

Grace Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2018
12:05 PM

Attendance: The Rev. Judith Lee, Joe Gallo, Sorraya Sampson Elliott, Marisol Ortega, Trisha McGuinness, Daisy Calderon, Hillary Fleming, Irene Alves, Karen Odom, Charlotte Roberson

Excused: Michael Heffner, Amy Owens, The Rev. Adolfo Moronta

Mother Judith opened the meeting with a prayer

Report: Donna Louis, Youth Ministry Coordinator

Donna spoke to the Vestry about the challenges that she faces as the Youth Ministry Coordinator. The problems she is experiencing include:

- Other groups storing items into the parlor where J2A meets
- Children getting to their classes late and irregular attendance
- A TV stationed in the wrong classroom
- The classrooms being locked when the teachers arrive
- Snacks disappearing
- Sharing of supplies with LaGracia
- Language difficulties in trying to communicate with the head of LaGracia's Sunday School.
- The need for additional teachers

Several suggestion were offered by Mother Judith, Joe, Hillary, Daisy and other Vestry members:

- Taurino will be asked to open the classroom doors and closets prior to the arrival of the teachers. The Vestry will look into the feasibility of moving the TV to the room that LaGracia uses.

- The problem of the disappearing snacks was not resolved.

Mother Judith stated that there is one Sunday School for Grace/LaGracia. There is one budget for both groups. It was suggested that communication is the key to resolving many of the problems. Father Moronta will be asked to assist in the coordination of Grace and LaGracia Sunday Schools. Mother Judith clarified the roles of Amy and Marisol: Marisol is the liaison from the Vestry to the Sunday School; Amy is the liaison for FX3 and Talk To Teens. Donna and Lauren must communicate with Amy and Marisol to find a way to get the teens from the two Sunday Schools to work together. Donna agreed to cc all emails to Amy, Marisol, Lauren, the teachers and Father Moronta.

The Vestry will give assistance to Donna by using social media to explain the importance of Sunday School to the parents. The Vestry will also help by talking to parents and other parishioners about the importance of Sunday School and the need for more teachers.

Donna suggested that the Vestry members come upstairs to the Sunday School and experience the problems and concerns first hand.

Donna praised her dedicated teachers. She is committed to leading Grace's Sunday School for one more year. After that she will decide whether to continue in this role. If she decides not to continue in this role she will notify the Vestry and help train a replacement person. Donna was thanked by the Vestry for her dedicated service and commitment to the Children.

Approval of the minutes March meeting: April 3, 2018

April 3, 2018 minutes were approved with a correction to the Interim Pastor's report. May 5th 5pm will be the last of the Saturday services at Grace (unless a budget decision is made) for this program year. They will begin again in October. Grace Church will participate in the Diocesan Sacred Sites Project on Saturday May 5 from 1-4 PM. (these are two separate events.)

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report was accepted as submitted. Charlotte moved and Joe seconded.

Joe explained that the money raised from the concert for the organ repair will be put into a savings account and be used only for that purpose. The same will apply to funds raised for the stained glass windows.

Mother Judith spoke on the need to educate the parish on stewardship. She suggested that each one must think about "To what degree are we holding back on our pledges and why?" Also, "How do we build trust?" Irene felt that Hillary's ongoing reports to the parish has opened the eyes of many parishioners and that they are on their way to supporting Grace/LaGracia Church financially. Mother Judith commended Hillary on her financial reports.

Senior Warden's Report:

1. Joe motioned and Trisha seconded the change in the LUW By-Laws concerning LUW as discussed in the April 3rd Vestry meeting. The motion passed.

The motion states:

Grace Church (White Plains) is entitled to three (3) seats on the Board of Directors of Lifting Up Westchester (LUW). The persons occupying those seats will have the same responsibilities as all other Directors on the LUW Board. The Vestry of Grace Church is required to nominate the three (3) people to serve on the LUW Board. The Rector and two (2) Wardens will be given the first option to accept the

nomination to serve on the Board, Should anyone of them choose not to serve on the LUW Board, the Vestry shall nominate and appoint any other person or persons the Vestry deems qualified and capable of serving in such position.

2. Because of the change in the By-Laws the Vestry needs to establish a procedure for selecting and appointing three (3) members to the LUW Board. Sorraya will prepare information for the May Vestry meeting.
3. Google Drive for Vestry Reports:
Discussion postponed until next Vestry meeting.
4. Buildings and Grounds
 - Joe stated that Walter and Michael's presentation to the congregation on 4/15/18 was excellent.
 - Irene stated that the images were taken in 2016 so the number of repairs is even greater now.
 - Joe stated that we have three (3) assets: the organ, the rectory and the church. Delays in repairs are due to lack of funds. Joe explained that we could withdraw more from our endowment, sell or mortgage the rectory. Joe suggested that we take a loan rather than withdraw money or sell the rectory. We are making repairs on the rectory. Joe reminded the Vestry that Walter now has several subcommittees on his Buildings and Grounds committee and this should help to speed up the work. We are also waiting to hear about the funds from the Bedell Foundation.
5. Joe informed the Vestry that Brinda has stated that too many people are walking through the sacristy. Irene was asked to check on this matter.
6. Unfinished Business
 - Sorraya reminded Joe that we need to know the amount of the diocesan assessment. Also we need a decision on whether the LUW logo should be on the Grace Church bulletin.

Interim Pastor's Report

1. Review of the World Café Proposals:
 - a) We are moving forward on more integration of congregations/bilingual services. Joe raised a question about a separate Bar-B-Q planned for LaGracia. Daisy explained that this event was a small affair at the home of one of LaGracia's parishioners (not a church event). More discussion with Father Moronta is needed.
 - b) Two retreats are presently planned: One for Grace in September led by Father Moronta in English. LaGracia is holding a separate retreat in October. The last La Gracia retreat in Spanish was very spiritual and was well attended. The question is whether there should be two separate retreats. Daisy suggested that many of the people in LaGracia have limited English and would not benefit

from a Grace Retreat (translated into Spanish). Joe suggested that we table this discussion until May when Father Moronta will be present. Irene spoke about the Diocesan retreat on April 21st. She stated that it was bilingual and well received.

- c) Mother Judith stated that she felt that Grace and LaGracia are improving in its communication. Hillary's reports are an example of regular communication. Our meets and greets should be increased. Joe states that he has been approached by parishioners who feel that communication is increasing.

- d) We scheduled two additional World Cafés on June 24th and September 30th to continue our discussions.

- e) Socialization

We will have a Bar-B Q in September for Grace/LaGracia.

Other activities will be planned.

More social media advances (Snap Chat with Elizabeth, new stewardship statement on the web, article in Angelus explaining our social media outlets)

Cynthia S. Brown and Father Moronta are posting on Facebook

- 2. Mother Judith officiated at a funeral at another church and will begin celebrating noon Eucharist on the first Friday of each month at the Cathedral
- 3. Mother Judith is researching platforms for on line Bible study. She reminded us to be careful using the available apps as some of them are sponsored by groups with entirely different views from ours.

We are moving forward with our stewardship reporting (Hillary's reports).

- 4. There will be a weekly Eucharist in Spanish at 7:30PM beginning the first Thursday in May.

Sorraya will plan events on financial planning/wealth building and voting

May 6th Anahaita Kotval of LUW will speak at each service. She is willing to meet with the vestry on May 6th, but we agreed that this would not be necessary. She would like to have members of the parish visit Samaritan House.

Judith and Anahaita are also trying to establish more formal guidelines for LUW staff and Grace Church parishioners/staff following an incident involving an elderly Grace Church parishioner and a staff member of LUW. Monitoring rules must be established. Support to the parishioner has been provided.

Mother Judith and Anahaita are working together to develop a model for how the next Rector can partner with LUW if he/she decides not to be on the LUW Board. As part of their discussion. They may establish a program with the women of Samaritan House and has also volunteered to be on one of the LUW committees.

Executive Session 1:50-2:15PM

The meeting adjourned at 2:15PM

Closing Prayer

May Committee Reports: Finance, Advocacy