

Grace Vestry Meeting Minutes

December 18, 2025

In Attendance

In attendance: Pastor Steve, Bill Siewert, Ernie Simon, Sharon Potter, Lucy Smith, Don S., Mike Oakley, Dash Heath, Mike Zubas. Guest: Gary Kiernan and Gary (?) treasurer. Opening prayer by Pastor Steve 6:31 pm.

I. Approvals

- A. November minutes approved.
- B. Gary Kiernan reviewed November financials. Treasurers report approved.
- C. Housing allowance resolution.

II. Ongoing and New Business

- A. Grace Church received an estate donation (1st of 2 installments) from a Mr. Gustaf. Vestry motioned and approved putting 1st installment in a CD (certificate of deposit). Vestry expressed in learning more about the donor Mr. Gustaf. Donor's estate trustee, Mr. Winkle, will be invited to attend next vestry meeting to share information about the donor.
- B. Gary K presented a budget for 2026. Vestry discussed and approved the budget.
- C. Rectory rental and modifications.
 - 1) Update on work in progress. All electrical / lighting projects have been completed. Fire marshal:
 - 2) A/C. Building & grounds team review a/c wall options, and size needed for both floors of rectory.
- D. Ongoing and completed B & G projects.
 - 1) Sonitrol will replace smoke detector alarm in the rectory building. (Waiting on parts)
 - 2) B&G Stripped and polished the floor in Merrifield hall
- E. Housing Allowance Resolution. Pastor Steve's compensation is exclusively for ministry services. Grace church does not provide reverend Steve with a residence, instead he maintains/furnishes his own home. A resolution was presented for \$25K of total compensation paid to pastor Steve shall be designated as a parsonage (residence) allowance, as per section 107 of the IRS code of 1986 as amended. Vestry approved motion of \$25K housing allowance, effective for year 2026.
- F. Warming center participation operated by Macomb Co. Winter Shelter (non-profit organization). The shelter organization is asking for 6 Grace member volunteers on January 7,8,9, (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday), to transport, to another church. Volunteers would also check-in people being fed and serve the food. Kirsten and Ann F will provide the prepare foods for this ministry.

- G. Proposed by-law change from 9 to 7 vestry members. Dash will provide a bi-laws statement to change the amount of required vestry members.
- H. Vestry candidates for 2026. People of interest: Brook or Scott Lau, Margaret Morgan.
- I. Some church members, leasing agent and future tenant have voiced their concern with issue of allowing people stay/sleep on Grace church's property. At this time vestry is gathering information to determine best course of action on how to resolve the issue. A suggestion was made to investigate whether the city has a loitering ordinance that can aid / enforce loitering on business property. Don S., will contact Macomb sheriff's department for their input.
- J. Sexton-custodian search is still in progress.

UPDATES

- A. Sharon contacted the Chronicle newspaper, and Brooke Lau already has an account.
- B. Google Search. Waiting on Mike Z. to look at other areas of the church to use for updating church's Google search page.

Prayer and Adjournment

Lord's prayer was led by Pastor Steve. Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 pm.
Respectfully submitted, Linda Siewert ☺