

Vestry Meeting Minutes
Grace and Holy Trinity Church
Richmond, Virginia
July 14, 2020

VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

Members Present: Thomas Ewers, Barbara Derry, David Hetherington, Lisa Dawson, Bill Perkins, Rosalie West, Lara Wulff, Glenn Moore, Elaine Quinn, Nancy Trego, Bev Eggleston, Martin Erb, Jodie Pully, Bill Queen (Interim Rector), and David Lewis (non-voting Register)

Members Absent: Todd Pawson, Carl Blackwell, and Kathleen Thomas

Staff Present: Kim Reinholz

Guests: None

Opening Prayer – Lord’s Prayer

At 5:06 PM, Bill Queen called the meeting to order and declared a quorum. The Vestry prayed the Lord’s Prayer in unison.

Amend & Adopt Agenda

After the addition of a Small Groups Team report, after the Senior Warden’s report, a motion to adopt the amended agenda was seconded and unanimously approved.

Adoption of 6/9/2020 Vestry Minutes

A motion to adopt the unamended minutes from the June meeting was seconded and unanimously approved.

Discussion & Adoption of Financial Reports

Discussion of the financial reports concerned income and expense comparisons with last year, the effects of COVID-19 closure, seasonal variation, a line item’s pending removal from future reports, and leadership from the vestry with respect to pledges. Reminders were not mailed at the end of the first quarter but will be mailed at the end of the second.

A motion by Martin Erb to adopt the financial reports as presented was seconded by Rosalie West and unanimously approved by the Vestry.

Discernment Committee Budget

After discussion of the discernment committee’s past and expected expenditures, a motion by Thomas Ewers to pay the discernment committee’s expenses through the bequest fund was seconded by Rosalie West and unanimously approved.

Church Plaque (UDC)

See printed attachments for plaque description and location. Discussion focused on the plaque's history, its proposed future with the United Daughters of the Confederacy, communication with the parish and UDC, the Vestry's authority to remove the plaque, due diligence in finding living relatives and current parish connections, how diocesan COVID-19 guidelines might affect removal work, and next steps with the property committee.

A motion by Bev Eggleston to remove the plaque and donate it to the UDC was seconded by Lara Wulff and approved by unanimous vote of the Vestry.

Children and Youth Report

See Aaron Davis's printed report. Discussion included the agape meal liturgy for families' use, Aaron's recent children's sermons on the sacraments, a time frame for the activities mentioned in the printed report, the upcoming schedule for fall, and the recruitment of volunteers.

Interim Rector's Report

See printed report from Bill Queen.

Bill reported on recent deaths and upcoming marriages and highlighted specific items for consideration with respect to resumption of face-to-face services. Those items included: more detailed measurements of the gathering spaces, one-way doors and hallways, masks and gloves, notices for the symptomatic, the possibility of a reservation system, usher training, and how the worship space might be filled most effectively while adhering to distancing guidelines.

Discussion about resumption of face-to-face worship included disinfecting procedures, communication with parishioners about changes, the need for pastoral conversations with parishioners at elevated risk, live streaming capability, and the practical considerations for offering an online worship option.

The Vestry's intent is to apply to the diocese for resumption of in-person services as soon as conditions and diocesan guidelines allow.

Associate Rector's Report

See the printed report from Kim Reinholz. Additionally, Mo. Kim updated the Vestry on Red Door and reported on VCU's guidelines affecting campus ministry this fall.

Discussion included Red Door grants to community partners identified by the seminarian. The Red Door steering committee will decide which partners receive grants.

Senior Warden's Report

Thomas Ewers reported that the parish profile on the diocesan website will come down tomorrow (15 July) and that the Discernment Committee will be busy reviewing applications afterwards.

The wardens have signed contracts for two spaces in the columbarium.

Small Groups Team Report

Nancy Trego reported that the Small Groups Team met to determine what parish groups are continuing to meet and what additional groups might increase connections amongst parishioners. Suggestions included a youth-organized food drive for Feed More, prayer pods as a continuation of the May prayer project, and a group to deliver comfort food/meals for frontline medical workers or families with children. A men's book group has also been suggested. Nancy asked the Vestry for other ideas.

Upcoming Date

11 August—Vestry Meeting at 5:00 PM, by Zoom conference call.

Vestry member to video summarize

Nancy Trego volunteered to record a video summary of tonight's meeting.

Concluding Prayer

Bill Queen led the Vestry in prayer to conclude the meeting with Max Coots's seasonally appropriate "Vegetable Prayer."

After the concluding prayer, a brief executive session followed, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Lewis, Register