

Grace Episcopal Church
Vestry meeting
September 18, 2019

Present:

Wren Blessing, rector
Tom Tyner, warden
Don Warkentin, lay leadership development
Julie Shryock, development
Judy McKenzie, HR
Deborah Schenk, finance (electronically)
Darin Gemmer, Place for Grace
Chuck Bombardier, at-large
Brian Forbush, at-large
Lynette Baisch, clerk

The meeting began at approximately 7:12 p.m. following evening prayer.

The vestry voted to approve the updated employee handbook, with the understanding that any changes recommended by parish chancellor Chuck Ekberg will be incorporated before the update is finalized.

Judy summarized the annual mutual ministry review meeting and the vestry discussed the importance of facilitating conversations between the rector and the congregation that are focused on our shared life as a community, rather than coming from an assessment-based perspective.

Julie provided an update on the annual giving campaign launched the previous Sunday. The campaign is at 12 percent of goal.

The vestry discussed a construction project that has been proposed on a property in proximity to Grace, and the need to be sensitive in any public comments on that project that may be perceived to be associated with Grace.

The vestry discussed the disposition of a pending large gift. The finance committee recommends that we move the gift onto the balance sheet, and put it in an investment fund in order to generate income until a decision is made about disposition. This defers diocesan assessment of the gift until such time as a decision is made to use the funds for operations. The vestry voted to adopt the finance committee's recommendations.

The vestry discussed the finance committee's recommendation regarding circulation of information about the amendments to the Gift Acceptance Policy and the Policy Regarding the

Disposition of Gifts and Bequests adopted by the vestry in August. The vestry expressed reservations about creating confusion with the pending annual giving campaign, and set a target of mid-October to early November to make an announcement.

Darrin, Brian, and Chuck reviewed the final report of the strategic planning work group, including two options for a rollout strategy to maximize congregational alignment. The vestry discussed resistance to processes that are perceived as “corporate” and the importance of framing discussions from the perspective of where to go as a faith community; the option of seeking ideas for implementation as opposed to critique of the plan; the importance of rolling out the plan in a manner that makes space for negative opinions; the importance of the strategic planning process to making major decisions about allocation of assets; and the importance of opportunities for small group conversations.

Don provided an update on open lay leadership positions, including the need for an interim appointment to fulfill the responsibilities of the Place for Grace trustee in the near future.

The meeting closed at 9:15pm.