

**St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Vestry  
March 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

**Vestry Members Present:** Becky Donovan, Rick Lotz, Kevin Wardell, Clara Klassen, Justin Klassen, Judy Fischer, Cathy Sutton, Gaylee Gillim, Edie Nixon, Faith Cirre

**Absent:** Matrid Ndife, John Shelby, Amanda Harrity, Gibbs Reese, George Wheeler, Susanne Cramer

**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:** Becky Donovan led the reflection.

**Approval of January minutes:** Minutes were accepted as presented.

**Financial Report:** Edie Nixon presented the financial report. Becky moved acceptance of the report, subject to audit. Justin Klassen seconded. The vestry voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Cathy Sutton moved to appoint Sara Bailey as assistant treasurer. Rick Lotz seconded the motion, and the vestry voted unanimously to approve.

Gaylee Gillim moved to accept the bank signature updates as presented, plus removing Tom Kolb and adding Kevin Wardell to all accounts. Rick Lotz seconded the motion, and the vestry voted unanimously to approve.

**Parochial Report:** Rick Lotz moved to accept the parochial report as presented

**Rector's Report & Follow-up from the Retreat:** Kelly Kirby shared the status of various discernment committees, grants, and current rental income. She also highlighted the vestry goal of making a "way forward" to eliminate the church's capital campaign debt by 2023 (75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the parish), and the vestry's intention to plan for future capital expenditures on maintenance before the need for those expenditures arises. Kelly discussed the planned rummage sale fundraiser. We plan to invite Sara Bailey to the April Vestry meeting to see how the vestry can support her efforts with the sale.

**Evangelism Presentation:** Benjamin Hart presented a report about "Why People Join Churches," based on Pew Research Center data, and research data from other sources. One conclusion was that all churches see themselves as warm and friendly, but

churches that are actually growing make a dedicated effort, including systems, to incorporate new members in a full way. Benjamin shared the "road map" for newcomer information at St. Matthew's. We discussed how the majority of new members at St. Matthew's highlight a Dimensions of Faith program as a key reason for joining the church. Benjamin also highlighted how important it is to recognize and speak to newcomers when we notice them at church. We discussed how we might increase the effectiveness of how people are greeted, especially to get names of newcomers. We identified the 10 o'clock service as especially in need of strategic and effective hospitality.

### **Vestry Committee Liaison Reports**

Buildings and Grounds: Walking the house and exterior, identifying all maintenance issues to establish a baseline, record future needs on spreadsheet, and keep track of them. Meeting upcoming in April.

Dimensions of Faith: Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove coming this weekend.

Finance: No report this month.

Nominating Committee: No report this month.

Outreach: Applications for outreach funds are due at the end of March. Meeting to follow to rate the requests for funding.

Planned Giving: Stewards of St. Matthew's event coming up, April 7, planning ongoing.

Social Justice: No report this month.

Stewardship: Had meeting on March 13. Thinking through electronic ways to give, and possibly the creation of a St. Matthew's app. Upcoming meeting in April to discuss suggestions about how to address pledge shortfalls in generation-specific ways.

**Senior Warden Report**: Soffit replacement on the office wing needs to happen soon, as the building is now vulnerable to weather and birds and other animals. Some upcoming repairs to the exterior walls of the office wing are needed (caulking, peeling paint, some wood damage, etc.). The vestry had no objections to beginning this maintenance on the office wing exterior. Lee Fletcher has asked the church to consider giving the library more space, especially for archived material. Kelly Kirby will follow up.

**Junior Warden Report**: See buildings and grounds.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Klassen

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin Hart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.