

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

Vestry Members Present:

George Wheeler, Rick Lotz, John Shelby, Clara Klassen, Justin Klassen, Gibbs Reese, Kevin Wardell, Cathy Sutton, Judy Fischer, Faith Cirre, Becky Donovan

Others Present: Edie Nixon, Treasurer

Absent: Matrid Ndife, Gaylee Gillim, Amanda Harrity, 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:

Kevin Wardell led the reflection.

Approval of October minutes:

The minutes were accepted with one minor correction offered by Gaylee Gillim.

Financial Report:

Edie Nixon gave the financial report. There were no noteworthy aberrations in October. Edie noted our expectation of a budget gap by the end of the year, due to the fact that we secured fewer pledges than we budgeted for last year.

Becky Donovan moved that we accept the financial report subject to audit. Faith Cirre seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Convention Recap:

John Shelby and the Rev. Kelly Kirby reported back on an unusual convention, in the sense that there was very little business from the floor. Representatives of different parishes spent time reflecting on what parishes in the diocese value most highly. The pastoral function of the bishop was high on the list for many groups. Rev. Kirby reported on the convention elections.

Rector's Report:

Rev. Kirby gave the Rector's report. She reported that the discernment committee for Jan Scholtz is making progress and asked for the vestry to pray for Jan.

Bhola Khanal was recently hired as our new weekend service technician. Kelly asked for us to give him a warm welcome.

Rev. Kirby announced that she received a Pastoral Study Project Grant from the Louisville Institute for \$15,000. The grant will fund a sabbatical for the rector, which is proposed to take place from May 1 through early August, 2020. The core question of her study project is, "Why should the church focus on economic justice for American descendants of slaves by supporting black-led institutions?", and focuses on philanthropic redlining.

There was some discussion of the budgeted use of the grant funds and the ways in which a sabbatical of this nature would be mutually enriching for the parish and for the rector.

Justin Klassen moved to approve the rector's grant-funded sabbatical, with funds to be distributed as indicated in the proposed budget. George Wheeler seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Rev. Kirby gave updates on the status of the Collegeville Grant, including upcoming discernment training for clergy in March, and the parish-wide retreat at All Saints camp, now scheduled for July 24 – 26, 2020.

Vestry Committee Liaison Reports:

Buildings and Grounds:

Kevin Wardell reported on the recent, large work project of replacing lights throughout the church (including outside) with LED bulbs. We are having some issues with an odor of gas in the library. There has been some preliminary investigation, but the smell recurs even after receiving the all clear, and therefore requires further attention. We are still working with our HVAC company on regulating the temperature properly in the nave. The air conditioning lacks "low ambient" controls necessary to operate when ~~they~~ the air outside is below 40F, even though it may be warm inside.

Kevin Wardell moved that the vestry approve an HVAC expenditure of approximately \$7,500. Justin Klassen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Dimensions of Faith:

Will be meeting early in the new year.

Finance:

Has not met since our last vestry meeting.

Nominating Committee:

Has met once since last vestry, will present a slate in December.

Outreach:

meeting

Approximately 393 people signed in for the Thanksgiving food pantry on Saturday. Approximately 935 individuals were served, and approximately 30 St. Matthew's parishioners were present at some point to work at the food pantry.

Planned Giving:

The committee will have its next meeting in February. Rev. Kirby reported on a significant bequest the church recently received.

Social Justice:

Committee met this past month and will meet again in December.

Stewardship:

We are currently at about 79% of our stewardship goal in funds raised. Volunteers still have some calls to make. We divided up some names to contact.

Warden Reports:

We are deferring voting on the budget until the December meeting, because there are too many moving parts at the moment to present it for a vote with confidence. Gibbs Reese reported on a recent recommendation of work on soffits and other work on the office wing (gutters, downspouts, soffits, some roof and metal flashing repair).

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 8:23p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Klassen

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'J' followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.