

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

September 15, 2020

Vestry Members Present – Madison Bailey, Faith Cirre, Phil Eschels, Gaylee Gillim, David Holzneckt, 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, Susanne Cramer, 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 – Gaylee Gillim read the September 15th passage from the daily devotional "Forward Day by Day." She noted how the author's references to climate crisis and the "arc of history" were so timely, especially given that the narrative had been written months earlier.

Approval of Minutes – On a motion by George Wheeler with second by Phil Eschels, the minutes of the August 18, 2020 meeting were approved as submitted.

Financial Report – Edie Nixon spoke about the August 31st budget statement, noting that it was close to Joanne Coleman's estimate. With rental income down, we are behind about \$7,600 and need to encourage giving. On the expense side, the communications line is up due to the purchases for improving our virtual church services. The adult education line shows spending for Dimensions of Faith. Further Edie stated that the Balance Sheet still looks good and reminded the vestry that we do have an available line of credit if cash gets tight.

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

Amendments to the Bylaws – Rev. Hart reiterated that the purpose of the revisions is to address the ability quickly to call special meetings. Wording has been adjusted such that a Vestry Meeting can be called within four (4) hours' notice rather than the current forty-eight hour (48) notice. Based on the Bylaws, this was the first reading of the proposed changes with final vote approval at the October meeting. Thanks was extended to Kevin Wardell and his committee for the excellent work.

Vestry Committee Liaison Reports

- **Building and Grounds** – The published list of outstanding items needing attention continues to decrease thanks to parishioners' participation. Budget funds continue to decrease as we near the fiscal year end. The soffit replacement and new gutter work is progressing well and should be completed within the next several weeks. We await response from two (2) consulting engineering firms to provide evaluations of our existing building operating systems. Site landscaping continues thanks to Sara Ceresa and her team.
- **Dimensions of Faith** – Author D. L. Mayfield will be in our presence on Sunday October 18th to preach at both services and present a Zoom program that evening.
- **Finance** – Presented herein.
- **Nominating Committee** – Kevin Wardell continues to assemble this committee and has gathered names of perspective members.
- **Outreach** – Excellent response continues from parishioners and the community with several cars being filled weekly with food donations delivered to both St. George's and Calvary. Earlier in the month, we had another positive response with school supplies for the less fortunate. And in September, coats and jackets are being received as fall begins.
- **Planned Giving** – Nothing new since last month's meeting on August 10th. Need to get "pulpit presentation" scheduled with clergy and Neville Blakemore.
- **Social Justice** – No report.
- **Stewardship** – Gaylee reported that the 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** – Presented herein.

Wardens' Report –

- **Phil Eschels Senior Warden** - Another friendly reminder to continue reaching out to fellow parishioners, offering concern and prayers as appropriate.
- **Teri McDonald Junior Warden** – Refer to the Building and Grounds report above.

Director of Congregational Life Report –

Rev. Hart spoke to the following:

- **Collegeville classes** are resuming with Juson Klassen conducting a cooking class. Sarah Johansen will be coordinating upcoming events.
- The financial budget process has begun by staff for each area with first draft to be presented at our next meeting.
- Based on a decreasing positivity rate of the Covid19 virus, Rev. Hart, John Shelby, and Phil Eschels have the opportunity to decide when and under what conditions parishioners can return for Sunday services.
- The Diocesan Convention will occur electronically this year as details continue to be synchronized with more to follow as the time draws near.
- Sara Bailey will be leading a new group over the next several months to identify congregational goals for the next five (5) years.

Theological Reflection – Rev. Hart noted the incredible outreach and giving to others by parishioners and staff during these very trying times. We concurrently acknowledged the same for our clergy too. So many step forward in a multitude of ways to help and support others.

Compline Gaylee led us electronically followed by Benjamin concluding the meeting at 7:25 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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Gibbs Reese', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gibbs Reese, Secretary

