

**St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Vestry
December 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Vestry Members Present: George Wheeler, Rick Lotz, Gibbs Reese, Kevin Wardell, Faith Cirre, Becky Donovan, Matrid Ndife, Gaylee Gillim, Amanda Harrity, Justin Klassen, Susanne Cramer, John Shelby, Judy Fischer

Others Present: Edie Nixon, Treasurer

Absent: Clara Klassen, Cathy Sutton

Clergy/Staff: The Rev. Kelly Kirby, Rector; The Rev. Benjamin Hart, Director of Congregational Life

Opening Prayer:

The Rev. Kirby convened the meeting at 6:15 with an opening prayer.

Reading/reflection:

Amanda Harrity offered the reflection.

Approval of November minutes:

The minutes were approved with two minor corrections.

Financial Report:

Edie Nixon gave the financial report. We will need a very strong December to make up our current budget gap for the year. While December is often strong with pledges coming in at the end of the year, it doesn't seem realistic to expect that we'll make up the gap entirely. Our loose offerings continue to be strong. The Stockyard Bank Loan is down to \$645K.

Faith Cirre moved to accept the financial report as presented, subject to audit. Gaylee Gillim seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2019 Stewardship Campaign wrap up:

The Rev. Kirby gave the campaign report in Cathy Sutton's absence. To date, we have 205 households pledging, with a total amount of intended giving of \$662,300.32. The parish clearly responded to the campaign committee's request to be generous and to help the vestry budget with confidence for next year.

2020 Budget:

Edie Nixon presented the second draft of our 2020 budget. Income numbers were revised from the first draft based on the results of the stewardship campaign and Rev. Kirby's sabbatical award from the Louisville Institute. Currently the budget projects a small surplus of \$2,122 for the year.

Rick Lotz moved to accept the 2020 budget. Amanda Harrity seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2020 Vestry Slate:

Rick Lotz gave the nominating committee report. The current slate is Phil Eschels, David Holzknicht, Teri McDonald, David Niehaus, Troy Petrie, and Madison Bailey as youth representative.

Rick moved that the vestry accept the slate of candidates. Judy Fischer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Vestry Committee Liaison Reports:

Buildings and Grounds:

Have been working on ongoing HVAC work, and looking at expanding work on the soffits to include repairs to the other side of the office wing as well, based on the current work coming in under budget. We installed a new system to enhance sound for the hearing impaired in the nave. We have heard some positive impressions from those who use it already. Thanks to Bill Bond, we continue to make progress on lightbulb replacement.

Dimensions of Faith:

Committee has not met since the last vestry meeting. Ian Markham is coming as a DoF speaker in February.

Finance:

Will meet again in January.

Nominating Committee:

See report above.

Outreach:

The gift tree in the Narthex received a lot of support from the parish. The food pantry expects a significant crowd on Saturday. The committee is already thinking about how to advertise for next year's rummage sale in May to get as many vendors and as many buyers as possible.

Planned Giving:

Meeting planned for February to plan an April event.

Social Justice:

Matrid Ndife reported that the social justice committee met recently and that the committee has come a long way since its inception, engaging the congregation in some difficult conversations and bringing more people into the path toward racial justice.

There is still a long way to go, and the committee would be strengthened by an increase in membership. One possible initiative for the committee to undertake would be a social justice audit. There are some Empower West events coming up, including the city wide book club in February. During Lent we will be able to use stories from *Forty Days of Prayer for the Liberation of American Descendants of Slavery* in our worship. There is an Ann Braden event at St. George's in March, and in May there is a diocesan pilgrimage to Montgomery.

Stewardship:

See report above.

Rector's Report:

The rector reported that the annual meeting will be February 2, 2020 so that either or both Edle Nixon and Joanne Coleman can be present to give the financial report. The vestry townhall meeting will be the Sunday prior to the annual meeting.

We will have Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services this year, and assess how that goes in January.

Warden Reports:

The wardens expressed thanks to the vestry for their work this week.

Theological Reflection: The Vestry reflected on where/when they found the Holy Spirit in the meeting, and how their work moved us closer to fulfilling our mission/goals.

The meeting adjourned at 7:46p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Klassen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin Klassen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

