

# GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Windsor, Connecticut

April 8, 2025

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## *Call to Order*

### **Attendance**

***Present:*** Father Don, Debbie Hutchinson, Linda Rickard, Larry Young, Andrea Anderson, Katrina Woodhouse, Margaret Shields, JoAnne McLeod, Dave Stender, and Sue Burgdorf.

***Absent:*** Ken Roach, Jo Anne Harrison-Becker, John Carpenter, and Chuck Drake.

### **1. Opening Prayers**

The April 8, 2025 Vestry Meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. with an Opening Prayer led by Senior Warden Debbie Hutchinson.

### **2. Additions and Deletions**

Additions:

- 5. New Business
  - e. Fund Raiser Suggestion
  - f. Funeral Service for Father David Parachini

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the minutes as written from the March 18, 2025, Vestry meeting.

### **4. Current Business**

#### **a. Financial Report**

Treasurer Larry Young reported that our finances are still on track to be on budget with nothing significant happening at this time to cause a change. Larry stated that he has been working on a consolidated budget worksheet that can be used after our Church has merged with St. John's. Larry noted that he has tried different scenarios, for instance if St. John's buildings were sold or not. Larry stated that even combining the \$9000 per month withdrawals that St. John's takes, our budget will still show a deficit. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the Financial Report. Katrina Woodhouse read a limerick that she had written a few years ago about Larry, his late brother-in-law Barry Loucks and their dedication to Grace Church.

#### **b. Ramp Update**

Dave Stender reported that the site survey and the building code study have been completed and given to our architect, Tom Nolan. Tom will combine the two reports for his design. Dave expressed frustration at the slow pace of this project.

### **c. Alienation Report**

Debbie spoke about the reports concerning the merger that need to be completed so that they can be given to the Diocese. A lengthy discussion took place regarding how the money from the potential sale of St. John's will be dispersed. The campus is currently on the market.

### **d. Review Updates**

In her review of the Missional Committee, Andrea Anderson stated how many missions both Grace and St. John's currently have and how they overlap. A discussion took place regarding the outreach programs St. John's would like to leave in their name to the East Windsor community. Dave Stender briefly reviewed the Building, Grounds and Property committee work. A discussion took place about the ongoing work of that committee as the merger proceeds. Larry Young stated that his financial paperwork with St. John's is basically done. Debbie Hutchinson reported that Ken Roach's Canonical Committee report is just about complete.

## **5. New Business**

### **a. Coffee Hour Committee**

Coffee Hour will be moving to the Lower Parish Hall on April 27<sup>th</sup>; this move will eliminate having to carry the coffee pots and food up and down the stairs. Debbie stated that Pat Ould would be in charge of scheduling folks to cover coffee hour. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the cost of coffee hour and the amount of food that is provided. It will be specified what the weekly coffee hour collection money pays for. A suggestion to make coffee hour a line item on the budget was suggested but not voted on.

### **b. Holy Week Liturgy and Preparation**

Father Don stated that we will be having a 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Eucharist service which will include the washing of feet. The Good Friday liturgy will be at 7:00 p.m. and will include Holy Communion. He stated that he will be using more contemporary prayers. Tom Woodruff will need helpers to stay behind after the Good Friday service to help hang new Easter banners in the Church. At the 10:00 a.m. Easter Sunday service, the children will bring out the Alleluia Banner. The Easter Egg Hunt will take place after the service.

### **c. Church by the Pond**

JoAnne McLeod reported that the Church by the Pond ministry will take place once again on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Sign up sheets for the bagged lunch project have already been posted and a collection box has been placed in the Church to help offset the cost of the food.

### **d. National Day of Prayer**

Debbie reported that the National Day of Prayer in Windsor will take place on May 1<sup>st</sup> at Trinity Church on Park Avenue. Debbie will be representing Grace Church and many public servants will be present at the service. She encouraged members of Grace to attend and support this important event.

### **e. Fund Raiser Suggestion**

Sue Burgdorf presented an idea from Carol Devine regarding a fund raising event. Carol suggested putting together and publishing a cookbook of recipes from parishioners. It was mentioned that the Altar Guild had published a Grace Church cookbook about 20 years ago. A discussion took place regarding the project. No decision about the fund raiser was made at this time. The vestry thanks Carol for her wonderful idea.

### **f. Funeral Service for Father David Parachini**

Debbie reported that Father Parachini passed away in February and his memorial service will take place on Saturday. A discussion took place regarding a memorial for Father David; he had been our priest for ten years during a very tumultuous time at Grace and he guided us with grace and compassion. After a discussion, it was decided that a significant financial donation should be made to the ASPCA in his memory because of Father Parachini's love of animals. JoAnne McLeod made a motion that Grace Church make a donation in memory of Reverend David Parachini to the ASPCA. The motion was seconded by Larry Young and it passed unanimously. The parish will be given until the end of April to make contributions to the donation. The vestry will contribute to the donation so that it is a significant amount.

## **7. Additional Comments or Thoughts**

- Debbie stated that the Mayor of Windsor will be joining us at the next vestry meeting. She asked vestry members to think of questions regarding Grace to ask the Mayor.
- Dave Stender suggested that we consider opening the Church on May 10<sup>th</sup>. There are many activities taking place on the Green that day and it would be a good time to make Grace more visible. Perhaps we could consider giving tours of the Church that day.

## **8. Closing Prayer**

With no further business before the vestry, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. The motion was seconded and carried. Debbie Hutchinson led the vestry in saying a closing prayer.

JoAnne McLeod, Clerk