



Grace Episcopal Church Worship Committee Minutes

14 February 2021

Present	
Committee Member	
Stephanie Batterman	X
Jackie Berry	
Greg Caron	X
Mary Caron	X
Glenis Elliott	X
Ed Greene	X
Frank Jacob	X
Pam Mott	X
Will Neilson	X
Diane Paterson	X
Liz Prest	
Sharon Steele	X
Frank Strasburger	
Mary Swain	X
Cindy Young	X

The meeting followed the Sunday Diocesan Eucharist on Zoom. Frank Jacob opened with a prayer.

Special Services

- **Ash Wednesday (17 Feb) – 10:00 am service replacing our Wed service.**
 - Ed Greene will preside using the prayer book liturgy. We will not do Ashes to Go this year due to pandemic. Information has been published to the congregation.
 - Ed will send the final draft of the program on Monday.
- **Lent**
 - Sundays in Lent were discussed. Each service will begin with a virtual choir singing “Take, O Take me as I Am” and the Offertory will be a Taize chant. The Psalm will be a plainsong chant by the Cantors. Pam will be leading a forum or discussion after each service, focusing on loss, and leading us to the resurrection.
- **Holy Week**
 - Palm Sunday. Our Cantors will sing the Passion again this year from the Gospel of Mark.
 - Maundy Thursday. Stephanie will preach; Ed will officiate. Diane has suggested a Taize chant, “Stay with Me”. Will be held at 7 pm.
 - Good Friday. Stephanie has developed a program for the Stations of the Cross, which will be at 12 noon. Good Friday Liturgy will be offered at 7 pm, with the Passion from the Gospel of John.
 - Easter Vigil. We will attend the Diocesan service at 7 pm.
 - Easter will be a joyous service, officiated by Ed Greene, music planned by Mary Caron, and will be held at 10:15 am.



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Continuing Services

- **Wednesday Morning Prayer** is continuing at 10:00 am, with Ed Greene doing an abbreviated Morning Prayer followed by informal discussions on the day's readings. This service has been well-received with 12 – 15 attending each week.
- **Sunday Services**
 - Will continue at 10:15 am on Zoom.
 - Priests will continue to try new ways to conduct the service.
 - All services and service bulletins can be found on our website.
<https://gracebath.org/worship/worship-services/>
- **Diocesan Services.** We will continue to share the service with the congregation, even though attendance is not as high as other services. It also gives our Supply Priests a well-deserved week off.

Music

- All going well. Each Cantor has the option of using organ music accompaniment if they have the capability. The cantors are very much appreciated. There will be no service music during Lent.

Technology

- Sharon reported that we are still pursuing options to be able to:
 - Live stream with ability for congregants to participate from home
 - Use audio and video through our current system, if possible
 - Have broad band internet in the sanctuary, which has been approved by the Vestry.
- We have one quote for a software and two digital cameras. It will provide live streamed output, internal recording, and many controls within the software that can even be run remotely. This is for \$8,474.70. However, if we want parishioner participation, will need to use Zoom also.
- We are also working Headlight Audio Visual in Portland to obtain another bid for live-streaming in addition to zoom.

Service Schedule

The schedule currently goes through February. <https://gracebath.org/worship/worship-leader-schedule/>. We do have priests scheduled through 2 May. Will prepare service leader schedule soon.

Return to church

- Sharon reported that the Governor has updated her guidelines for worship: 5 people per 1000 sq ft of space in the Sanctuary, which would be about 18 people for Grace. However, we will follow our Bishop's guidance, which has not changed at this time.
- With the possibility of live-streaming, it may be possible to go back to church, at least for the Altar party. We will need to discuss how best to do that, as the future becomes clearer.



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Types of Services

- Discussion regarding services going forward, especially regarding those who are not attending during the pandemic. There are multiple issues that will need to be resolved:
 - One service vs two
 - Rite I vs Rite II
 - Time of Service
 - Music or not
 - Lack of technology
 - “Cracks” in the congregation before the pandemic
- Suggestion was made to perhaps have the Pastoral Care Committee call parishioners to obtain their thoughts on the way forward, especially those who do not currently attend. Maybe those with technology issues could be paired with someone who can attend.
- Pam suggested that we might consider gathering info in groups of four, then bringing those discussions to the larger congregation. She asserted that whatever the decision, it would not be liked by everyone, but it would be the best for the congregation. We should focus on building a fresh start.

Attendance

- Wednesday services continue with an average attendance of 12 -15 per week.
- Sunday Services

Sunday Worship Service (all home Zooms)	Date	Approximate # of Congregants
Third Sunday after Epiphany and Annual Meeting	24 Jan 21	61
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	31 Jan 21	49
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	7 Feb 21	56
Last Sunday after Epiphany (Diocesan Service)	14 Feb 21	40

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be 14 March following the Sunday worship (Diocesan service) – will use same Zoom as Sunday worship.

- <https://zoom.us/j/5772630207>, (Password: 798671)
- OR call 646-876-9923 with ID: 577-263-0207

The Rev Pam Mott closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Steele, Chair