

Grace Church
Annual Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2015

Grace Church Council Chairman, Jeff Deardorff, called the Annual Meeting to order at 10:14 a.m. There were 62 Grace Church parishioners present. Also present were Rev. Don Cummings, Rev. Catherine Tran and Rev. Margaret Gillikin, United Methodist Sunshine District Superintendent. All Council member nominees were present with the exception of Judy Edmands and Bob Yinger.

One packet of information containing the Voting Materials was distributed to each parishioner. Prior to the Annual Meeting, the Voting Materials, in addition to the Ministry Reports, were posted on the church's website *gracechurchbvco.org* and all parishioners were notified of the postings.

Opening Prayer:

- Rev. Cummings gave the opening prayer.

Introductions:

- Jeff gave the introduction of Rev. Margaret Gillikin, noting that she wrote an article for Upper Room for October.

Approval of Minutes from Annual Meeting of January 18, 2015:

Motion to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2015 Annual Meeting was made by Ray Stwalley and seconded by Judy Epperson. Motion carried unanimously.

Clergy Reports:

- Rev. Tran mentioned that a lot of work had been done with the liturgy and the acolytes. The engagement of the members was very nice to see. She desired folks in the Ladies' Sewing Group to perhaps provide some new liturgical furnishings. She thanked folks for a good year.

- Rev. Cummings discussed the growth of the church and the loss of several families from the church, many of which were long-time leaders. He commended the congregation for their spirit and the gratefulness of new folks stepping up and leading our congregation. He discussed the need for some time away, perhaps starting in January, with our new Council members, to assist with a smooth transition.

Presentation of Church Administrator Position Description:

- Rev. Cummings discussed the need for this position as a “go-to” person. He proposed to the Staff Parish Relations Committee to expand Annette Dickinson’s position to Church Administrator. He referred to the position description included in the Voting Materials. Rev. Cummings discussed the role of laity in the leadership of the church. He sees this position as a “coordinator” not a “controller.”

Council and Committee Oral Reports:

- Jeff mentioned his Council Chairman’s report and the fact that we have an extremely talented Council. He thanked the Council membership for the lively, extended debate on several issues that were discussed. He thanked Margaret Butler, his “chief advisor,” for her guidance. He noted that not all of the traditions of the church are written down.
- He complimented Annette on her volunteerism and believes things will run much more smoothly with her in the Church Administrator position.
- Peggy Finkowski mentioned to the congregation that hard copies of the ministry reports were available in the Parish Hall for those without computer access.
- Ray Stwalley mentioned the men’s study group report that’s missing from the ministry reports.
- Bonnie Young thanked everyone for all the participation in the activities in the church.
- Tom Clark mentioned the members of the Outreach Committee, being himself, Carole Wimmer and Brenda Nesbit and asked for additional volunteers for this Committee.
- Celso Harper discussed the Memorial Garden of Grace and that we have hired Gabi Lane to work on the Garden. He indicated Bob Freed is in charge of our Columbarium. Any questions regarding the Garden can be addressed to Celso.

- Jeff complimented Celso on taking over as Chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Comments from Rev. Margaret Gillikin:

- Rev. Gillikin discussed the change in Annual Meeting time from January to October and thanked us for the change as it assists her with her own responsibility.
- She discussed the management of administrative responsibility within the church.
- She mentioned the addition of churches along the I-70 corridor to the Sunshine District and the need for a new district name, “The Trinity District,” to welcome the new churches.
- The Rocky Mountain Conference and the Yellowstone Conference are in a conversation about merging as well. The latter does not have enough people to serve the duties of its Conference.
- All of this is a reflection of membership and the realities of how we do our work.
- Circuits are being used to do regional business of the church. We are trying to make it more manageable.
- Rev. Gillikin discussed the membership report roll-forward: Members at the beginning of the year, additions, subtractions, Members at the end of the year. Per Rev. Gillikin, all counts can be added together; we no longer need to separate the counts between Methodist and Episcopal. Rev. Cummings mentioned that this roll-forward will be provided at the end of the year when due by the Rocky Mountain Conference.
- Rev. Gillikin also noted the requirement to approve our pastors’ compensation. Rev. Cummings mentioned that the pastors’ compensation has not changed over the prior year and is included in our budget. When we approve the proposed budget, the pastors’ compensation will be effectively approved as well.

Presentation of Financial Summaries as of September 30, 2015:

- Annette discussed the highlighted line items of the statements and the changes between the 2015 budget and where we are as of September 30, 2015.

Proposed 2016 Operating Budget:

- Annette discussed the highlighted line items of the proposed 2016 Operating Budget and the reasons for the significant changes.
- Rev. Cummings discussed the year-to-date results vs. the annual budget. We will validate the proposed 2016 operating budget once the stewardship campaign is complete. He indicated that this proposed budget is our statement of faith of what Grace Church needs to do next year. He requested that everyone's commitment should be answered prayerfully.
- The total pledges will be reported back to the Council and the congregation.
- Keith Baker asked if the shift to October would be permanent. Rev. Cummings affirmed this permanent change, but that this doesn't change our fiscal year.
- Keith Baker asked if the congregation would vote on the revised budget in January. Rev. Cummings mentioned that we could have the congregation approve or authority could be delegated to the Council, depending on the faith gap, if any.
- Rev. Tran discussed the Episcopal way to assist in providing some clarification between the two polities. She indicated that typically the Annual Meeting is held in January and no one from the diocese is usually invited to the Annual Meeting. Episcopal churches don't take congregational votes on anything; normally, the Vestry would make that decision. The Council acts as our Vestry. Having the Council approve our revised budget would be very normal for Episcopalians.
- Jeff mentioned that we're not straying too far from a sound budgeting process.
- Rob Wimmer asked whether or not a Stewardship campaign could precede the budgeting process as it has in past years. Rev. Cummings mentioned that most churches maintain a fall schedule for Stewardship. He mentioned the concern about having the campaign too far from the beginning of the year.

Motion to accept the proposed 2016 operating budget was made by Ray Stwalley with the codicil that the Council will review, make modifications and report back as necessary. Carol Slater seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Election of Council Members:

- The floor was opened to any further nominees to the Council. Jeff mentioned the current nominees, their affiliation and their terms.
- Peter Lee asked if all individuals had accepted their nominations, to which Jeff replied “yes.”

Motion to cease nominations and approve the names of those presented by acclamation was made by Keith Baker and seconded by Ray Stwalley. Motion carried unanimously.

Benediction:

- Rev. Tran gave the benediction.

There being no further business, the motion to adjourn the Annual Meeting was made by Judy Epperson and seconded by Martha Bauman.

The Annual Meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annette Dickinson, Council Secretary