

VESTRY MINUTES
Grace and St. John's Episcopal Church
Tuesday, October 15th, 2024 at 7:11 p.m.

NOTE: The meeting was available on Zoom for those unable to attend in person.

Present: Bob Bergner (Rector), Renee Janes (Senior Warden), Susan O'Connell (Junior Warden), Linda Simmons (Treasurer), Kelly Mattox, Nadia Major-Dodd, Cindy Turner, Raymond Panther, Jessica Kott, Kate Aitkenhead, Kim Judenis

Guest: Bill Menosky

Present on Zoom: Linda Rolstone

Excused Absences: Whitney Batson, Jennifer Campbell

Unexcused Absences:

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 pm following an opening prayer led by Fr Bob Bergner.

Agenda:

- The draft agenda was approved. (Kelly & Raymond)

Minutes :

- Minutes of July 16th and Sept 17th, meeting was approved and amended. (Kelly & Raymond)
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Treasurer's Report:

- Balance sheet was reconciled and presented through September.
 - A discussion was made to withdraw \$40,000 to invest in capital.
 - The price of the software used to keep track of pledges has increased by \$100.
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Rector's Report:

- Wedding to occur on upcoming Sunday. Chairs will be rented by the couple and marriage is occurring on Sunday to incorporate the blessing into the liturgy and to give it a community feel.
- Upcoming baptism to occur on Sunday as well.

Committee Reports:

Communications Committee:

- Volunteers are available from a sign company.
- Signs for the side door and front door for what is located on the first floor , upper level and lower level are also completed, they are trying to decide where to place them.
- Holiday cards will not be sent out this year except for those who have drifted away or are shut-in for an attempt to bring them back.
- Signs for the inside and outside of the building are still needed.
- Parish T-shirts will be made using the Campus store in downtown New Haven, the logo placement will be changed.

Worship Committee:

- A discussion on pews vs chairs determined that the options for chairs would include Metal or wooden chairs, Benches, or pews. Quotes were provided by Bill for Chairs, with wooden chairs costing approximately \$10K and metal chairs \$8K. My final decision could not be made so; it was agreed that an additional meeting is needed to discuss this further on Nov 15th at the next meeting.
- A candlelight ceremony will be held for those who have passed.
- Newcomer's welcome will be on Nov 10th.
- Gratitude Tree will be put up.
- Advent Dec 1st
- Stewardship Nov 17th
- There was a discussion to move the chalice to provide more space during the communion.

Dinner for a Dollar and the Food Truck:

- 130 meals were provided at the last event.

Other Business:

Picnic debriefing

- Discussion to move the picnic to an earlier date or to another location to accommodate space.
- Parking was sufficient.

Room usage & Rental fees

- Fact sheet on rental was provided by Bill.

Mural

- Project is on hold with the intention to extend timeline for grant.

Chairs or Pews: Decision making process

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Investment Committee

- The agenda was tabled for the next meeting.

Safe Church Training

- Safe Church training is required of all vestry and members working with seniors who have not had any training within the last 3 years. Renee will be sending an invite to register for the training for those impacted by this. The training is to ensure that participants in church activities are taking the necessary steps to care for the elderly and children etc. Options for the training are Nov 5th, Nov 16th, and Dec 14th.

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Upcoming Mission activities include:

- Black History month
- Stewardship
- Turkey Drive
- Children's gift giving and the Diaper Bank

The next meeting will be on Tuesday November 19th at the church and on Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm (Linda S, Kelly M).

Acronyms used:

G&SP = Grace & St. Peter's
SJE = St. John the Evangelist Church
CGS = Christ the Good Shepherd
SPOTH = St. Peter's on the Hill
ECCT = Episcopal Church in Connecticut
TEC = The Episcopal Church in the US
FTAC = Food Truck Advisory Committee
D4\$ = Dinner for a Dollar
S2P = Swords to Plowshares