

DRAFT VESTRY MINUTES
Grace and St. John's Episcopal Church Tuesday,
December 17th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Guest: Bill Menosky, Kelly Park & John Anderson

Present on Zoom: N/A

Excused Absences:

Unexcused Absences- Whitney Batson, Jennifer Campbell

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm following an opening prayer led by Fr Bob Bergner.

Agenda:

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

Minutes :

- The minutes of November 19th meeting were approved and amended. (Kelly M & Raymond)

Treasurer's Report:

- Balance sheet was reconciled and presented through December.
- Church Budget: Deficit budgeted at \$72,000 currently \$75,000.
- Stewardship: 8 people have not responded as yet (an estimated \$15,000), it is likely that half of them will respond in time. A significant number of people have increased their pledges.

Rector's Report:

- Binder containing minutes for the year is missing and needs to be found.

Committee Reports:

Communications Committee:

- Christmas and Thanksgiving cards were sent to members who have not been seen in a while.

Worship Committee:

- Readers are needed at the Lutheran Church – a sign-up sheet will be placed around the church.
 - Ushers will have offering plate and gifts brought up during the Sunday services.
 - Epiphany will occur on the first Sunday in January
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Dinner for a Dollar and the Food Truck:

- Haven's Harvest will be donating food to D4\$
- Christmas dinner will be served on the Friday after Christmas

Other Business:

- **Annual meeting-** Voting list was presented, and it was discussed whether to remove the Laude's from the list of voting members.
- **Vestry members whose terms are coming to an end:** Cindy, Linda R and Sue decided to remain members and Kate will be ending her term. Whitney's decision is unknown currently.

2025 Picnic

- Discussion about moving the picnic to an earlier date or to another location to accommodate space. Locations mentioned include The Pavillion at Brookvale, Veteran's Memorial Building, Lighthouse Pavillion.

Mural

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

Chairs or Pews: Decision making process.

- The survey results showed that 62% of the members would like to finish the pews, 22% want wooden chairs and 16% metal chairs. A few vestry members considered the cost to be a major factor on the delay in making a final decision on the pews and as a result a final decision could not be made at this time. Other concerns that resulted in the delay is the timeline as well as the need to obtain two additional quotes for pews so to obtain fair pricing. In addition, the pews would need to be relocated at this time and stored at a new location which would lead to additional costs. It was agreed to meet again on January 2nd for a discussion on this topic.
- Bob asked vestry members to raise their concerns and state opinions in an email by 7:00pm on December 18th regarding the pews vs chairs discussion.

Revenue Generating Opportunities

- Sue, Ray, and Kelly M agreed to be part of the committee to help generate funds for the church.
- It was agreed that the rectory should provide a significant source of income for the church, and this area needs to be seriously considered.

Upcoming Mission activities:

Tabled until January.

The next meeting will be on Thursday Jan 2nd at the church to discuss chairs vs pews..

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 pm (Kate, 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