Church should hire Serv-Pro to handle that. That would leave them to negotiate prices with the insurance company.

f. Communion from the Common Cup

Father Don spoke about the Diocese's view regarding the communion cup kits. A discussion took place regarding how communion will be distributed. The small plastic cups with wine and/or grape juice will continue to be used. A concern was raised about folks gathering at the altar to receive Communion now that Covid cases are increasing. Father Don suggested presenting the Eucharist at the bottom of the chancel steps so that people are not as crowded. The new procedure will begin during Communion on September 27th.

6. New Business

a. Church by the Pond

JoAnne McLeod reported on the bagged lunches Grace provided for folks following the Church by the Pond Eucharist service. Sixty lunches were distributed and all who participated felt the ministry was a

success. It was decided that Grace will participate in the lunch rotation. The next opportunity for us to serve will be on December 30th. JoAnne will contact Nancy Jacobs regarding our participation.

b. Blessing of the Animals

Father Don stated that he will perform the Blessing of the Animals during the service on October 8th.

c. Activities on the Green

Dave Stender reported that Windsor has activities on the Green, and it is a wonderful opportunity for the Church to open its doors and maintain a presence in the community. The Arts & Crafts Fair will take place on May 11th and the Shad Derby Festival takes place on May 18th. It was suggested that the Church be open to visitors and docents could give guided tours of the architecture, stained glass windows and paintings. Ken Roach will be contacted to help with this and flyers and/or handouts will be developed.

d. Proposed Date for Winter Quiet Day

Debbie Hutchinson reported that the Worship Committee voted to have a quiet day. It was decided to have it after the new year to reflect on new beginnings and to close out the Christmas season. The proposed date will be January 6th from 9am – 1pm with Holy Eucharist at the end. It was decided to advertise the event to the public.

e. Lessons & Carols with Potluck Luncheon

The Lessons & Carols service followed by the potluck luncheon will take place on December 3rd. Father Don suggested that worksheets be distributed during the luncheon for folks to have an opportunity to give their input regarding the qualities they are looking for in a new priest-in-charge.

f. Stewardship Presentation

Father Don stated that Grace has received a scholarship from the Diocese to attend an advanced stewardship leadership workshop. This workshop will provide new ways of thinking about stewardship and to be year-round stewards. A monthly schedule will be provided that explains what a parish should be doing for stewardship at that time of year. Lessons in tithing and proportional giving will take place. The workshop training will take place on Zoom over a 5-week period. Participants will be Andrea Anderson, Michelle Carpenter, Father Don and Debbie Hutchinson.

g. Lay Delegates for the Diocesan Annual Convention

Debbie Hutchinson reported that the Diocesan Annual Convention will be held on October 27 – 28 at the CT Convention Center in Hartford. Attendees from Grace will be Debbie Hutchinson and JoAnne McLeod.

7. Questions, Concerns and Comments

- Larry Young discussed the warranty on and replacement of the interface of the organ. He will work with Bonnie regarding this and report back at the next meeting.

With no further business before the vestry, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. The motion was seconded and carried. Debbie Hutchinson led the vestry in saying a closing prayer.

JoAnne McLeod, Clerk

