



Grace Episcopal Church Worship Committee Minutes

9 May 2021

Committee Member	Present
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 Service. The Rev Ed Greene opened with a prayer.

Upcoming Services

- **Pentecost (23 May)**

Discussion resulted in decision to have many voices in different languages for the first few minutes, then the Lector to continue with the reading in English with others muted. Ed will provide the reading to all:

- Ed Greene
- Will Neilson
- Diane Paterson
- Cindy Young
- Frank Jacob

- **Trinity Sunday (30 May)** Pam Mott does not need anything additional for her service.

Music

Mary reported that the music is planned for the upcoming services. A remote choir has been recording on Wednesdays for use in each service. The MP3 files are then sent to Sharon to play during the service. Mary is hosting these recording sessions and is increasing the size of the choir. She states that there will be a “surprise” for Pentecost, reminiscent of the 2018 Children’s Choir performance.

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.
- **Sunday Services**



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- Will continue at 10:15 am on Zoom.
- 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 low. It also gives our Supply Priests a well-deserved week off. Audio worked well this week.

Schedule

Pam Mott has agreed to be our Priest in Charge but will not start until July. Ed, Pam, Stephanie, and Frank will determine the Clergy June Schedule.

In-Person Church in a Pandemic

Sharon gave a brief overview of the CDC and Bishop Guidance for returning to in-person services. We will probably need reservations (Julia has found an excellent application for that), parishioners will need to sign in and complete a health questionnaire. Hand sanitizers will be in place (those have been ordered), masks must be worn, and social distancing will be enforced. Cleaning will be done before and after the services (Tony will do as early as Friday before and Monday after) with a sprayer recommended by the CDC that Grace has purchased. No singing will be allowed by parishioners and choir or cantors will need to be 14' away from parishioners. No physical peace will be offered, no prayer books will be in the sanctuary, parishioners will be asked to not bring prayer books, and bulletins will be shown on the large monitor, or on individual smart phones – only a few bulletins will be available for use. Right now, only 40 people could be allowed in the sanctuary, in addition to the Altar Party and the other participants. Stephanie reminded us that our first step, once the building construction is complete and the technology is installed, will be for the Altar party and any participants (technology folks, Altar Guild, Lector, etc.). Lectors can still read from home, as we will be livestreaming on Zoom.

Initial discussions on an array of topics included:

- Reservations – would only a few people consistently sign up? Sharon stated that Julia will initially call those without internet to ask them if they would like to attend. Reservations will be able to be made by phone as well as online. Pam relayed that some churches are dividing the parish alphabetically, then having only one section of the alphabet able to sign up for each service.
- Time of service – much discussion regarding two services vs one, changing time of service to something in between, or if we have one or two churches (different services, those who Zoom and those who do not, etc.). Rite I was discussed also, especially that we had not been keeping up with once-a-month Rite I services. Greg stated that we have emotional ties to our rituals, but that there might be new ways going forward. Pam Mott stated that she would support at least initially a 9:00 or 9:30 service, to support one Grace Church. She also would like to continue the after-church conversations.
- Altar Guild and vestments – Frank will ensure that all are properly taken care of and we will probably need to have each server either take home his/her Alb or check one out so that no one is reusing another Alb.
- Altar party – all agreed that it would make sense for all to be fully vaccinated.



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- Servers – will probably only have a Crucifer initially, as Stephanie will set the table by herself to decrease interaction on the altar.
- Communion – no wine is allowed yet, but discussions based on how to give everyone communion, even those on Zoom. Stephanie is concerned about those who do not attend in person getting communion. Should we have communion for those in church, then a drive-by after the service or send Lay Eucharistic Ministers to people’s houses? Wine and wafers are now available in single servings. Parishioners bringing own bread and wine also mentioned. More to follow.
- Greeters – would probably assist with sign-in at the door.
- Ushers – would probably ensure that people are sitting the proper distances and maybe escort them to their pews. We may assign seats.
- Technology – consideration underway to possibly hire someone to run this during the service and then convert recording and upload onto website, YouTube.
- “Coffee Hour” could be outside or in Sanctuary with Zoom participants.
- Bottom line, is that we will proceed taking small steps, learning as we go. Before we make any firm decisions on how to proceed, we will need to walk through possibilities in the church.

Closing discussion by Pam stating that we all need to listen to the Spirit on how we can safely regather maybe in entirely new ways. The concern regarding those who have not been able to be with us on Zoom was addressed by saying that people will make choices. Not all will return, but depending on how we go forward, more may join us.

Attendance

Worship Service (all home Zooms)	Date	Approximate # of Congregants
3 rd Sunday of Easter	18 Apr 21	51
Wednesday Morning Prayer, Bible Study	21 Apr 21	12
4 th Sunday of Easter	25 Apr 21	56
Wednesday Morning Prayer, Bible Study	28 Apr 21	10
The Rev Gordon White Memorial Service	1 May 21	44
5 th Sunday of Easter	2 May 21	57
Wednesday Morning Prayer, Bible Study	5 May 21	10
6 th Sunday of Easter (Diocesan)	9 May 21	45

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be 13 June 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 Stephanie Batterman closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Steele, Chair