

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting

May 19, 2020

Vestry Members Present – Madison Bailey, Faith Cirre, Susanne Cramer, Phil Eschels, Gaylee Gillim, Amanda Harrity, David Holzkneckt, Teri McDonald, Matrid Ndife, David Niehaus, Troy Petrie, Gibbs Reese, John Shelby, Cathy Sutton, Kevin Wardell and George Wheeler.

Others Present – Edie Nixon, Treasurer

Absent – None

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

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

Reading/Reflection – As David Holzkneckt was scheduled to join the call later, Rev. Kirby volunteered to give the reflection based on her thoughts for Trinity Sunday. She shared how she had been receiving heartfelt messages from old friends and colleagues from near and far who have viewed the webinar telecast. This has been a profound and unexpected experience, for which she is extremely grateful.

Approval of Minutes – The April 21st meeting minutes were approved as written.

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

With regards to income:

1. Income for the month exceeded the anticipated budget amount by almost \$5,000 and for the year to date by over \$20,000.
2. Plate offerings for the month doubled to over \$6,000 potentially as a result of the Sunday morning telecast of our service.
3. The loan from Stock Yards Bank has decreased to \$607,000.
4. We received a PPP Loan from the government as a result of COVID-19 pandemic, the funds of which will support the salaries and benefits of clergy and staff. Additionally we believe this loan will be forgivable by the government.

With regards to expenses:

1. Utility costs through the first four months are exceeding budget in excess of \$4,400.
2. Replacement of the HVAC unit serving Clingman Hall and the choir rehearsal area will cost \$20,000 with these funds coming from our endowment resources.

Our formal annual financial review submitted to the Diocese will be delayed due to the COVID-19 event. It is anticipated to be completed not later than early September in time for review and approval by the Diocesan Audit Committee prior to the annual Diocesan Convention in early November. On a motion by Gaylee Gillim with second by FaithCirre, the report was accepted unanimously.

Rev. Kirby spoke to when we might return to regular services within the sanctuary as well as other components of our traditional use within the building. These decisions are not ours to make and will be directed by the Bishop. He, in turn, is monitoring similar situations from both the national church office and other dioceses in our regional area. As conditions ease, appropriate changes will be posted on our entrance doors into the building and through our website. Based on the current "spacing" guidelines, Kelly estimates that approximately 72 persons could occupy the sanctuary but in reality probably only 50 persons. Handling of programs, prayer books and the like become another issue!

Vestry Committee Liaison Reports

- Building and Grounds – A contract has been awarded for replacement of the HVAC system located within the Choir Rehearsal room that supplies conditioned air to this space, Clingman Chapel and adjacent areas. Also, pricing is being finalized for the wood soffit replacement as well as replacement of the gutters and downspouts on the exterior of the administrative office wing of the building.
- Dimensions of Faith – No Report.
- Finance – Will meet again in July to review mid-year results.
- Nominating Committee – No Report.
- Outreach – Distribution of food "baskets" was well received with approximately 90 units provided to both the Calvary and St. George's food pantries. Remaining baskets were available outside the front door for others to have.
- Planned Giving – Will meet later in the summer.
- Social Justice – Matrid expressed we are in a time of serious concerns relating to further separation of the African American community with Caucasian community and the continuing need to find ways to reverse this course of action. She suggested that perhaps this committee should consider creation of other, more focused committees to speak to individually selected items. She also suggested that we support our efforts through the "whole" of St. Matthew's parishioners rather than individual voices therein.
- Bylaws – Work is in process with reporting possibly at the next meeting.
- Stewardship – Cathy thanked Joanne again for the persuasive letter that was distributed to the congregation and the affirming results that were accomplished. A lively and provocative conversation followed relating to when this current epidemic is behind us, what will church look like? We will need to work even harder to get

parishioners back in the pews and engaged, encourage more youth to become involved through programs interesting to them, bible study opportunities for others and the like. In a nutshell, will we need to re-create OUR community of St. Matthews's? And on a sad note, Cathy advised this was her last vestry meeting prior to their departure to family in Washington. This was met with applause and heartfelt thanks for all she has done to support not only this committee but many others too in the family of St. Matthew's.

•

Wardens' Report –


- Phil Eschels Senior Warden – Affirmed what a wonderful congregation we are as so many members are engaged and contribute to the services we provide to others within the greater Louisville community. A special note was offered to those who are engaged with the Food Pantry ministry.
- Teri McDonald Junior Warden – Reflected on items well said by others during the meeting.

Rector's Report – Kelly advised that she is continuing work on the trainer training process for the Diocesan Racial Healing Program and hoping to better define an appropriate timeline for this process. She advised that she will be leading three (3) webinars related to racial reconciliation and, when complete, will report same back to the Vestry. As an additional note she reported that Benjamin is currently working on the Collegeville Grant.

Compline – Benjamin led us electronically and concluded the meeting at 8:10 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