

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting
August 18, 2020

Vestry Members Present – Madison Bailey, Faith Cirre, Susanne Cramer, Phil Eschels, Gaylee Gillim, David Holzknickt, Teri McDonald, David Niehaus, Troy Petrie, Gibbs Reese, John Shelby, Kevin Wardell and George Wheeler.

Others Present – Edie Nixon, Treasurer.

Absent - The Rev. Kelly Kirby, Rector, Amanda Harrity, and Matrid Ndife.

Clergy & Staff – The Rev. Benjamin Hart, Director of Congregational Life.

Opening Prayer – Rev. Hart opened the meeting at 6:15 with the traditional prayer and noted that a quorum was in attendance.

Reading/Reflection – Rev. Hart read a passage from the book *Life Together* by author Dietrich Bonhoeffer. While living in Nazi Germany, he was speaking to students living together in a Christian community about how GOD is working in our lives with us and further challenging us as to how messy this “community” can be.

Approval of Minutes – Gaylee noted that within the July Minutes, there were several typographical changes necessary. On a motion by Gaylee with second by Phil, the minutes of the July, 2020 meeting were approved as amended.

Financial Report – Edie Nixon highlighted the changes from the previous month including the following items.

Income Related:

1. Leveling out now but still \$6,000 above budget.
2. Cash down slightly but no significant changes.

Expense Related:

1. \$39,000 over budget – mostly due to new HVAC unit.
2. New cantors for Sunday services will be a non-budgeted expense.

Debt Related:

None.

On a motion by Gaylee Gillim with second by David Holzknickt, the report was approved unanimously, subject to audit.

2021 Diocesan Assessment

Based on the 2019 Parochial Report, the income stated therein and the 13% increase desired by the Diocese, our increased commitment is +/- an additional \$5,000. We agreed to continue our commitment to support the Diocese as requested. With a motion by Kevin Wardell and second by Gibbs Reese, the motion was approved.

2020 Diocesan Convention Deputy Selection

Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, the originally scheduled convention to be held in Paducah will likely be reorganized to a ZOOM style meeting. Representatives nominated and associated positions are:

Sarah Bailey	Deputy
Phil Eschels	Deputy
Troy Petrie	Deputy
John Shelby	Alternate Deputy
Madison Bailey	Youth Representative

On a motion by Gibbs Reese with second by Gaylee Gillim, all were confirmed.

2021 Outreach Funding Report

Faith Cirre presented her committee report wherein the recommendation is to continue funding to the same eight (8) missions currently receiving our financial support. However said support will be reduced from the current \$39,000 this year to \$31,000 for the 2021 calendar year. The report was accepted with this value to be included in the church's 2021 budget.

Expenditure Request for Communications

Funding for items not included in the original parish budget must be presented for review and discussion prior to acceptance and subsequent funding. A request from Rev. Hart of \$135.00 is to cover the cost of wiring changes associated with the camera(s) used for live streaming of our Sunday services. On a motion by Kevin Wardell with second by John Shelby, the motion passed.

Vestry Committee Liaison Reports

- **Building and Grounds** – Teri conducted a “virtual” team meeting in early August to begin working on a budget for the 2021 fiscal year. As usual, there continues to be a variety of both maintenance and new items needing funding. As stated above funding for items not included in the 2020 original budget must be presented for review and discussion prior to acceptance and funding. Following discussion on potential outstanding needs, on a motion made by Gibbs Reese with second by Gaylee Gillim, the Vestry approved the expenditure of up to, but not more than \$20,000 to cover expenses in the building maintenance budget for the rest of the year. Thoughts for 2021 include the planting of 75 new trees in celebration of the 75th anniversary of our church. Work on other areas continues.
- **Dimensions of Faith** – Susanne reports that meetings have been postponed while work continues.
- **Finance** – Presented herein.
- **Nominating Committee** – Those concluding their service are Susanne Cramer, Amanda Harrity, Matrid Ndife, Kevin Wardell, George Wheeler and Madison Bailey as youth representative. Kevin agreed to chair this group. A final slate of candidates is to be submitted at the October Vestry meeting for acceptance. Rev. Hart will provide assistance as may be requested.
- **Outreach** – See comments above.

- **Planned Giving** – George advised that the group met on August 10th, have about 50 participating donors but need more. Neville Blakemore will speak to this from the pulpit during an upcoming Sunday service with date yet to be determined.
- **Social Justice** – Anne Shelby reports that the group continues to meet weekly and are in the midst of a six (6) week study of a book.
- **Stewardship** – Gaylee's group met on August 11th to discuss preparation of a letter to be distributed personally by the clergy reinforcing the importance of stewardship and acknowledging past participation.
- **Bylaws** – No meeting. However Rev. Hart, on Rev Kirby's behalf, is asking this group to address the part governing the calling of special vestry meetings. Will report back next month.

Wardens' Report –

- Phil Eschels Senior Warden - reminded all that while Rev. Kirby is on sabbatical leave that Rev. Hart is in charge. He reminded us again to continue making contact with our parishioner lists and reaching out to those for support.
- Teri McDonald Junior Warden – No report other than the comments above in the Building and Grounds report.

Director of Congregational Life Report –

Rev. Hart spoke to the following:

- While all Sunday services have been streamed since "restrictions" were applied by the Governor, only three (3) services included parishioners before the Governor and Bishop requested this type of gathering be discontinued until further notice.
- Communities for Calling has been funded for a second year. Existing projects will continue but may be modified due to the COVID pandemic. There appears to be the potential for several new projects.
- Consideration may be given to building better relationships with those entities that utilize our building and grounds.
- The St. John's Bible exhibit will be coming to our parish in December rather than earlier scheduled.

Compline –Benjamin led us electronically and concluded the meeting at 7:45 PM.

NOTE: For record purposes, this meeting was held in a voice video-conferencing format (Zoom) in compliance with national regulations established by our federal government during the nationwide COVID-19 epidemic.

Respectfully submitted,



Gibbs Reese, Secretary

