Grace/LaGracia Church

May 22, 2018,

Vestry Meeting Minutes

7:30 PM

Attendance: Joe Gallo, Michael Heffner, Sorraya Sampson Elliott, Irene Alves, Daisy Calderon,

Hillary Fleming, Trisha McGuinness, Karen Odom, Marisol Ortega, Amy Owens,

Rev. Judith Lee, Rev. Adolfo Moronta,

Guests: Michael Fischer, Carlos Munoz, Bill Biles, Ralph Lowe, Bill Winters, Demetrius Alissandrotas, Victor Hugo

Excused: Charlotte Roberson

**Meeting opened with the Holy Eucharist.**

**Regarding the practice of recording meetings:** The Vestry meetings can be recorded since these meetings are open to the public. However, Executive sessions may not be recorded. The Minutes are to reflect the time the board went into and out of executive session.

**Approval of Minutes:**  The Minutes of April 22, 2018 were reviewed and accepted. (Trisha McGuinness moved Michael Heffner Seconded)

**Treasurer’s Report:** Hillary Fleming presented the Treasurer’s Report which was reviewed and accepted. (Moved Michael Heffner Seconded Joe Gallo)

Please see attached report.

**Portfolio Review w/ Finance Committee**

**Guest: Bill Winters, Demetrius Alissandrotas of Thompkins Financials:**

Gave brief history of the Thompkins Financials:

Distributed the annual report for Thompkins Financials, and reported on its recent record earnings.

**Victor Hugo- investment analyst** – reviewed Grace’s accounts (see attached)

Note the yield is a forecasted yield not an actual ytd

Bonds investment policy is conservative investing, concerned about inflation, volatile market

Michael Heffner questioned why they do not invest more of the funds in cash since the market is expected to be more volatile. Investments are heavy on healthcare and utilities. TOTAL value of the investments of both distinctive funds managed by Thompkins is $956,655. The past year the ROI is running at 5.04%.

Bill Winters presented a draft investment policy for the Vestry to review, and adapt as necessary.

Michael Heffner asked about the $300, 00 that is managed by the Diocese. Joe will get back to the vestry for with the answer.

**Discussion: Next steps & priorities for funding for major projects (see attached)**

**We face 3 urgent financial goals: moved Michael Heffner, seconded Joe Gallo**

1. Repairs and maintenance of the Rectory
2. Install the elevator at the church
3. Maintenance and repair of the organ

The Vestry went into executive session from 8:57pm-9:00 pm

**Resolution: Regarding vacant Vestry seat:** The vestry seat vacated by Michael Heffner who assumed Malik Bradford’s vacated junior warden seat will remain vacant until the January 2019 election at which time it will be filled by a vote of the pledged congregants for a 2-year term. Motion to keep the open vestry seat open. Trisha McGuinness moved, Hillary Fleming seconded. (Vote 9 in favor, 1 abstained-motion carried)

**World Café Parish:-Sharing our Stories, Building our Ministries**

The June 24th World Cafe will be cancelled. The next World Café is now scheduled for September 30th .

Tables of 8, each hosted by 1 or 2 Vestry members. Will be built into the Retreats

Each person tells his or her story (5-7 minutes each) answering the following questions:

1. What brought you to Grace? Describe your first Sunday at Grace
2. What do you value most about Grace? Can you describe an experience that illustrates this?
3. What is the most important way to prepare for ministry with your new Rector?
4. What is one thing you are prepared to do for this change?

**Plenary Summary:**

Themes: What brought us to Grace?

Core Values

Preparations for new ministry

**Planning:** September Homecoming Picnic is scheduled for **September 16, 2018** at 12:30pm at Ridge Road Park. Trisha McGuinness will chair the committee. Amy will assist. Grace/LaGracia will have joint bilingual service that day. Trisha will present a plan.

**Protocol for 2018 appointments to the LUW Board approved by the Vestry:** Grace Church Rector, Senior Warden, and Junior will have the right of first refusal on the LUW Board. Should any of the three choose not to serve the seat would be opened to be filled by Grace Church Vestry members. Should members of the Vestry be unwilling or unable to serve the slots would then be opened to members of the Grace Church parish. Interested parishioners will be vetted and informed of the requirements and commitments of the LUW board prior to the Vestry recommending them to serve on the LUW board. (Michael Heffner moved, Trisha McGuinness seconded.)

The language will be included in Grace/La Gracia’s Bylaws when it is revised.

A plan for selecting and interviewing candidates will be discussed at the June meeting.

**Senior Warden’s Report:** (please see attached)

**Summer BBQs**

Memorial Day – Michael Heffner & Walter Simon

Fourth of July – O’Hanlon Family

Labor Day – Bradford Family

**Vestry Reports:**

**Music:** Karen Odom from April 2018 (please see attached). The music program is managing its funds more judiciously; the flexibility of the Director is working to keep cost down. The St. Nicholas choir remains challenging to get a core group of children to participate. Michael recommended Mrs. Kumar as a coordinator of the group. Karen will reach out to her to request her assistance.

Resolution: The vestry committed to having 2 musical fundraising events in the Fall-June. Joe moved, Michael seconded

**Advocacy:** Sorraya Sampson Elliott & Michael Heffner

Add voter registration the week of September 25, 2018

Asset building workshops for both congregations in the Fall of 2018

**Interim Pastor’s Report (please see attached report)**

Preparing for June 10th: Recognition of Graduates & Sunday School Teachers

Summer Worship Schedule

Review: First Saturdays at Grace

Vacation Time: July 9-20;

Adult Education: *Journey through Acts* during Eastertide

Bishop’s Visitation: October 28, 2018: Preparations for Confirmation & Reception

**Associate Priest’s Report (please see report attached)**

Grace Church Retreat: September 7-8

La Gracia Retreat: October 5-6

Fr. Moronta presented a sample of a tee shirt that will be used as fundraiser for LaGracia’s after-service lunch.

Michael informed the committee that Fr. Moronta penned an article will be in the *Episcopal Angelus*. It is the first time in many years that Grace had an article in the *Episcopal Angelus*.

**For the Good of the Church:**  What are we doing well, and what could we be doing better?

Marisol will be convening a meeting of the Sunday school teachers for Grace/La Gracia to discuss issues.

Determine a plan to greet parishioners as they exist after church service; for now we will see if the member who are at the service will greet.

Irene will be in charge of gathering the contact information for new people coming to Grace and reach out to them.

The Vestry voted to obtain a service contract for the second copier machine at a rate of $218.00 per month.

(Joe Gallo moved, Karen Oden seconded)

**Adjournment**

**Closing Prayer**

**Reminder:**

June 2018 Meeting Minutes- Trisha McGuiness

**2018 Schedule of Vestry Reports**

**March (April 3rd):** Pastoral Care, La Gracia, Welcoming

**April:** Building & Grounds, Youth & Family Ministries, Music

**May:** Finance, Advocacy

**June:** Stewardship, Communications, Worship, Welcoming, Youth & Family Ministries; B & G: Security

**Summer:** Budget discussion; planning fall parish picnic

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**September:** Finance, Youth & Family Ministries, Communications, B & G, La Gracia

**October:** Stewardship, Pastoral Care, Music, Advocacy

**November:** Welcoming, Worship

**December:** Nominating, Finance, Communications, Stewardship