

Grace in the Desert Episcopal Church – Vestry Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2026, 6:30 pm

Vestry Member Attendance: Father Tim True, Alison Marks, Mimi Grant, Denise Kubajak, Jan McDermott, Barbara Ryhter, Johnny Wilson, Jr., Maxwell Stalians, Patricia Holbrook-Seay, David Griego (Treasurer), and Sara Nix (Clerk)

Other Guest: Cheryl Bruni, Mamie, and Joy Stalians

- Opening Prayer by The Rev. Tim True
- Call to Order, 6:40 pm
- Approval of. Consent Agenda and Vestry Meeting Minutes, minus financials. Motion by Barbara Ryhter, second by Jan McDermott. Correction of the spelling of Barbara's name in the agenda. Motion carries unanimously.

Informational Items

- Rector's Report
 - 6 baptisms planned for Easter!
- ADA Labyrinth Proposal – Cheryl Bruni
 - Rationale: An architect has helped design a plan to fit in space on the blacktop. Members of the labyrinth committee have been wanting this for 10 years to make sure that all have access to the labyrinth. Unsolicited donations in excess of \$8,200 have been received and are sufficient to cover the entire expense. Many people come to Grace just for the labyrinth. It can wait until the blacktop has been redone but the committee does not want to wait indefinitely. Cheryl believes they should have sufficient funds to paint it twice if necessary due to the timeline to resurface the blacktop.
 - Discussion: Mimi asked about a source for the ADA rules. It was noted that the architect should be able to provide those and ensure compliance.
- Garden & Facilities Maintenance: A request was made for \$1,193 to repair the irrigation system, replacing a valve and two bubblers to stop flooding in the garden. Motion to allocate the funds was made by Johnny Wilson, Jr, second by Jan McDermott. No discussion. Motion carries unanimously.

Old Business

- Treasurer Update:

- The current balance report is \$12,000 down on cash position from last month due to increased expenses. YTD income down \$1,366 from estimated. Not a time to panic, but a time to plan carefully and be frugal.
- Planned methods to increase income include the following:
 - Reinvigorating the Giving Tree Plaque to encourage charitable donations.
 - Advertising trees in the gardens for people to possibly pre-purchase/reserve as memorial trees for loved ones.
 - Kroger's Community Rewards program is up and running but few people have designated Grace as their recipient. We should educate and encourage participation.
 - Designated giving envelopes for the Easter Season.
- Signatures needed on Parochial Report: Treasurer and clerk signed. Electronic copy already submitted to the dioceses.
- Audit Committee: Alison Marks (vestry rep), Burt, Kent Munson (possible recruit)
- Safeguarding: Anyone who is not up to date on their training should have gotten an email. Barbara and Maxwell have not received an email, so Denise will follow-up with Holly Azevedo in the diocesan office to ensure they get information about what is needed.
- Christ Church Las Vegas (CCLV) Update: Johnny says it is going very well. Tim has been in weekly contact with the pastor. They needed storage and a space was found in the pantry.
- Goforth signage: Denise is working with them and things are moving forward.

New Business

- Deanery Day Summerlin: 11 congregations (Bullhead City, Pahrump and 9 congregations in the greater Las Vegas area) will be invited to Grace for the spring session with a picnic type atmosphere with bouncehouse and activities for families. Both indoor and outdoor labyrinths will be in use for the day. Bishop Elizabeth will be here and we will host. The goal is to meet twice a year (May & August) to have business and lots of fellowship. Johnny is lead on the planning. Tentative schedule:
 - 9 am: optional morning prayer
 - 10 am -12: labyrinth & other activities
 - 12-1:20/2 pm: lunch
 - 1:30/2- 2:30 pm: Bishop's Update
 - 4 pm: all invited to regular service with confirmations
- Parking Lot: Discussion: Tim and others believe this is immediate priority over labyrinth. Currently seeking bids for options. Mimi suggested we consider doing patch fix on low traffic areas and full resurface on higher traffic areas.

- Financial Policies (in handout packet) – Denise
 - Prior approval with price quote required for proposal of new purchases.
 - Requests over \$1,000 should be made 60 days out so that vestry has time to review at regular meetings.
 - Requests ranging from \$500-\$999 can be approved by priest, JrW and SrW
 - Emergencies (less than 60 days): email approval from vestry members or emergency vestry zoom meeting.
 - Discussion: Alison wants to know whether we have a specific format template for how other policies (non financial) should be drafted to ensure uniformity. Denise believes that is a great suggestion and she will work on developing that.
 - Reimbursement Form should be turned in as a hard copy with original receipts/estimates. After-the-fact reimbursements are “subject to review” and require proper documentation.
- Printer Update – Denise
 - Current printer lease and maintenance plan is \$800 per month. The copier is not working well and the staff is wasting a lot of time on error codes and problems.
 - New printer lease with Wi-Fi adapter and maintenance plan \$767 per month. Moving forward and anticipating cost savings and better service.
- Proposed change in Vestry meeting schedule for April – change from April 8 to April 15. Motion from Maxwell, second by Johnny. No discussion. Motion passes unanimously.
- Other News: Karmen La’Shaun Miller was not able to attend this meeting due to her mother’s illness. Prayers for Karmen, as well as Jan and Pat who have had health struggles.
- Calendar
 - 3/29: Palm Sunday
 - 3/30-4/4: Holy Week (all regular meetings through week + 7 PM services on Thursday and Friday)
 - 4/4: Great Vigil with Baptisms at 7 pm, followed by social at 8 pm
 - 4/5: Easter Services at regular times, 8 am and 10:30 am. Easter Egg Hunt & potluck after 10:30 am meeting.
 - 4/8: Executive Meeting (Rector and Wardens, to set agenda)
 - 4/15: Vestry Meeting
 - 5/2: Deanery Day Summerlin & World Labyrinth Day
 - 5/2-3: Bishop’s Visit with Confirmations
- Good of the Order/For the Common Good

- Barbara Ryhter: We need to put July 4 breakfast on the agenda for an upcoming meeting.
 - Father Tim is working out details for the postulant to join Grace.
- Closing Prayer by Father Tim
- Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm