

Grace in the Desert Episcopal Church  
Vestry Summary Wednesday, May 17, 2023, 7pm

**Present:** David Griego, Treasurer; Tom Morlan, esq; Sue Pickell, Sr. Warden; Susan Cooper, Jr. Warden; Myra Love, Denise Kubajak, Barbara Ryhter; Charlotte Hopson; Steven Goforth

**Excused:** Carroll Senn

**Call to Order and Opening Prayer**

Sue Pickell, called the meeting to order at 7:01pm with an opening prayer

**Parishioners' Comments**

- **Attendees:** Patricia Holbrook Seay, Fr. Jim Cook, Barbara Preas, Tom Llewellyn, Kathy Klein; Angela Anderson
- Kathy Klein – Petition to consider making the healing service available for those who need a main service . some people who are reluctant to come back are watching 10:30 service on zoom. The church needs to reach out and look at who isn't in the pew. Need area for quiet and contemplation. Raised questions about reducing hospitality while catching up with parish hall and kitchen projects. –What are those projects? Contact with former clergy – clarification. Answered that the ceiling was lifted on April 11, 2023. Apologized for not having better interaction at church.
- Patricia Holbrook Seay: Thanked the Vestry and Finance committee for separating the outreach money each ministry: this helps her know what is available for Family Promise
- Tom Llewellyn: Came in support of NCG proposal and to thank the vestry for dues payment for NCG.

**Minutes of April I 2023 Minutes with name spelling correction**

**Treasurer/Financial Report was accepted as presented and is available in the file next to the Vestry Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall**

- Good news: budget is ahead of projection. Much came from cleaning up the bookkeeping.
- Some good news for the vestry and church membership; as of right now over budget
  - 28k at 33,590 through April
  - In part, due to the fact that we had an early Easter and five Sundays in April
  - Collecting more in the plate
  - That entire weekend was well attended
- Jan – April \$113, \$134, 20k over budget
  - \$5k parishioner, \$15k to the plus today
  - Paid last year and pre-paid this year.
- Salaries have been reduced, so there is a bit more discretionary money as we move toward resolving our clergy issues during this transition.
- Summertime, anticipate a drop in plate collections and, increases in utilities, air condition and water.
- Giving is up more than anticipated.

## **Ministry Reports requiring no action: available from members of the Vestry**

Sent to the Vestry and required no action.

### **Reports requiring action:**

- Center Cut proposals in the absent of Carroll Senn we presented by Denise Kubajak, one for spider mite treatment the other for trimming behind the glass behind the
  - Denise: Two proposals on the stack; spider mite treatments \$550 charged against the labyrinth fund. Approved
  - Second Cypress tree trimming \$1117. Grace paid for half and a parishioner donated half.  
Approved

#### Discussion

- Cypress behind the altar to be trimmed to allow for more light
- Landscape allowed in the budget
- This is in addition to the contract with Centercut.
- We haven't sprayed for spider mites in awhile, the courtyard trimming was formerly done by someone climbing up by ladder on the outside, placing another ladder on the inside and climbing over the wall. This has been ruled unsafe.

### **Old Business**

- Last month we tabled this: BOTH WERE APPROVED
  - Patricia Holbrook Seay volunteered to see eucharistic lay visitors and helping hands we just need approval from the vestry.

Motion to have Seay take the leadership role for Caring Hands and the Lay Eucharistic Visitors.

Discussion: Cooper, Will the clergy be notified of the need for a hospital visit?

Anderson: Do not need to know beforehand; needs to be reported for monthly reports and the red book. Do we need to call beforehand? Cooper. The office should be notified of any new person homebound or hospitalized.

### **New Business**

- **Action regarding supply clergy stipend**
  1. Pickell: Spoke with the finance committee, talked with the Bishop to see what the expected amount of compensation should be: Answer: \$100-150 per service, or \$500 per month. Believe that we should provide \$150 per service, even for those at GITD who provide this service.

APPROVED

#### **2. Refund of columbarium funds**

The response to the Columbarium fund, did not meet expectations and it is unacceptable to hold those funds for the few who did respond.

APPROVED

Discussion:

- **NCG request**

The core team is asking for the vestry to approve holding their NCG orientation mtg at Grace. Date to be announced,

- Jr. Warden Report

- Attended the Southern Mission District meeting on May 13The Crism mass was held, and oils distributed to the attending parishes.
  - Bishop Elizabeth asked that all present make sure that everyone in their parishes who are supposed to be licensed are licensed.
- 2 The leak reported on May 14, as a broken pipe, was resolved by Lange plumbing. No broken pipe. Water resulted from melting ice for Mother's Day flowers. Will use a cooler the next time.
  - 3 Roaches found. In Parish Hall supply closet, in women's bathroom and in the front office. Immediate action was to spray the supply closet and the women's room. A call has been placed to our contractor for indoor treatment in the Parish Hall.
  - 4 .**ACTION ITEM**: Moved to adjourn the Meeting at 7:30am